Guideline

Board Elections – Campaign Activities

The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

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Responsible Committee:	Corporate Governance and Risk Committee				

Introduction:

This Guideline has been written to support the Board Election Regulations, and should be read in conjunction with the Regulations. It provides details on what activities are permitted during the election campaign period for Board Elections.

Campaigning for the purpose of this Guideline includes any communications (oral or written) for the purposes of soliciting support, in which a person is identified as a nominee/candidate for an elected position.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Guideline is to ensure that:

- All candidates are treated fairly
- All parties understand appropriate campaign activities and required actions
- Fellows have sufficient information to make informed choices in elections and
- The College's elections are conducted in a manner befitting a professional organisation, which includes keeping the amount of campaigning and electioneering within reasonable limits, and that a spirit of collegiality and essential fairness in elections is maintained.

Process:

a) A copy of this Guideline will be made available on the College website during the Board election period.

b) To assist Fellows in voting for their preferred candidate(s), relevant material will be made available to Fellows.

c) All candidates must comply with any relevant sections of the Corporations Act (2001); obligations of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the College's Constitution, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Board Election Regulations.

d) Campaigning may only commence after Board nominations have closed.

e) Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with the dignity of the office they aspire to hold.

f) All candidates may undertake election campaigning. However, the only methods of campaigning that will be allowed include:

- Publishing of a personal statement in the College's Psych-e Bulletin (max 200 words)
- Publishing of a personal statement in College Branch/New Zealand National Committee newsletters (max 200 words)
- Informal conversations at College events and with College members
- Informal emails amongst College members

g) Any election campaigning undertaken by a candidate and/or their supporter(s) that falls outside the above campaigning methods will not be allowed. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that their supporter(s) comply with these rules.

h) Nominees will be eligible to provide Supporting Statements in accordance with Board Election Regulations.

i) No candidates will be provided access by College members or staff, to email or contact details for Fellows to use in election campaigning.

j) Candidates, College Members or supporters must not use the College's resources or funds in canvassing support or promoting or opposing the election of any nominee, excepting those resources indentified in item f).

k) The College's logo must not be used on any materials for campaign purposes, including a candidate's website (if any).

l) Any campaigning that is deemed by the Board, Corporate Governance and Risk Committee (CGRC) or Company Secretary to be dishonest, to bring the College into disrepute or to discredit another candidate, will not be allowed.

m) Any alleged breach of these Guidelines will initially be referred to and investigated as appropriate by the Company Secretary for matters of fact. Following investigation, the Company Secretary, may recommend to the Board a course(s) of action.

n) The College reserves the right to disqualify a candidate.

o) Any questions regarding campaigning for elections to the Board or the interpretation of this Guideline or the Board Election Regulations should be directed to the Company Secretary or Governance Manager.

Associated Documents

- Board Regulations
- Board Position Descriptions
- Board constituent committee Regulations and Position Descriptions
- Board Election Regulations
- Deed of Undertaking in Relation to Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest
- RANZCP Constitution, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Website

REVISION RECORD

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