

ACT Chair's Report to Council

Dr David Rangiah

22 June 2022



Committed to Indigenous health

Ngunnawal Country



" CANBERRA "



About the ACT

Pop: 421780
SE NSW Pop: 200000
1.8% Indigenous Australians
32% Public Servants
4% Health Workers
5% Defence

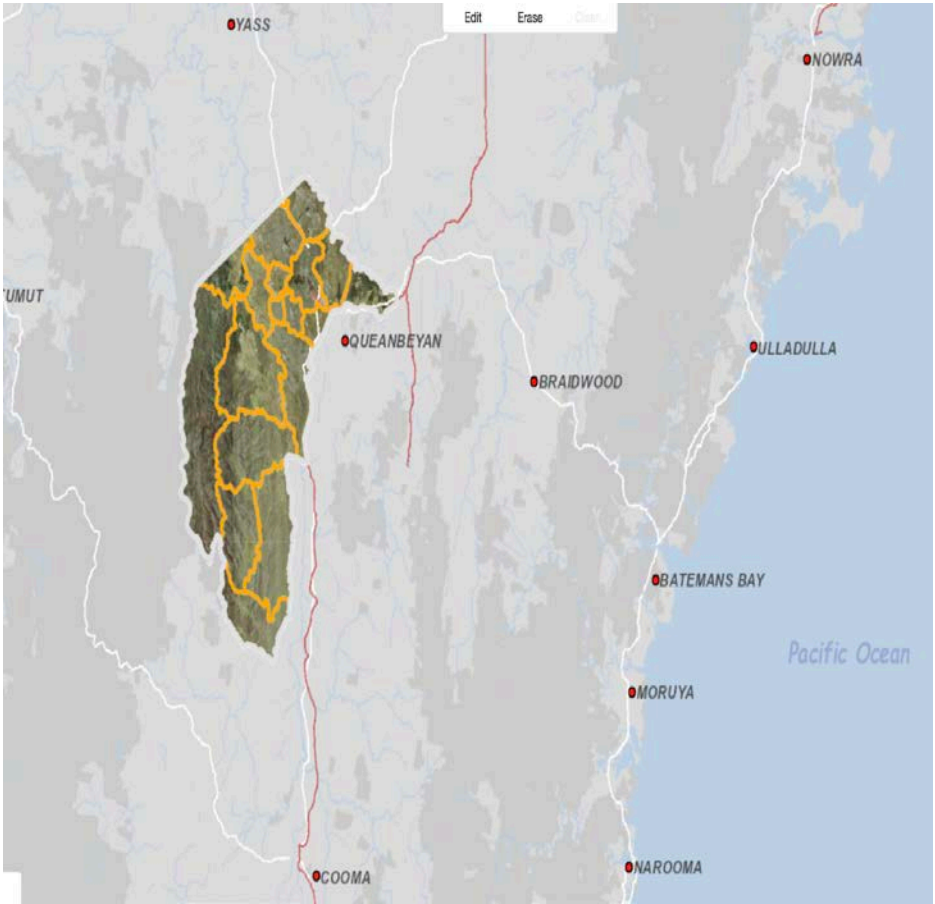
Active Fellows: 133

Trainees: 20

General: 9
Urology: 4
Ortho: 4
Vascular: 2

SIMG: 2

Name	System	Beds
Canberra Hospital	Public	672
Calvary Public Hospital	Public	250
John James Hospital	Private	199
National Capital Hospital	Private	148
Calvary Private Hospital Bruce	Private	118
Canberra Private Hospital	Private	38
Barton Private Day Hospital	Private	0



Centenary Womens and Childrens Hospital	Public
University of Canberra Rehabilitation Hospital	Public



About the ACT Committee

7 elected members and 8 co-opted members

Elected Members:

1. Chair: David Rangiah – General
2. Deputy Chair: Gert Frahm-Jensen – Vascular
3. Paul Smith – Orthopaedic
4. Maurizio Damiani – Orthopaedics
5. Kieran Hart – Urology
6. Florance Ngu – Paediatrics
7. Ardalan Ebrahimi – General (private sector)

Co-opted members:

