



## **New high-profile surgical group to advise Government on sustainable health solutions**

**Wednesday 6 May 2015**

A bi-national group of experienced surgical directors has been formed at the Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) in Perth.

This high profile group has been created by the College to assist governments, work collaboratively with clinicians and hospital administrators and provide the surgical voice on sustainable health services and solutions.

In recognising its responsibilities to support the education and training of surgeons across Australia and New Zealand, the College is committed to advocating on issues that are critical to the advancement of healthcare in Australasia.

Chaired by Professor David Fletcher, Head of General Surgery at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth, the group will draw on the collective knowledge and wisdom of leading directors of surgery from across Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Fletcher said the group would provide specialist health knowledge and advice.

“One of the aims of the group will be to provide a peer network of senior surgeons in leadership roles to foster better opportunities for leadership development and result in better collaboration between surgeons and hospital administrators,” Prof Fletcher said.

“A major role of the group will be to improve the quality and efficiency of surgical services and contribute to a sustainable health system.

“It will be well-placed to offer meaningful direction in areas such as emergency surgery, elective surgery and management of waiting lists,” Prof Fletcher said.

Prof Fletcher said while being a useful tool for government, this group would also have direct benefits on patient care and health outcomes.

Over a thousand surgeons from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as well as international surgeons from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh are gathering at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre this week for a series of workshops, discussions, Plenaries and masterclasses across a broad range of surgical issues.

### **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](http://www.surgeons.org)

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