

MEDIA RELEASE



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists

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Excellence in Women's Health

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RANZCOG Farewells First Female President and Welcomes First Rural Specialist as New College President

Dr Christine Tippett, the first female President of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) officially handed her presidency to Queensland Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Ted Weaver, at the College's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Melbourne on the weekend.

'I feel honoured and proud to have been elected as President of RANZCOG for the next two years, being only the second Queensland and first Provincial Fellow to attain the office', said Dr Weaver.

Dr Tippett officially completed her two-year term as President at the AGM and commended Dr Weaver to the entire membership. Dr Weaver acknowledged the contribution Dr Tippett made during her time on Council and, most particularly, over the past two years as President.

'Christine Tippett has been an effective and passionate advocate for women during her tenure as RANZCOG President. She has achieved a lot in difficult policy areas such as appropriate assessment of overseas trained doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology; abortion law reform in Victoria; and safe pregnancy care for rural and remote women in Australia and New Zealand.

'Perhaps most significantly, she was responsible for convening an overwhelmingly successful meeting on Indigenous women's health in Darwin in August 2008, which could potentially be a catalyst for the development of new programs to improve pregnancy outcomes in Indigenous women', said Dr Weaver.

Currently working in private and public practice in obstetrics and gynaecology at Nambour on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, for the past two years Dr Ted Weaver has played an active role in the College as one of RANZCOG's Vice Presidents and as Chairman of the RANZCOG Women's Health Committee (2006-2008).

'It is my intention to maintain and develop the College's role in training the obstetricians and gynaecologists of the future and to promote excellent standards of women's health care in Australia and New Zealand.

'It is important that the College works collaboratively with governments and other providers of women's health care, to develop and refine safe systems of care that are female-centred, deliver best practice outcomes to all women and their families and are adequately funded', said Dr Weaver.

Since 1988, Dr Ted Weaver has been effectively engaged in College activities. He was a Member of the Queensland State Committee until 1989 and then became a Member of the College Council in 2000. Since then, he has taken the role of Chairman on a number of Committees including the Continuing Professional Development Committee (2002-2006); the Joint Committee on Maternity Services (2002-2006); and the Organising Committee of the RANZCOG 2007 Gold Coast Annual Scientific Meeting (October 2007).

Dr Weaver is the current Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital and was the Inaugural Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Nambour General Hospital from 1987 until 1990. In 2001, Dr Weaver was granted an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian College of Midwives.

For further information or to arrange an interview with the President, please contact:
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