

# AOA/NZOA direct accreditation vote: what's at stake and why RACS recommends voting "no"

29 January 2026, 7pm AEDT



Committed to Indigenous health

# RACS bi-national acknowledgement

RACS acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of the land that we are all on today and extend our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

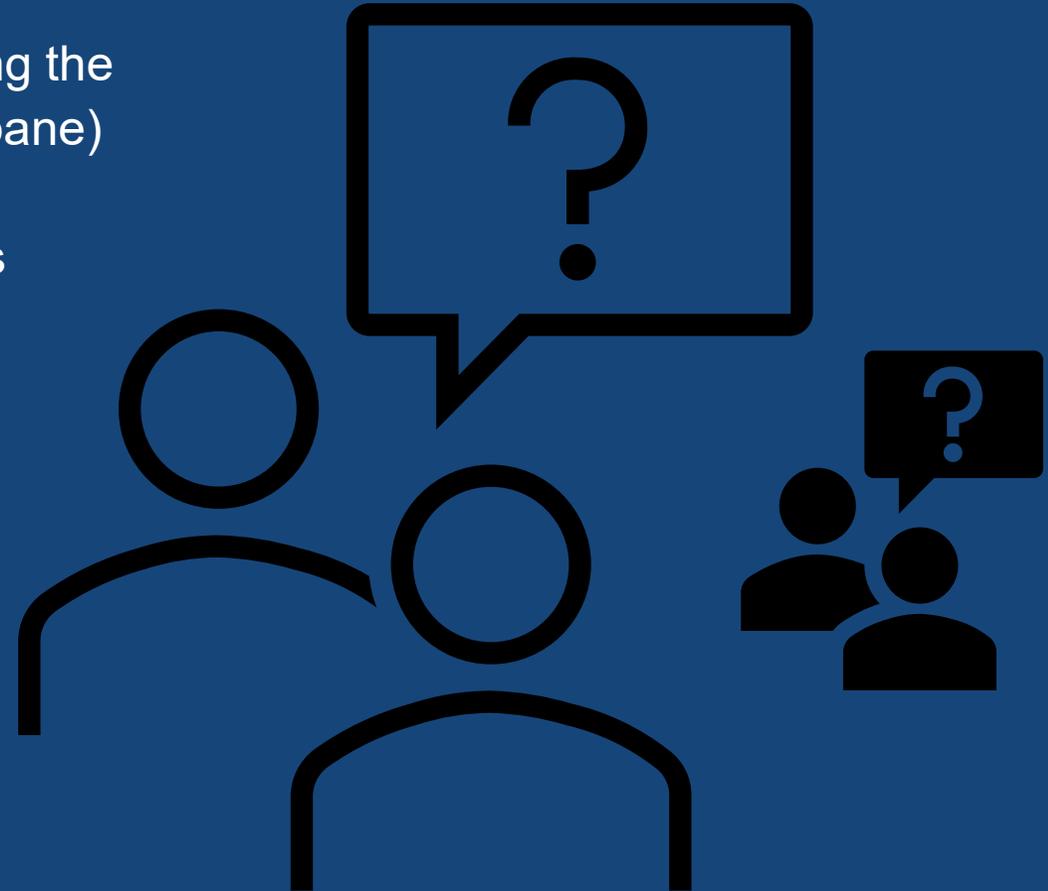
RACS respects ngā iwi Māori as the tangata whenua of Aotearoa and is committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, fostering the College's relationship with Māori, supporting Māori Fellows and Trainees, and striving to improve the health of Māori.



# We know you'll have questions

Please use the Q&A function (click the icon along the top banner of your screen to bring up the Q&A pane)

You can also vote for other attendees' questions you'd like to hear answered



# Agenda

## Opening remarks

- Associate Professor Sue Liew, FRACS (RACS Specialty Elected Councillor, Orthopaedics)

## Update from RACS

- Professor Owen Ung, FRACS (RACS President)
- Dr Phil Morreau, FRACS (RACS Censor-in-Chief)
- Stephanie Clota (RACS CEO)

## Closing remarks

- Professor Owen Ung, FRACS
- Dr John Batten, FRACS (Former President of RACS and AOA)

## Q&A

- Presenters will be joined by Professor Ray Sacks, FRACS (RACS Vice President) and Dr Peter Moore, FRACS (RACS Fellowship Elected Councillor and member of the AOA Federal Training Committee)

## Meeting closes

# Associate Professor Sue Liew, FRACS

RACS Specialty Elected Councillor for  
Orthopaedic Surgery



## Pause and consider

- **Not just about orthopaedic training, specialty autonomy, or fees:** implications for all Fellows, Trainees, patients, professional identity and trust.
- **There are other ways to achieve reform:** improvements are already being delivered with more to come.



