

ACC Statement- For Release

3 April 2020

AUSTRALIAN CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In response to Covid-19, the Australian Chiropractic College will be suspending face to face classes for the remainder of the academic year.

Currently enrolled students will undertake a combination of minimal online delivery in 2020 and a more intensive streamlined program from 2021 to ensure course quality is maintained and students are not disadvantaged by the interruption to class delivery.

The decision to temporarily suspend on campus teaching operations for the remainder of 2020 was made by the ACC Board of Directors on Monday 30 March 2020. New students commencing the program in 2021 will not be affected.

"Like organisations all over the world, ACC is not immune to the impacts of Covid-19," said Dr Patrick Sim, President of the Australian Chiropractic College.

"Chiropractic is very much a 'hands-on' profession and the fact that our curriculum is unique in its integration of hands-on technique studies with the core curriculum, Covid-19 and associated safeguards have really impacted our ability to deliver the kind of experience we want for our students."

"The ACC program is unique in Australia," said Professor Sharyn Eaton, ACC's Academic Dean. "The program is being delivered using an approach emphasising practical skills and academic rigour. It's designed to blend and integrate basic sciences (in particular the neurosciences), the pre-clinical and clinical subjects with the traditional concepts of chiropractic philosophy using a vitalistic mode of delivery. The body functions as an integrated system and we mirror this in our curriculum".

Plans are now in place to deliver those specific parts of the curriculum that can be delivered remotely for ACC's 2020 student cohort. Expert instructors in Immunology and Pathology from New Zealand, the United States and Australia will teach ACC students via online platforms, allowing them to progress their studies to minimise impact on their projected completion date in 2023.

In addition to this, ACC will provide regular online engagement sessions for its students by leveraging on its world-wide network of chiropractors and on one of its chief supporters, the Rubicon Group.

“Our priority right now is our commitment to our students - current and future,” said Dr Sim. “We are only in the business of providing the best study experience possible, in a safe environment. In these unprecedented circumstances, we are refocusing our methods to support and prepare continuing and commencing students for 2021.”

The College is in contact with all students who have applied, or have expressed interest in, studying with ACC in 2021. The 2021 cohort will be supported via webinar and study sessions coordinated by ACC.

Enquiries to:

Anna Cosentino, ACC Marketing Manager

E: anna.cosentino@acc.sa.edu.au P: +61 403 602 374

1. **Dr Patrick Sim B. Sc, M.Chiro, Grad ACP**, is founding President of the Australian Chiropractic College.
2. **Professor Sharyn Eaton OAM, Ph.D, D.C**, is inaugural Academic Dean, Australian Chiropractic College