1. Ailene Fitzgerald – General (co-op RACS Council)
2. Sivakumar Gananadha – General (ACT-ASM)
3. Hari Bandi – Neurosurgery (Women in surgery)
4. Ram Ganesalingam – General (Education)
5. Rajay Rampersad – Paediatrics
6. Hazel Serroa-Brown – SET 5 General (RACSTA)
7. Mike He – General (Younger Fellows)
8. Adrian Fernandez – General (Rural Surgery)

About the ACT Office

RACS ACT Manager: Peta Forwood, commenced 28 Feb 22

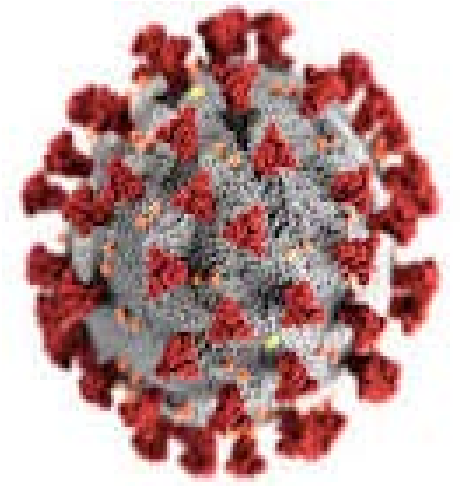
RACS ACT Office Co-Ordinator: Katharine Dritsas, commenced 27 Apr 22

Former RACS ACT Manager: Tess Green, promoted to Manager, Foundation for Surgery in Feb 22.



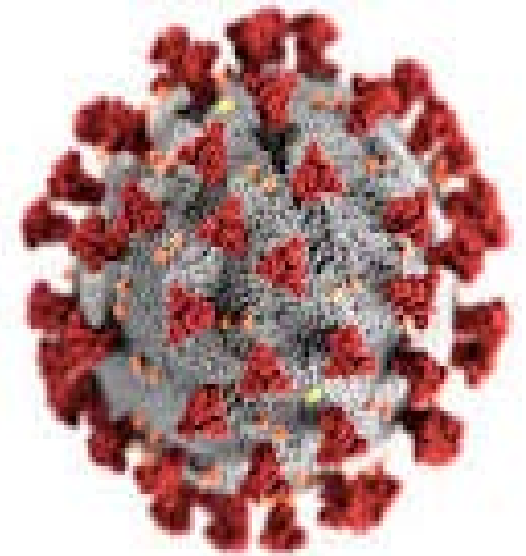
COVID – 19

- Elective surgery:
 - Significantly impacted by staff shortages mainly in public hospitals.
 - Shortage of staff have been a major issue.
 - Ad-hoc elective list cancellations more recently.
- Winter Surge:
 - The increase in winter surge of admission is expected to further impact the provision of emergency and elective surgery.
- ACT Health:
 - Purchasing bed capacity in the private sector.
 - Public in the Private elective surgery.



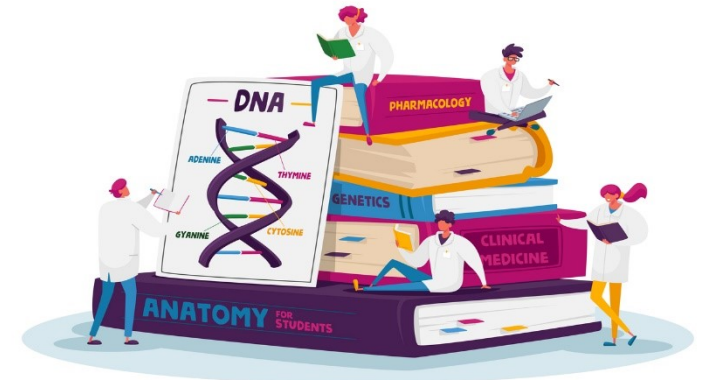
COVID – 19

- RACS ACT:
 - Advocating for medium to long term solutions to address pre-existing theatre access, staffing and efficiencies.
 - Early and broad medical staff recruitment
 - Transparent negotiations of Public in the Private surgery – issue of conflict of interest.
 - Staff Wellbeing: High levels of fatigue, burnout and low moral in all areas.



