

6th November 2017

Dear Ms Celia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Draft Policy Paper: *Rehabilitation medicine physicians delivering integrated care in the community - Early Supported Discharge programs in stroke rehabilitation: An example of integrated care.*

The New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association supports the development of a Policy Paper on integrated care in the community. This paper does not aim to present a detailed practical "how to" guide for physicians interested in integrated care, rather its purpose is to support the RACP and physicians' efforts to advocate for specialist physicians' involvement in the design, implementation and delivery of integrated care models, in collaboration with general practitioners and other health professionals in primary care, for the benefit of all patients.

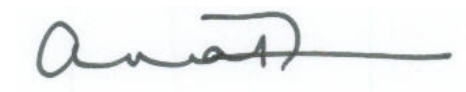
This paper focuses specifically on one physician specialty group - rehabilitation medicine with physicians and the contribution they can make to the delivery of high quality integrated care in the community using Early Supported Discharge for stroke rehabilitation as a detailed example. Although it focuses on adult rehabilitation medicine services, the authors acknowledge that the principles of integrated care and community rehabilitation espoused in the paper are equally as important and relevant for paediatric rehabilitation medicine services.

New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association fully endorse that specialist rehabilitation physicians are an ideal ingredient in service provision. Many patients following brain injury have to rely on their GP which is not always the best way to access the most appropriate rehabilitation or additional services such as specialist assessments (videofluoroscopy, swallowing rehabilitation, intensive communication input, access to appropriate support networks such as AphasiaNZ). Rehabilitation physicians potentially have more immediate knowledge of these options available than most GPs.

New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association appreciates the Policy Paper's focus on patient centred care and a multidisciplinary cross sector approach to maximize patient care and outcomes. It is reassuring to see psychosocial considerations as well as activity and participation having a place in the Policy.

Thank you for requesting our opinion in this draft document and we look forward to seeing the final document and its outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Miles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Miles PhD

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Annette Rotherham

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