

<b>Division:</b>	<b>Fellowship Engagement</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>TOR-3018</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Professional Standards</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Professional Standards Committee</b>		

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the terms of reference for the Professional Standards Committee.

The Professional Standards Committee provides strategic overview for professional standards matters relating to surgery. The committee is responsible for the full range of issues relating to the development and implementation of professional standards related policies and guidelines and delivery of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program

## 2. KEYWORDS

Professional Standards, Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

## 3. BODY OF POLICY

### 3.1. Objectives

The objectives of the Professional Standards Committee are:

- 3.1.1. To initiate and provide ongoing strategic overview for professional standards matters relating to surgery.
- 3.1.2. To be responsible for the full range of issues relating to the development and implementation of professional standards related policies and guidelines.
- 3.1.3. To make recommendations to the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee regarding standards issues.
- 3.1.4. To ensure that the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program meets the needs of surgeons.
- 3.1.5. To advocate for optimal trauma management in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand through the Trauma Committee and Subcommittees.
- 3.1.6. To provide a conduit for the views of the committees and working parties within the Professional Standards portfolio.
- 3.1.7. To engage with Specialty Associations and Societies, RACS Sections, Australian State and Territory Committees and the Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee regarding standards in surgery.

### 3.2. Duties and Responsibilities

- 3.2.1. To set standards and develop policies relating to surgical standards, competence and professional practice, including the conduct of surgical audit and peer review, surgical competence and credentialing of surgeons.
- 3.2.2. To set standards and provide guidelines for effective continuing education programs.

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- 3.2.3. To oversee the development, monitoring and review of an excellent, practicable and accountable CPD Program that meets the needs of Fellows, including CPD Online, verification and approval of audits and continuing professional development activities.
- 3.2.4. To oversee Fellows fulfilment of the annual RACS CPD Program requirements.
- 3.2.5. To monitor participation and compliance in the CPD Program including recommendations for sanctions and incentives
- 3.2.6. To support the Trauma section and its committees
- 3.2.7. To collaborate with and consider the interests of all Specialty Associations and Societies, RACS sections and interest groups, Australian State and Territory committees and Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee with regard to professional standards issues
- 3.2.8. To respond to consultations and contribute to advocacy for professional standards issues, where appropriate

### 3.3. Powers

The Professional Standards Committee shall have powers to make recommendations to the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee in relation to the objectives, duties and responsibilities as listed above, including decisions regarding policies, positions statements, strategic objectives, financial matters and facilitation of implementation.

All committees and working parties in the Professional Standards portfolio shall report to the Professional Standards Committee. These committees and working parties may be altered by Council or by the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee from time to time depending on the tasks required. The current committees include:

- 3.3.1 Trauma Committee
- 3.3.2 Trauma Verification Subcommittee
- 3.3.3 Trauma Quality Improvement Subcommittee
- 3.3.4 Conjoint Committee for Recognition of Training in Peripheral Endovascular Therapy (CCRTPET)
- 3.3.5 Surgical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Committee
- 3.3.6 Locum Evaluation and Peer Review Committee

### 3.4. Composition and Size

Membership shall consist of:

- 3.4.1 One Councillor, elected by Council as Chair
- 3.4.2 One other Councillor

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- 3.4.3 One Specialty Association or Society Representative from PSAC
- 3.4.5 Chair or delegate, Trauma Committee
- 3.4.6 Chair or delegate, Surgical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Committee
- 3.4.7 Chair or delegate, Fellowship Services Committee
- 3.4.8 Chair or delegate, Professional Development Committee
- 3.4.9 Chair or delegate, Specialist International Medical Specialist (SIMG) Committee
- 3.4.10 Chair or delegate, Health Policy and Advocacy Committee
- 3.4.11 Two Fellows
- 3.4.12 One Community Representative

In Attendance:

- 3.4.12 Chair, Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee
- 3.4.13 Executive Director for Surgical Affairs (Australia)
- 3.4.14 One Surgical Advisor, Aotearoa New Zealand

The Deputy Chair will be nominated by the Chair and ratified by approval of the committee

Additional Fellows may be co-opted from time to time as appropriate.

The nomination and appointment of members to the Professional Standards Committee will adhere to the principles articulated in the RACS Diversity and Inclusion Plan.

### **3.5. Tenure and Method of Appointment**

In line with Council terms of appointment, a term of office shall be for a maximum of three terms, and membership shall be for a maximum of three years. In those circumstances when members of the Professional Standards Committee ceases to be a member of Council or the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee as relevant, those Fellows could not serve in their ex-officio capacity and shall cease to be a member of the Professional Standards Committee.

### **3.6. Meetings**

There shall be up to five meetings each year. All meetings shall be held by teleconference.

### **3.7. Quorum**

A quorum shall be a voting majority of the membership of the committee. In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair shall assume the role of Acting Chair.

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### 3.8. Accountability and Reporting Structure

The Professional Standards Committee shall report to the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee. The Chair of the Professional Standards Committee shall be a member of the Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee.

## 2. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Committee and Working Party Procedures

Conflict of Interest Policy

**Approver** Professional Advocacy and Standards Board

**Authoriser** Council

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