

16 March 2026

**Dr Rachele Love, Tumuaki, Chair**

**Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa - Medical Council of New Zealand**

## **STATEMENTS ON CULTURAL COMPETENCE, CULTURAL SAFETY, AND HAUORA MAORI**

**Tēnā koē Dr Love**

Te Whare Piki Ora o Māhutonga – the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. Our mission is ‘To improve access, equity, quality and delivery of surgical care that meets the needs of our diverse communities’. Health advocacy is a central competency of a surgeon, and a core value of this College.

We welcome the development of the Council’s draft Statement on Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety, and Statement on Hauora Māori, the opportunity to contribute to the development of these draft statements, and the opportunity to comment on them now. These statements have been reviewed by both our Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee and Māori Health Advisory Group.

### **Statement on Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety**

The draft Statement on Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety is clearly written and easy to understand. The expectations are reasonable and proportionate, noting some such as data collection are more suited to organisations than individuals. We have not identified anything missing from the statement. We suggest providing the references in the Appendix as links.

### **Statement on Hauora Māori (Māori health and wellbeing)**

The draft Statement on Hauora Māori is succinct, easy to read and understand. Expectations are reasonable and proportionate. We have not identified anything missing from the statement. We suggest bringing the definition of hauora Māori onto the front page in the way cultural competence and cultural safety are defined in the other statement. We also suggest providing links to resources mentioned, for example national data protocols.

Including a glossary in each statement is useful.

### **Conclusion**

RACS is pleased to support the draft statements as provided. We look forward to the statements being issued to set current expectations for how doctors provide culturally competent and culturally safe care, and to support equitable health outcomes.

**Nāku noa, nā**

**Ros Pochin**  
Chair  
Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee

**John Mutu-Grigg**  
Chair  
Māori Health Advisory Group

**RACS represents more than 1,100 surgeons and 400 surgical Trainees and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) across nine surgical specialties in Aotearoa New Zealand.**



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