



REHABILITATION MEDICINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LTD.

RMSANZ Statement for WFNR, October 2017

On 22 February 2017, the Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia & New Zealand (RMSANZ) celebrated its second anniversary as a legal entity and at about the same time, welcomed its 400th Member. Membership is open to AFRM Fellows and Trainees, retired AFRM Fellows. Recently other registered health care professionals practicing in the field of Rehabilitation Medicine, or in associated fields of medicine or health care have been able to apply for Associate Membership.

RMSANZ Advisory Council: The Society has a Membership driven organisational structure and philosophy. The Advisory Council allows direct representation from the different groups within the Society (Branches and SIGs) to the Board and helps prevent the Board from operating in isolation of the sentiments and needs of the membership. It also will allow links to be formed with the outside community and other professional bodies. The Advisory Council is chaired by the Society Vice President and had its first meeting in May 2017.

RMSANZ Regional Branches: Branches in NSW/ACT, Vic/Tas, SA/NT and Qld have been formed and a New Zealand Branch is about to form. All Branches already have achieved a positive cash flow in their operations and are actively planning collegiate activities. Branches are vital structural elements of the Society which represent the interests of Members at a local level. They receive full encouragement from the RMSANZ Board and administrative support in the conduct of their meetings.

RMSANZ Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Four SIGs have now been established. The Private Practice SIG is currently interested in the interface between Rehabilitation Medicine practice in private hospitals and health insurance funding issues for rehabilitation services. The Pain SIG has embarked on an online survey of Members' areas of interest in educational workshops and CPD activities to plan future presentations and meetings. A NeuroRehab SIG and a Disaster Rehabilitation SIG have also been established. Each SIG operates in a facilitatory environment for the conduct of meetings and pursuit of advocacy on behalf of Members, forming an expanding event horizon of influence in rehabilitation that has led to Associate Membership to the Society by interested Medical, Nursing and Allied Health professionals in this part of the world.

RMSANZ Annual Scientific Meetings: the 1st RMSANZ ASM was held in Melbourne on 16-19 October 2016 and was attended by over 400 delegates to a conference theme of 'Change, Challenge and Opportunity' which received widespread acclaim. The 2nd ASM was held in Canberra on 17-20 September 2017 and featured 'The Leading Edge: Innovations in Rehabilitation Medicine' with a focus on Pain & MSK, Neuroplasticity & Rehabilitation, and Spinal Rehabilitation & Technology. The Society is now responsible for all future Annual Scientific Meetings in Rehabilitation Medicine and plans are already under way for 2018 in Auckland as a Conjoint International AOSPRM meeting, and in 2019 in Adelaide. In addition to the ASM each year, there will be another Rehabilitation Snapshots Workshop to be held in June 2018 in Melbourne.

ABN: 83 604 341 559

PO Box 777 Cairns Qld 4870
Email: admin@rmsanz.net Website: www.rmsanz.net

RMSANZ Scientific Committee: One of the Objects of RMSANZ is to advance and promote research, education and training relevant to the practice of Rehabilitation Medicine, rehabilitation, disability and related areas; to liaise with AFRM/RACP, government, educational and research institutions and to oversee the planning and content of Scientific Meetings. This is implemented by an active Scientific Committee which meets regularly and is represented on ASM Organising Committees for each event.

RMSANZ Advocacy: A major role for the Society is to serve as a medium for advocacy on behalf of Rehabilitation Physicians in Australia and New Zealand to improve health, function and quality of life of people living with disabilities, with a dedicated and clear focus that is independent and unconstrained by competing interests. The Society has already prepared several submissions and published two position statements. The position statements on the *Therapeutic Use of Botulinum Toxin in Rehabilitation Medicine for spasticity and dystonia* and *on the Role of the Rehabilitation Physician in the provision of Rehabilitation Medicine Services* can be seen on the Society's website: <https://rmsanz.net/information-publications>.

RMSANZ is dedicated to its active membership and is driven by the needs of its members. We have a singular and independent focus on Rehabilitation Medicine. The growth of the Specialty is reflected in the growth of the Society.

Dr Lee Laycock
President (2017-2019)
Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand

ABN: 83 604 341 559

PO Box 777 Cairns Qld 4870
Email: admin@rmsanz.net Website: www.rmsanz.net