# RACS: strong, unified, trusted

- **AMC/MCNZ accredited:** accreditation is not automatic and takes time and continued scrutiny and improvement
- **Member-led:** strategic direction, member voice and representation
- **Internationally recognised by medical and surgical colleges:** through the FRACS post-nominal, leadership collaboration, and our strong and sustainable governance structure
- **Trusted:** governments and regulators come to us for advice; hospital and patients look for FRACS
- **A unified structure that benefits the many:** when improvements and cost efficiencies are created at a system level, the benefits for all specialties are amplified



# Training is only one part of what our College does



**Professional  
identity as  
surgeons**



**Advocacy  
and unified  
voice**

↓  
150+ submissions/  
consultations in 2025



**Collegiality  
and cross-  
collaboration**



**Member  
service  
and voice**

↓  
100+ committees across  
two countries and all  
states/ territories



**Representation**



**Tangible  
benefits**

↓  
Library, Foundation and  
so much more

*Unity avoids duplication, supports sustainability, and delivers value across specialties*



## Not just a promise for the future: change delivered now

- Governance reform
- Financial discipline restored
- New CEO and senior leadership team embedded
- Fee freezes and reductions delivered
- IT reform (\$1mn+)
- Procurement savings
- Surgical Pathways Strategy underway



# Training is a team sport

## What you get from RACS

- An accredited and internationally recognised training program
- Quality-assured hospital and supervisors
- Support through exams, appeals, and policies that keep training fair and consistent
- Access to RACSTA, Library, online learning, and wellbeing support
- Representation through advocacy at national and international levels

## What you get from your society

- A curriculum designed for your specialty
- Specialty-specific teaching, workshops, and assessment
- Specialty supervisors and networks to guide you

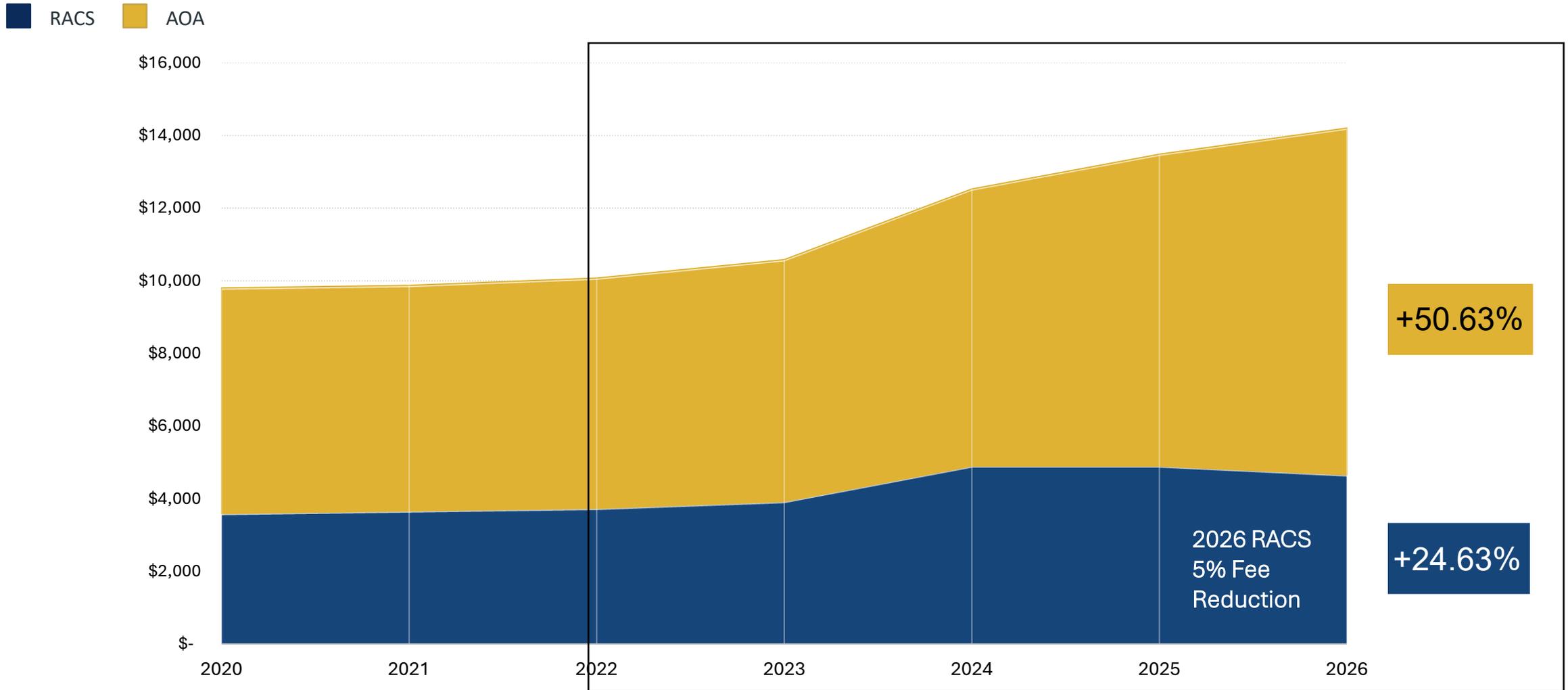
## What you get from your trainer and supervisor

