

## Media Release

**12 September 2022**

### **Chair of GP Supervisors Australia (GPSA) Dr Nicole Higgins elected as next President of RACGP**

Melbourne-born Mackay GP and practice owner Dr Nicole Higgins has today been announced the President-elect for RACGP.

Dr Higgins hands over the baton as GPSA Chairperson to Townsville-based Dr Kevin Arlett, a fellow North Queensland GP and practice principal who shares the outgoing Chair's passion for the profession generally and GP training specifically.

"While we are sad to see her leave our number, the GPSA Board members and staff are incredibly happy for Nicole. She is an exceptional leader, with vision and humility in equal measure," Dr Arlett said of the announcement.

"It was bold and brave for Nicole to step up at this crucial time for general practice, and it is a relief to know the College will be in such good hands."

"The RACGP membership has chosen wisely, demonstrating the value Australian GPs place on a commitment to driving improvements and recognition for the profession."

Dr Arlett, who has been a GPSA Director since 2017 and held the position of Deputy Chair until today's announcement, referred to Dr Higgins' elevation to College President as indicative of GPSA's ongoing relevance and influence as the nation's peak body for GP supervision:

"Nicole Higgins is the first GPSA Board member to be voted in as the RACGP President, but she is in fact our third Board member to be recognised at this level."

Dr Higgins follows in the footsteps of former GPSA Chair Dr Bruce Willett, the current Vice Chair of RACGP, and former GPSA Director Dr Sarah Chalmers, the current President of ACRRM.

"GPSA has long demonstrated its worth to the sector and is capable of even greater things with such strong ties to both Colleges."

"Nicole's departure from our Board adds an extra seat to be filled at our AGM on October 13th. There could not be a better time for GPSA members to step up and play a part in shaping the future for GP training."

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