



26 March 2013

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By e-mail to: [J.Trollor@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Trollor@unsw.edu.au)

Dear Julian

**Re: RANZCP endorsement of the Renewal of Medical Intellectual Disability Curriculum project**

I am pleased to advise you that The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) strongly endorses the Renewal of Medical Intellectual Disability Curriculum project.

The RANZCP applauds this project between prominent clinicians, academics and researchers in the field of intellectual disability and supports the aim of building capacity within the medical workforce to deliver effective and accessible health care to people with intellectual disabilities.

People with intellectual disabilities are a significant minority group who experience a disproportionately high burden of disease, illness and poor health outcomes. Compared to the general population, people with intellectual disabilities experience a reduced life expectancy of up to 20 years, higher rates of multiple health conditions, and up to three times the prevalence of mental disorders.

The RANZCP has long advocated for better recognition, services and funding for people with an intellectual disability. A more inclusive approach is needed at a policy and planning level in order to ensure the unmet mental and general health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Australia are addressed.

Despite the high specific health care needs of people with an intellectual disability, most medical students graduate with limited understanding of the issues. This project's aim of determining the nature of current intellectual disability health content, and identifying quality educational resources is timely and vital to build the capacity of the medical workforce to meet the complex health care needs of this population.

On behalf of the RANZCP I would like to congratulate you and the project team on the development of this important work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Maria Tomasic".

Dr Maria Tomasic  
**President**

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