- Teaching and guidance every day in theatres, clinics, and on the wards
- Supervision, feedback, and assessment to support your progress
- Role models who demonstrate professional standards in action
- Connection to the surgical community
- Entrance into a profession that contributes its time and expertise pro bono

Together, this network ensures your training pathway is structured, rigorous, and respected worldwide

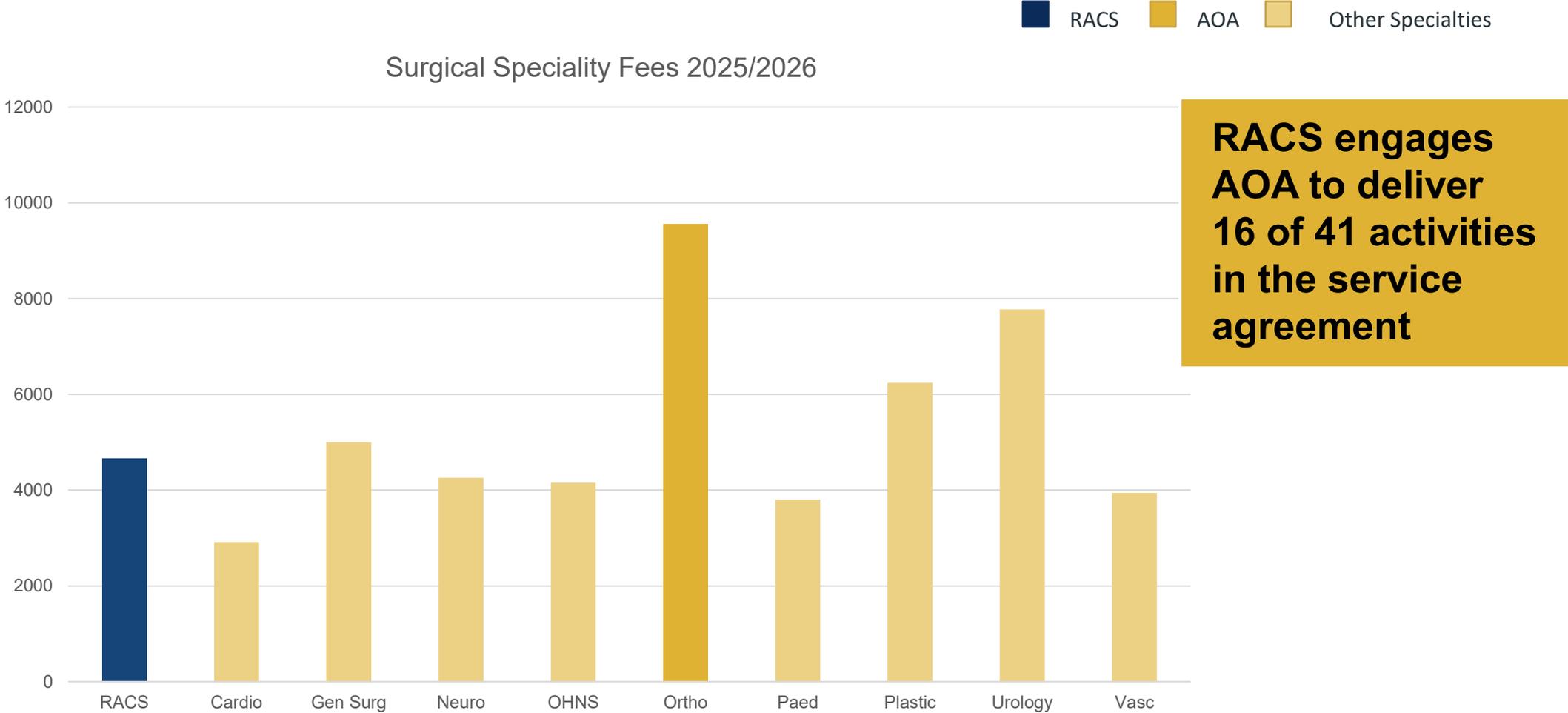
# Where costs really sit

Total fee shown as RACS and AOA components, 2020 to 2026 (AUD)



# Our plan to reduce SET Fees across all specialties

Total fee shown as for latest available information (2025 or 2026 where available)



