Surgeons scrub up in Adelaide for Annual Scientific Meeting

Friday August 26, 2016

The new Royal Adelaide Hospital (nRAH), revolutionary medical technology, and cultural change will be the focus as surgeons from Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory gather in Adelaide today for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Meeting.

RACS SA Chair Mr David Walters said this year’s conference had been specifically designed to reflect the unique circumstances of the South Australian health system.

“We are currently undergoing an almost unprecedented level of transformational change in this state.

“Changes of this magnitude can be disruptive and daunting; however, they also create advantages and opportunities,” Dr Walters said.

“One of the great things about a meeting like this is that we get to listen to the experiences of our interstate colleagues, and how they have successfully or otherwise negotiated change.”

“Among the presenters will be surgeons from the Fiona Stanley and Gold Coast Hospitals, who will provide us with an interesting insight of what we might expect at the nRAH,” Dr Walters said.

Also speaking at the meeting will be RACS NT Chair, Mr John Treacy who will discuss the addition of a hybrid operating theatre at the Royal Darwin Hospital.

South Australian surgeons have previously expressed their disappointment at the omission of a similar facility from the nRAH. Despite this, Mr Walters said that he remains hopeful that a theatre will be incorporated at a later date.

“We accept the government’s explanation that contractual obligations will prevent a hybrid operating theatre being included when the nRAH first opens.

“Nevertheless, this remains a key priority area for local surgeons, and we will continue to advocate strongly for a retrofit,” Dr Walters said.

The SA, WA and NT Annual Scientific Meeting, under the theme of New Buildings, New Systems, the New Surgeon - Surviving Change, will run from 26-27 August at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Adelaide.

Media inquiries: Mark Morgan, Policy and Communications Officer 0418 865 760