Surgeons welcome elective surgery boost but it’s only part of the picture

Monday 11 April, 2016

While the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) welcomes yesterday’s pre-state budget announcement from the Victorian Government of additional investment in elective surgery, it still wants to know their plans for surgical training, research and quality of patient care.

RACS welcomes the much-needed investment in theatre infrastructure, surgical equipment and bed capacity to facilitate elective surgery in the medium to long term as a significant boost to elective surgery.

RACS is also calling on the Victorian Government to ensure that its forthcoming State Budget also outlines plans for short and long term investment in surgical training, research and quality to ensure that Victoria remains at the forefront of surgical standards, innovation, and public health issues.

RACS Victorian Regional Chair Mr Jason Chuen said that as always, equipment and infrastructure was a critical component of delivering safe, modern surgical care.

“Apart from physical equipment RACS also recognises the importance of investment in human and systems infrastructure, meaning well-trained surgeons, nurses, support staff and systems of care that encourage safety and quality,” Mr Chuen said.

“Victorian’s deserve the highest standards in surgical care, and for as long as governments support surgeons to do so, we will continue to train surgeons and their teams to those exacting standards,” he said.

“Surgical techniques, decision-making and systems are constantly being improved.

“Dedicated time and support for research, audit and quality review systems such as the Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality are essential parts of maintaining a quality healthcare system.”

Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality
The Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality (VASM) independently reviews all deaths associated with surgical care in Victoria. It is part of the Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality (ANZASM) framework and regularly promulgates practice points and strategies to improve surgical safety.

More information is available at the RACS website

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

Media inquiries: Bridget Hooper, Policy & Communications Officer
+61 498 218 008 or +61 3 9276 7430