RACS welcomes better health outcomes for Tasmania

Monday 4 May, 2015

The Chair of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Tasmanian Regional Committee Mr Brian Kirkby, welcomes the Tasmanian Government’s commitment to deliver better health outcomes to the Tasmanian community.

Mr Kirby is also a general surgeon and his comments follow the Department of Health and Human Services continuing round of community consultation this week on the Exposure Draft of the White Paper for the new One Health System in Tasmania.

“Health reform in Tasmania is important for improving outcomes of patients.

“The current system created inefficiencies and long elective surgery waiting lists, leading to frustration and delays for patients” Mr Kirkby said.

“In order to achieve better outcomes for patients, our hospital facilities need to be operating as a network, not as silos.

“The government’s plan proposes specific roles for each hospital as part of its Role Delineation Framework and encourages each hospital to work together according to its strengths.”

The White Paper recommendations include establishing an elective day surgery centre at the Mersey hospital and consolidation of low volume procedures and services to a lesser number of sites or interstate.

“In practice this will mean greater collaboration between not only the hospitals but also health professionals.

“The willingness of health professionals to work together in accordance with the new framework is key to achieving success.

“I normally operate out of the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) but under this new framework I will be able to operate on some of my patients on elective surgery waiting lists at the Mersey hospital where they are given a definite time for their appointment without risk of cancellation,” The RACS Tasmanian Regional Chair said.

Mr Kirkby also said that the integration of services in the north managed from the LGH and operating across the North and North West would increase access to specialist services in the North West and reduce the disparity in costs between the hospitals.

“From the College’s perspective, this integration will also help in attracting and training surgeons with specialist and generalist skills.

“The College’s Trainees who currently complete six month rotations in different units will benefit from the volume and complexity of cases,” Mr Kirkby said.

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

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ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

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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