About the College

The College was established in 1956 as the College of Pathologists of Australia, with Royal Assent being given in 1970. The College has strong credentials with respect to forensic medical training and assessment having provided forensic pathology discipline representation and training for over 30 years. The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia has accredited training programs in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia which are supported by College Fellows. The College offers pathology training programs in nine disciplines and has established three Faculties – Faculty of Science, Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine. In 2018 the College membership exceeded 2800 Fellows with 700 Trainees. The role of the College is broad; in addition to education and training, it covers continuing professional development of the Fellowship, workforce issues, government relations and community engagement for all its disciplines.

Medicine is Pathology

For more information:
Visit our website https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Trainees/Faculties/FCFM for further information or contact rcpa@rcpa.edu.au if you have questions regarding either Fellowship.

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Established in 2014, the RCPA Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine was founded to be the professional representative and postgraduate training body for doctors working in the field of Clinical Forensic Medicine. Our objectives are to foster the highest standards in the provision of clinical forensic medicine.

Clinical forensic medical examinations are performed for many reasons but are centered around supporting justice service and the criminal justice system. Our practitioners work with law enforcement and corrections agencies and are also employed by health care organisations to provide medical services to victims of sexual assault and interpersonal violence. Examinations are also required to facilitate the collection of medical and trace evidence specimens for forensic scientific analysis. Practitioners are also required to interpret medical and scientific examination findings for the purposes of providing expert evidence in civil and criminal proceedings.

**Our Vision**
To pursue excellence in the discipline of Clinical Forensic Medical Services to contribute to the health, wellbeing and safety of the Australasian community.

**Our Mission**
The Faculty’s mission is to:
1. provide professional standards for Australasian doctors who provide Clinical Forensic Medical services;
2. promote and encourage education, research and training in the field of Clinical Forensic Medicine including ongoing professional development opportunities and maintenance of professional skills schemes;
3. promote and facilitate greater co-operation between Clinical Forensic Medical practitioners with other participants involved in the legal system, such as forensic pathologists, forensic scientists, legal practitioners, justice health providers and law enforcement;
4. foster a better understanding of Clinical Forensic Medicine, both within the medical profession and among the general public; and
5. seek and maintain formal recognition of Clinical Forensic Medicine as a specialty.

**Fellowship of the Clinical Forensic Medicine**
The RCPA offers a training program leading to Fellowship of the Faculty. The program includes core elements relevant to all areas of Clinical Forensic Medicine including opportunities for advanced study in specialised fields such as medical aspects of sexual offences, custodial medical practice, traffic medicine and Paediatric Forensic Medicine.

In order to support applications for selection into the program and for recognition of prior learning, prospective trainees are advised to:
1. Gain clinical experience, for example in general practice or emergency medicine, to ensure that they are competent to manage acutely ill and injured patients;
2. Maintain a log of forensic and similar cases encountered in relevant areas of clinical practice such as primary care medicine, sexual health, gynaecology, paediatrics and psychiatry; and
3. Considering undertaking academic postgraduate study through courses such as the Master of Forensic Medicine offered by Monash University or similar since some of the academic prerequisites for fellowship can be met by the attainment of these qualifications.