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250–290 Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia
Telephone +61 3 9249 1200
www.surgeons.org
ABN 29 004 167 766

The Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health and
Professor Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer

OPEN LETTER

Lithium-ion Batteries causing fires

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is seeking urgent action by the government to prevent further deaths and injuries from the increasing number of fires caused by Lithium-ion batteries overheating and exploding.

As surgeons, we see the impact of these injuries including those that require surgery and intensive burn care. These injuries affect all groups of the community and can be prevented by tighter safety standards surrounding battery use, storage and product system design. These preventable injuries add to our society's burden of injury as well as draining the economy.

RACS applauds the ACCC for seeking input on ways to reduce the significant fire and safety risks associated with lithium-ion batteries overheating or exploding particularly when used, charged or stored incorrectly.

We look forward to hearing how the government plans to address this serious and increasing health and safety issue.

Yours sincerely

John Crozier
Chair
Trauma Committee

Mark Frydenberg
Chair
Health Policy and Advocacy Committee

cc Director, Lithium-ion Batteries Project, ACCC



Committed to
Indigenous health