

# Aide-Mémoire

## Meeting with Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

**Date due to MO:** 9 September 2024      **Date of Meeting:** 12 September 2024

---

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Reference:** H2024050910

---

**To:** Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

---

**Copy to:** Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health

---

**Consulted:** Health New Zealand:

---

**Proactive release:** This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release:

---

### Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Heather Muriwai	Chief Clinical Officer, Maternity, Clinical Community and Mental Health	§ 9(2)(a)
Dr Joe Bourne	Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Community and Mental Health	§ 9(2)(a)

---

# Aide-Mémoire

## Meeting with Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

**Date due:** 9 September

**To:** Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**Reference:**

H2024050910

### About the Meeting

**Purpose of Meeting** The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) requested to meet and discuss a number of issues.

**Details of Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday 12 September 2024  
**Time:** 11.15am – 11.45 am  
**Venue:** Minister Costello' office 2.054 Parliament House

**Attendees** Dr Sue Fleming (Vice President of the Board, Chair of Te Kāhui Oranga o Nuku committee)  
 Dr Pelle Kempe (Chair of Aotearoa New Zealand Committee)  
 Catherine Cooper (Executive Director National office Aotearoa New Zealand)

**Organisation** The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)

**Ministry/Health** Dr Joe Bourne (Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health)

**NZ representatives** Laura Aileone (Chief Midwife, Health New Zealand)

**Other information** This meeting follows an earlier meeting on 8 August 2024 held with Dr Shane Reti with the same attendees held that you were unable to attend.

### Comment/Summary:

#### Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the establishment of high standards of practice in obstetrics and gynaecology and excellence and equity in women's health.
- RANZCOG also supports research into women's health, collaborates with other stakeholders, and advocates for women's healthcare.

RANZCOG's top priorities for the health sector are:

- A health system that focuses on the needs and strengths of women
- Integrated, accessible, fully funded multidisciplinary care
- Integrated leadership across maternity and women's care, with accountability for quality outcomes
- Robust IT systems that guide continuous quality improvement o Workforce planning aiming for teams that are multidisciplinary and well-linked between primary and specialist care

RANZCOG has indicated the following topics are likely to be raised:

- Workforce shortages and burnout are the highest clinical risk which is managed by obstetricians
- Maternity system reform and ensuring the obstetric voice is present
- The importance of good data for secondary care obstetrics o Equitable access to antenatal ultrasound – noting that RANZCOG have written to Health New Zealand this month with their concerns
- Improving pelvic floor injury prevention to avoid future poor outcomes especially incontinence, through targeting antenatal women.

RANZCOG attendees' background:

- Dr Sue Fleming (Vice President of the Board, Chair of Te Kāhui Oranga o Nuku committee). Dr Sue Fleming is an Obstetric and Gynaecology (O&G) specialist whose latter professional life focuses on leadership for O&G. She previously was Director of Women's Health at Auckland District Health Board.
- Dr Pelle Kempe (Chair of Aotearoa New Zealand Committee). Dr Pelle Kempe is an O&G specialist and Medical Lead of O&G at Midcentral Te Whatu Ora (Palmerston North). He has a special interest in O&G ultrasound, laparoscopic surgery, and quality improvement.
- Catherine Cooper (Executive Director National office Aotearoa New Zealand). Catherine Cooper is the executive director of the Aotearoa national office for RANZCOG. She has previously worked at resolution Institute, New Zealand playcentre Federation and Ministry of Social Development.



Geoff Short

Deputy Director-General

**Clinical, Community and Mental Health |  
Te Pou Whakakaha**

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

PROACTIVELY RELEASED