Trainee Issues

- Written Examinations: held in ACT for last for three years. This was withdrawn in 2022. ACT RACS would like to ask the Education Board to review this to give access to trainees in the ACT and surrounding regions.
- Pre-SET Trainee: Better support pre-SET training, training progression and research
- Cost of Pre-SET Training: Trainee's have expressed issues regarding education and cost of Pre-SET courses.
- RACS training events for the ACT: Operating with Respect, EMST.
- Chief Examiner – General Surgery 2022 – Dr Charles Mosse



ACT Advocacy Priorities

- ACT Health Executive Meetings
 - ACT Health Minister: Rachael Stephen-Smith
 - ACT Opposition Spokesperson: Leanne Castley
 - ACT Director General: Rebecca Cross
 - The Canberra Hospital CEO: Dave Pfeffer
- RACS ACT Attendees
 - RACS ACT Chair: Dr David Rangiah
 - RACS ACT Deputy Chair: Dr Gert Frahm-Jensen
 - RACSTA Representative: Dr Hazel Serroa-Brown
 - RACS ACT Manager: Peta Forwood



————— MEETING —————

Variation in Sex Characteristics (Restricted Medical Treatment) Bill 2022

- Bill to restrict surgery/ medical management of individuals with variations in sex characteristics till the age of consent.
 - An appointed committee would develop/ approve a treatment plan
 - Criminal offence if there is any surgery performed without the consent of the committee.
-
- ACT RACS issues Raised
 - Inclusion of Hypospadias, Epispadias, Bladder Exstrophy
 - Exclusion of Circumcision – contradicts the premise of the bill
 - Criminalisation of a surgical/medical procedure.
 - Committee – responsibilities to the individual, APHRA responsibility, external social agendas and bias in decision making, arbitration. Should be dealt with MDT process.
 - Medicolegal protection of clinicians.
 - Concepts of consent in a child/ vulnerable individual
 - (No RACS position statement)
 - Absence of mention parents in the decision making process
 - Health Policy and Advocacy Committee (HPAC)



Proposed reforms to provide better care and support for people with variations in sex characteristics

Draft Legislation Consultation

ACT Advocacy Priorities

- “Connect the Silos”
 - Clinical Nursing Co-Ordinator
 - Stomal Therapy Services
 - High Risk Fracture Clinic and Services
 - Improved co-ordination of In and Out of Hospital service
 - Improved engagement with NSW health for cross border service provision.
- Cultural Review – Bullying and Harassment Policy and Engagement



ACT Advocacy Priorities

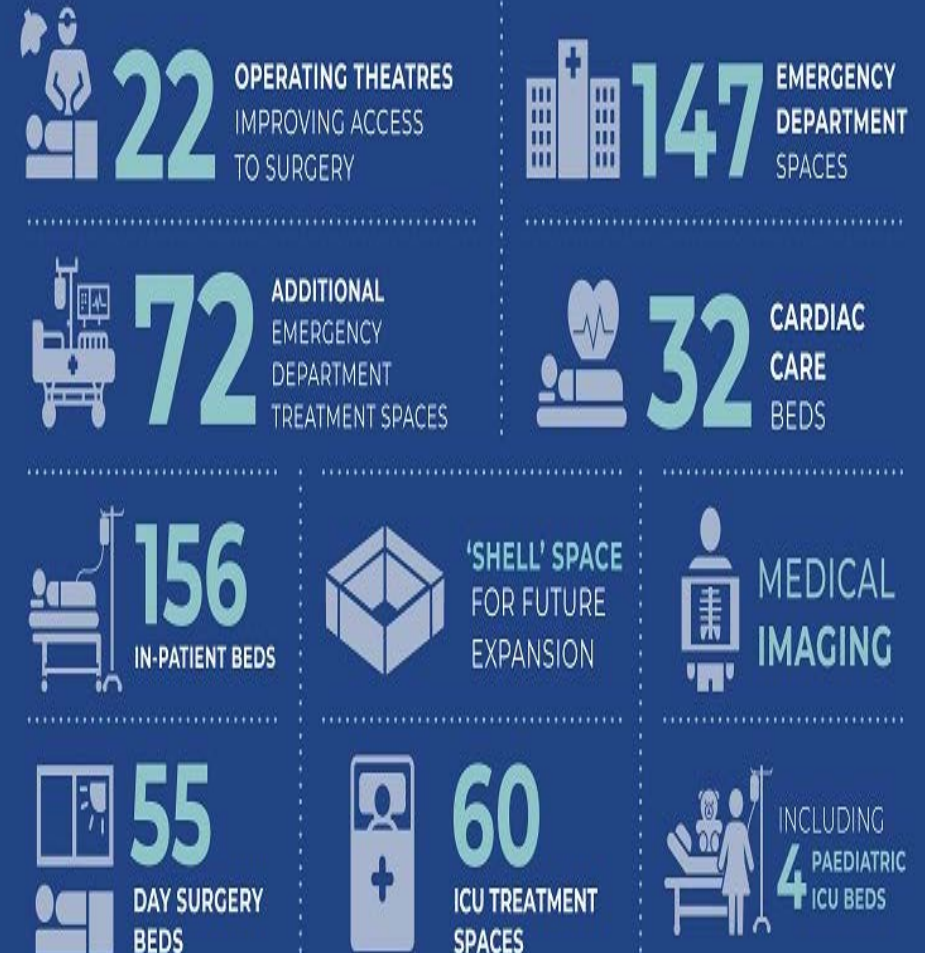
Culture: Statement of Intent with ACT Health