# Surgical Pathways Strategy

Endorsed by the RACS Council and Board in late 2025 , the Surgical Pathways Strategy intends to solve for critical challenges facing trainees, surgical care delivery and education, redefining a new era for surgical excellence.

**Governance  
and  
Accountability**

Stewardship - Leading with  
Clarity and Confidence



**Selection,  
Pathways and  
Workforce**

Building a Workforce for  
Community Need



**Operational  
Excellence and  
Sustainability**

One System for Coherent,  
Resilient Operations



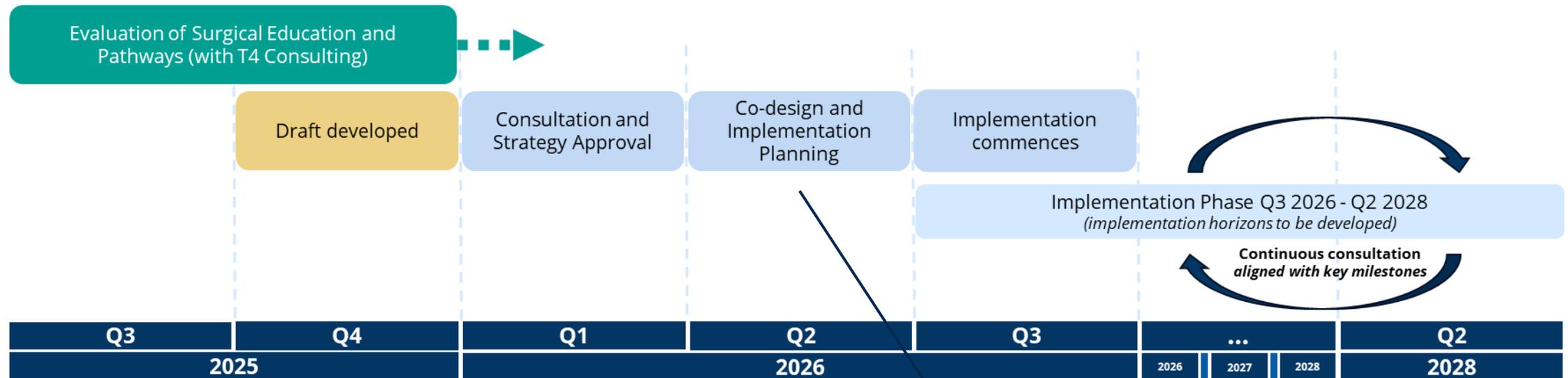
**Strategic  
Partnerships  
and Value Care**

Trusted Partnerships that  
Strengthen Hospitals, Support  
Trainers and Assure Outcomes



