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## Dr Patrick Pritzwald-Stegmann

**Wednesday 28 June 2017**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons offers its sincere condolences to the family of Dr Patrick Pritzwald-Stegmann who passed away over night following an assault on 30 May.

It is reported that Dr Pritzwald-Stegmann suffered a single punch to the head from a visitor to the Box Hill Hospital after allegedly asking him to stop smoking at the entrance to the building.

RACS President Dr John Batten said 'On behalf of the College, our thoughts are with Patrick's family at this sad time. Patrick's commitment to the field of surgery will not be forgotten. We understand that the family has requested privacy at this time and RACS will be making no further comment on the specific event.'

"RACS campaigns for respect in the workplace and advocates against preventable injury including single punch attacks," he said.

RACS condemns violence against frontline medical and hospital staff. Dr Batten said that all patients, visitors and staff in hospitals and emergency departments have the right to a safe environment.

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

### **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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