



**The Hon Mark Butler MP**  
**Minister for Health and Aged Care**

Ref No: MC23-007368

Dr John Crozier  
Chair, Trauma Committee

Professor Mark Frydenberg  
Chair, Health Policy and Advocacy Committee  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
[RACS.Advocacy@surgeons.org](mailto:RACS.Advocacy@surgeons.org)

Dear Dr Crozier and Professor Frydenberg

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 April 2023 regarding the safety hazards of lithium-ion batteries and potential fire risks.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the immediate and future challenges associated with lithium-ion batteries.

As you note, the Australian Government has identified these issues and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is currently scoping product safety issues and potential hazard prevention strategies in relation to lithium-ion batteries. The ACCC has well established processes for considering product safety priority areas and the Government looks forward to considering their final report on the best options for managing the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. The report is expected to be finalised by mid-2023.

Education and awareness is likely to remain key in ensuring consumer safety and protection and implementing risk mitigation strategies around the use, storage and disposal of lithium-ion batteries. The ACCC has published online safety information for consumers. This information can be found at [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au) by searching 'lithium-ion batteries'. For further information on the ACCC's work please contact [lithiumbatteries@acc.gov.au](mailto:lithiumbatteries@acc.gov.au).

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mark Butler', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mark Butler

05/05/2023