# The proposal is being voted on before members have seen a fully specified Faculty model

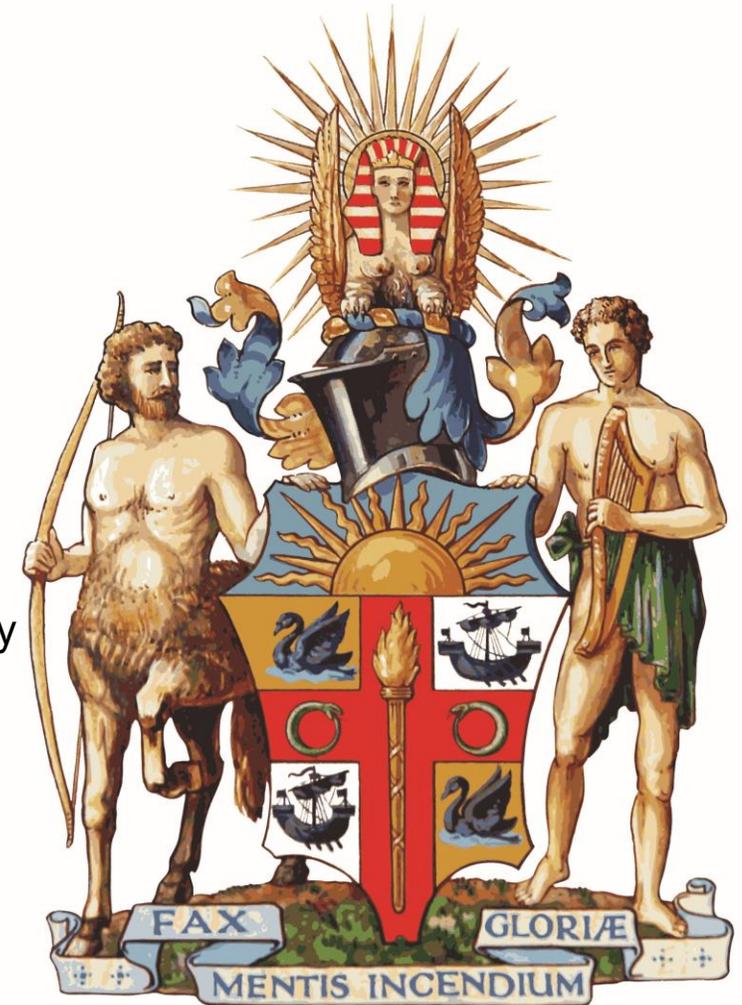
## Indicative timeline for the Surgical Pathways Strategy



Co-design is critical, allowing collaboration with those most affected, ensuring the result is relevant, trusted, effective.

# FRACS: more than a post-nominal

- FRACS can only be awarded to Trainees who have completed an accredited training for which RACS has set the standard.
- An approved qualification under national law, not just a membership designation
- Recognised by regulators, hospitals, governments, patients, the community
- Internationally portable
- There is power in having a single post-nominal for surgery

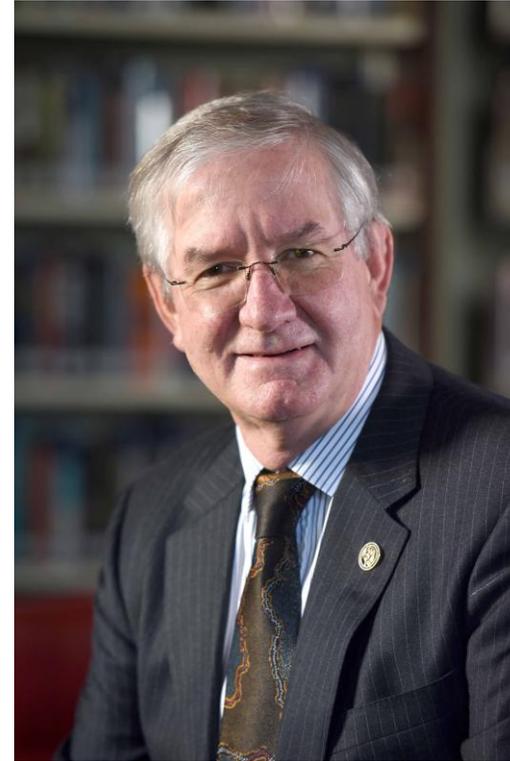


*There is no RACS without our FRACS – and no FRACS without our College*

## Closing remarks



**Professor Owen Ung, FRACS**  
RACS President



**Dr John Batten, FRACS**  
Former President, RACS and AOA

**Time for questions**



A request from us: continue the conversation with your colleagues

*Stronger together*



View our communications to date on  
this issue using your RACS login

