



**RACP**  
Specialists. Together

Candidate Weekly Updates  
Friday 11 April

## Election of RACP Member Director

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### **Professor Jeanette WARD**

I am delighted to continue with this weekly Candidate Update as a means to connect and share a little more of my values and skills with you. In Statement 2, I'd like to focus on the legacies we carry. As a second-wave feminist for example, I hold dear the achievements of the first-wave feminists in successfully advocating for women's suffrage. Theirs was a courageous, inspiring and hard-fought campaign. The National Library of Australia states that the first independent, self-governing nation to give all women citizens the vote was Aotearoa New Zealand in 1893. Bravo! However, recent data suggest that nation states vary in election participation. Across the board for all eligible voters, participation has been recently estimated as 71% for the USA, 66% for France and 82% for our Pacific neighbour, the Solomon Islands. By my best guess based on figures found on the RACP website, less than half of Fellows and trainees as a collective appears to have voted for significant RACP appointments in the past. Increasing participation in this election for a Board Director could be an early indicator of green shoots for effective re-engagement within our member-based College.

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# Professor Tissa WIJERATNE

## **Why I'm Standing for Election to the RACP Board**

I'm standing for the RACP Board because this is personal.

When I landed in Aotearoa in 1999 as a young doctor from Sri Lanka, I had nothing but a dream and a stethoscope. Thanks to some remarkable mentors and the support of the RACP community, I grew—into a neurologist, a teacher, a leader.

Now, I want to give back.

Over the past two decades, I've mentored hundreds of trainees—many from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. I've seen firsthand how good support, clear pathways, and inclusive leadership can transform lives. That's why I care deeply about making our College feel like home. For every member. At every stage.

Our College already stands tall in clinical excellence and education. But I believe it can be even more.

If elected, I will:

- Champion better training pathways and professional growth
- Advocate for equity, diversity, and cultural safety across all levels
- Strengthen governance so it's more transparent, accountable, and future-focused
- Help position the RACP as a global leader in physician education and support

I bring experience from key RACP committees—including the BPT curriculum, SPDP, AT — and leadership roles with the Brain Foundation, Migraine Foundation, and the World Federation of Neurology. I understand strategy, governance, risk, and above all, people.

We're at a critical moment. Our profession is evolving, and so must our College. Let's shape it—together.

Warm regards,

**Professor Tissa Wijeratne OAM MD PhD FRACP**

Candidate for RACP Board

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