

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

PATRON: H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES



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Mhairi Porteous
Manager, Bowel and Prostate Cancer Programmes
Ministry of Health
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Dear Ms Porteous

Draft prostate Cancer Guidance

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (the College) is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in New Zealand and Australia.

The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees across both countries in nine surgical specialties, being cardiothoracic surgery, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology head and neck surgery, paediatric surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, urology and vascular surgery. The College also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research.

The College is pleased to provide comment regarding the following Ministry of Health documents:

- Prostate Cancer Management and Referral Guidance
- Prostate Cancer Active Surveillance Guidance

We are aware that the Ministry has involved appropriate clinicians in the development of the Guidelines and consider that they will have ensured the relevant clinical details have been included. However, the College does wish to record its strong support for the principle of giving guidance to General Practitioners on prostate cancer management and active surveillance.

The College is also supportive of having nationally agreed guidelines for specialists (in this case Urologists) as part of management plans for active surveillance.

We would see these guidelines as the first step in producing other guidelines that would be put out for patients consulting their General Practitioner, the pathological diagnosis of prostate cancer as it applies to Pathologists and further guidance about other management options including the management of advanced disease.

Yours sincerely

Richard Lander FRACS
Executive Director of Surgical Affairs (NZ)

College of Surgeons of Australia and New Zealand

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