

# The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons

ABN 44 503 186 462



27 April 2020

John Biviano  
Chief Executive Officer  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
250-290 Spring Street  
East Melbourne 3002 VIC

Dear John,

## **Elective surgery guidelines**

From a cardiothoracic surgery point of view we are happy with the document.

The majority of our procedures are for prognosis. Around half of our case load is inpatient work. We favour approach based on clinical indication rather than a list of procedures. The current system of categorisation is not fit for purpose for our subspecialty.

It is important that our patients receive timely treatment in order to prevent deterioration that will impact on survival. We are concerned by a reduction in the diagnosis of serious cardiothoracic problems. This appears to be related to a reluctance of patients to present for assessment and limitations put in place around diagnostic procedures.

We believe that these two issues need to be addressed. I would be happy to be involved in any discussion in this matter with the Cardiac Society and the Thoracic Society.

Kind regards  
Aubrey

Yours faithfully,

Aubrey Almeida  
**President**  
**ANZSCTS**