- Building Respect and Improving Patient Safety project : The ACT Office has been working closely with ACT Health . The project requires final approval.
- We are the only College in the ACT with such an arrangement in place. ACT Health is looking to use our work as a template for other medical colleges.
- *“ACT Health, as an employer of Surgeons, Trainees, and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) and the College have a shared interest in promoting healthcare cultures of safety and respect, and dealing with issues of unprofessional conduct, including discrimination, bullying, and sexual harassment “*

ACT Advocacy Priorities

The Canberra Hospital Expansion

Critical Services Building



ACT Advocacy Priorities

Medical Education and Training Facility

- Skill and Training facility at the Canberra Hospital:
 - Cancellation of \$70Mil ANU/ACT Health due to Covid related loss of funding.
 - Canberra Hosp Skills and Education Space:
- RACS courses: Advanced Surgical Skills Workshop, EMST
- Reduction in Anatomy teaching at ANU Medical School: Meeting with ANU Medical School Dean
- ANU Medical School Surgery Career Education Panel Night

Broader College Engagement

- Monthly Newsletter: The ACT Office has been selected as a pilot region for the Marketing component of MS Dynamics for our monthly newsletters. This process will bring our local communications inside the RACS tent.
- Operating with Respect course: to be held in ACT Office on 21 July.
- People and Culture team: the ACT Office successfully recruited an Office Coordinator in March/ April 2022. The ACT Office worked well with the People and Culture team.
- Conference and Events: AMS 2022: successfully collaborating with the Conference and Events team to deliver the ACT ASM on 12 August 2022. The ACT ASM is a hybrid event, offering both face to face and virtual registrations. Technical and audio-visual support has been of great value.

Events 2021

Younger Fellows Dinner,
28 October 2021



End of Year Dinner,
Thursday 2 December 2021



Events 2022

International Women's Day Breakfast



Education Events 2022

Annual Scientific Meeting, Friday 12 August 2022

“Role of the Surgeon into the Future”

Conveners: Drs Sandra Krishan and Adrian Fernandez (Bega)

Speakers include:

- Mrs Cleo Kenington – sustainability and perspectives of the future of sustainability for surgeons
- Professor Russell Gruen – Commission for the Human Future and Contribution to the conversation surrounding climate change and impact for surgeons.
- Minister Stephen-Smith to present awards - Service to the Community Award and Educator of the Year Award
- Associate Professor Tarik Sammour – Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Robotics in Colorectal Surgery
- Dr Joseph Dosseldorp – Application of 3D Printing in Surgery
- Dr Timothy Yeoh – 3D Hologram Technology in Surgery
- Panel Discussion: All guest speakers. Moderated by Dr Emilia Dauway
- Dr Pia Bernadi, Member of RACS Sustainability Working Party



2019 Annual
Scientific
Meeting

Education Events 2022

Surgical Skills Workshops

- Surgical Staplers and Energy Devices
 - 1 December 2021
 - 16 attendees
- Vascular & Endovascular Skills
 - 18 May 2022
 - 20 attendees



Thank you

