

Portfolio:	Fellowship Engagement	Ref. No.	TOR-3055
Department:	Policy and Advocacy		
Title:	Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These terms of reference establish the Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group.

2. KEYWORDS

Sustainability, conservation, environment, global warming, greenhouse gas, waste/landfill, recycling, reusable items, energy conservation, climate crisis.

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1 Objectives

The Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group is responsible for providing advice to the Professional Development and Standards Board on initiatives that support efforts to reduce the impact of surgical practice on the environment.

3.2 Duties and Responsibilities

- 3.2.1 To consider and make recommendations to the Professional Development and Standards Board on matters relating to the implementation of the RACS' Environmental Impact of Surgical Practice Position Paper (reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink).
- 3.2.2 To develop a central repository of information and successful sustainability strategies for sharing including by chat room.
- 3.2.3 To engage institutions, healthcare and government agencies to implement the RACS' Sustainability Position Paper.
- 3.2.4 To engage with industry in the development of safe reusable equipment.
- 3.2.5 To explore strategies that supports the expansion of the RACS' engagement with key stakeholders.
- 3.2.6 To collaborate with like-minded organisations (RACP, Ora Taiao, Doctors for the Environment Australia, CODA).
- 3.2.7 To institute a review of RACS' carbon footprint in the conduct of its business activities (including but not limited to Education, Training, Courses and Conferences, Committee work, Buildings and infrastructure, travel).
- 3.2.8 To oversee the mitigation of RACS' carbon footprint.
- 3.2.9 To oversee the institution of grants and scholarships, under the auspices of the Foundation for Surgery, for the purposes of encouraging research in the area of environmental sustainability.
- 3.2.10 12 month limited time frame.

3.3 Powers

The Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group will have powers to make recommendations to the Professional Development and Standards Board in relation to the objectives, duties and responsibilities listed above.

3.4 Composition and Size

Membership shall comprise of:

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- 3.4.1 One Fellow from Council
- 3.4.2 One Fellow from the Professional Development and Standards Board
- 3.4.3 One Fellow from the Professional Standards Committee
- 3.4.4 One Fellow from the Younger Fellows Committee
- 3.4.5 One Fellow from the New Zealand National Board
- 3.4.6 One member of the RACSTA Committee

In Attendance:

- 3.4.7 Manager, Policy and Advocacy
- 3.4.8 Executive Officer, Professional Standards (Secretariat)

The Chair shall be a Fellow appointed by the Professional Development and Standards Board. Other Fellows or non-surgical experts may be co-opted as required.

3.5 Tenure and Method of Appointment

Working Group members will be appointed by the Professional Development and Standards Board and their tenure will be for 12 months.

3.6 Meetings

The Working Group shall convene at least three meetings within a 12 month period either by teleconference or face to face when the opportunity arises.

3.7 Quorum

A quorum shall be a voting majority of the membership of the Working Group.

3.8 Accountability and Reporting Structure

The Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group shall report via the Professional Development and Standards Board.

4 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

[Environmental Impact of Surgical Practice Position Paper](#)

Approver Professional Development and Standards Board
Authoriser Council

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