

Media release

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College of Surgeons appalled by federal government's decision to continue elective surgery

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is appalled by the federal government's decision to extend the deadline for the suspension of semi-urgent category 2 and 3 elective surgeries at private hospitals to 1 April 2020.

“We are disappointed to hear that hospitals are being asked to continue non-critical surgery at a time when we must be putting the safety of patients and staff first. The federal government has made a reversal of their previously sensible decision to cancel all elective surgery except for urgent cases.

“We are seeing decision making that can only be described as putting commercial interests before patient safety. Many of our surgeons who work in private hospitals are appalled and refusing to operate on non-critical cases. We want to see leadership from the federal government that puts people's safety first,” says RACS President Tony Sparnon.

Ends.

Media enquiries: Abderazzaq Noor

Contact: +61 429 028 933

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery. www.surgeons.org