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## **RACS deplores hospital violence and one-punch attacks**

**Wednesday 31 May 2017**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) has come out strongly against violence in Australian hospitals and in particular, one-punch attacks.

This follows media reports this afternoon of an alleged assault on a Melbourne surgeon, now in a critical condition after suffering a single punch to the head last night.

Violence against frontline medical and hospital staff is a well-publicised issue and all patients, visitors and staff in hospitals and emergency departments have a right to safe environment, according to RACS Trauma Chair Dr John Crozier.

“All interpersonal violence is deplorable - an alleged assault by single punch to a Box Hill surgeon whose life is now critically threatened by resultant brain injury is obscene,” Dr Crozier said.

“The brain is a delicate organ, and the human, ultimately, a fragile creature.

“Such criminal violence is unacceptable.

“RACS campaigns for respect in the workplace. RACS advocates against preventable injury. RACS condemns single punch attacks,” Dr Crozier said.

RACS also supports the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine policy that there should be a nationally-consistent ‘zero tolerance’ approach to acts of violence in hospitals.

Similarly, RACS believes that hospitals must have organised policies and procedures regarding the management of violent incidents and that all staff should be encouraged to report any act of violent behaviour.

### **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.

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