Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Celebrating 100 years



RACS member benefits 2027

Make more of your RACS membership

100 years of RACS.
A community for life.

A message from the President

Dear colleagues

For 100 years, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) has worked to uphold surgical standards, support surgical education and training, and promote high-quality surgical care for our communities.

But RACS is much more than a professional body. We are a community of surgeons across nine specialties and two countries, supporting one another, advancing our profession and doing together what none of us could do alone.

Thank you for being part of that community.

Your membership connects you with colleagues, supports your ongoing learning and development, and gives you opportunities to contribute, lead and make a difference. This guide shows what you get, how to get to it, and some of the changes we have made in response to your feedback.

As we mark our centenary in 2027, I encourage you to make the most of your membership and to help shape our profession's next hundred years.

Dr Philip Morreau FRACS
President
Royal Australasian College
of Surgeons



Membership matters

More than a qualification. A professional community for life.

FRACS is a bi-nationally and internationally recognised surgical qualification and professional standard. Your ongoing RACS membership allows you to continue using the FRACS designation, while keeping you connected to a professional community committed to high standards, ethical practice and better outcomes for patients. Because Fellowship is about much more than the letters after your name. It's about belonging to a community that supports and connects surgeons throughout their careers.

If you're a Fellow, download the FRACS branding kit.

A pathway built on high standards

RACS is accredited by the Australian Medical Council and Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa - Medical Council of New Zealand to deliver surgical education and training across nine surgical specialties. Working with Trainees, supervisors, hospitals, specialty societies and other partners, the College oversees the pathway from selection and training through to assessment and Fellowship. This helps ensure surgeons develop the knowledge, skills and professional judgement needed for contemporary surgical practice.

A strong, collective voice for surgery

Through RACS, members have a united voice in discussions with governments, regulators, hospitals, insurers and other organisations that influence surgical practice and healthcare delivery. This collective representation helps ensure the profession's perspectives are heard and the issues that matter to surgeons and their patients are addressed.

Our advocacy focuses on upholding surgical standards, protecting patient safety and quality of care, and supporting a sustainable future for surgery. In Aotearoa New Zealand, our sustained campaign ahead of the November 2026 election has put key priorities on the agenda. In Australia, one of our principal advocacy priorities is ensuring policy reflects the realities of surgical practice and the costs of delivering quality care. Our engagement on Medical Costs Finder and fee transparency has helped push for a more realistic approach to presenting specialist fees.

Read our latest advocacy highlights.

Connected by a shared purpose

Fellowship connects surgeons across specialties, generations and Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. It creates opportunities to share knowledge, learn from colleagues and strengthen the profession. As a member, you are also part of a collective voice representing surgeons and advocating for high-quality, equitable surgical care.

Supporting you throughout your career

Surgical practice continues to evolve, and RACS membership provides ongoing support to help you evolve with it. From continuing professional development and education to professional resources, networking and advocacy, the College supports you to maintain and develop your practice throughout your career. Membership also gives you opportunities to contribute through teaching and mentoring, surgical research and education, and involvement in College activities and decision-making.

Find out about the member benefits for Fellows and Trainees.

How we spend membership fees

Your subscription supports your professional life and our collective work to strengthen surgery

RESEARCH & COMPLIANCE

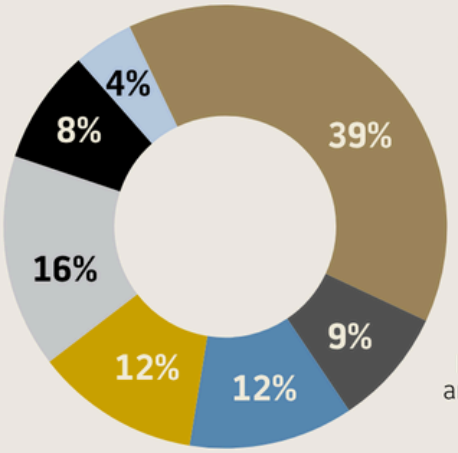
Improving surgical practice and patient outcomes through research, clinical audits, surveys and evaluation of health services, technology and policy.

ADMINISTRATION

Providing the people, financial management and operational support needed to deliver College services and meet organisational obligations.

GOVERNANCE

Supporting accountable leadership of Council and Board, through sound decisions and oversight of College standards, regulatory and legal compliance, finances and risk to sustain a trusted surgical profession.



MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES & SERVICES

Access knowledge, practical support and professional connections through member services, the RACS Library, events, publications and local teams across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Representing surgeons, developing policy and advocating for the conditions needed to deliver safe, accessible surgical care in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & LIFELONG LEARNING

Build your skills, maintain your professional standards and meet your CPD requirements through the RACS CPD Program, online learning, professional development opportunities and support for Fellows at every career stage.

COMMITTEES & SECTIONS

Opportunities to connect, contribute and have a voice in the issues that matter to your area of surgical practice through RACS committees, sections and interest groups.

Data is current as of Q2 2026

Better financial stewardship. More value for members.

We've been working hard to strengthen financial management, find efficiencies and make better use of College resources. These efforts are translating into tangible value for members.

- Fellowship fees frozen: annual Fellowship subscription fees were held at 2024 levels in both 2025 and 2026. For 2027, a 3 per cent increase will help the College meet rising delivery costs and maintain long-term financial sustainability while keeping increases for members modest.
- Lower training fees: the RACS component of SET fees has reduced by 5 per cent since 2024, helping ease the financial pressures on surgical Trainees.
- Fewer upfront cost for New Zealand Trainees: eligible Trainees can have their training fees billed directly to Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand, removing the need to pay upfront and seek reimbursement.
- A 50 per cent reduction in the Fellowship Entrance fee: achieving this major career milestone is now more affordable.
- More efficient skills courses: we've been piloting new delivery models to improve access and efficiency. This includes moving towards hybrid delivery for ATLS and EMST courses, with a target of reducing course fees by 25 per cent.



Your membership in action

10,137

members across nine specialties*

A$1.3 million

awarded in scholarships and grants*

118

skills courses delivered supported by 29,453 hours contributed by pro bono course faculty*

227,963

journal articles accessed through the RACS Library*

430

surgeries delivered by RACS Global Health*

95%

CPD compliance*

70+

submissions and policy contributions across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand*

700+

Fellows contributed to our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into 'Access to and Affordability of Medical Specialists'

*** Figures taken from the 2025 RACS Annual Report**

Thank You

The College is its members. Your time, expertise, commitment and willingness to give back strengthen our College, support the next generation of surgeons and help advance the profession. Thank you for everything you contribute and for being part of our community.

What membership gives you

L E A R N · G R O W · C O N N E C T · G E T S U P P O R T

RACS membership offers more than professional recognition. It connects you with a community of surgeons and provides practical support, resources and opportunities throughout your career.

LEARN

Stay current, develop your skills and meet your CPD requirements.

From the RACS CPD Program and specialist library resources to courses, webinars and the Annual Scientific Congress, there are many ways to keep learning and share knowledge with colleagues. The Morbidity Audit and Logbook Tool (MALT) also supports ongoing learning and reflection, allowing you to record procedures, review your practice and participate in self-audit and peer-review audit.

Less administration. More recognition.

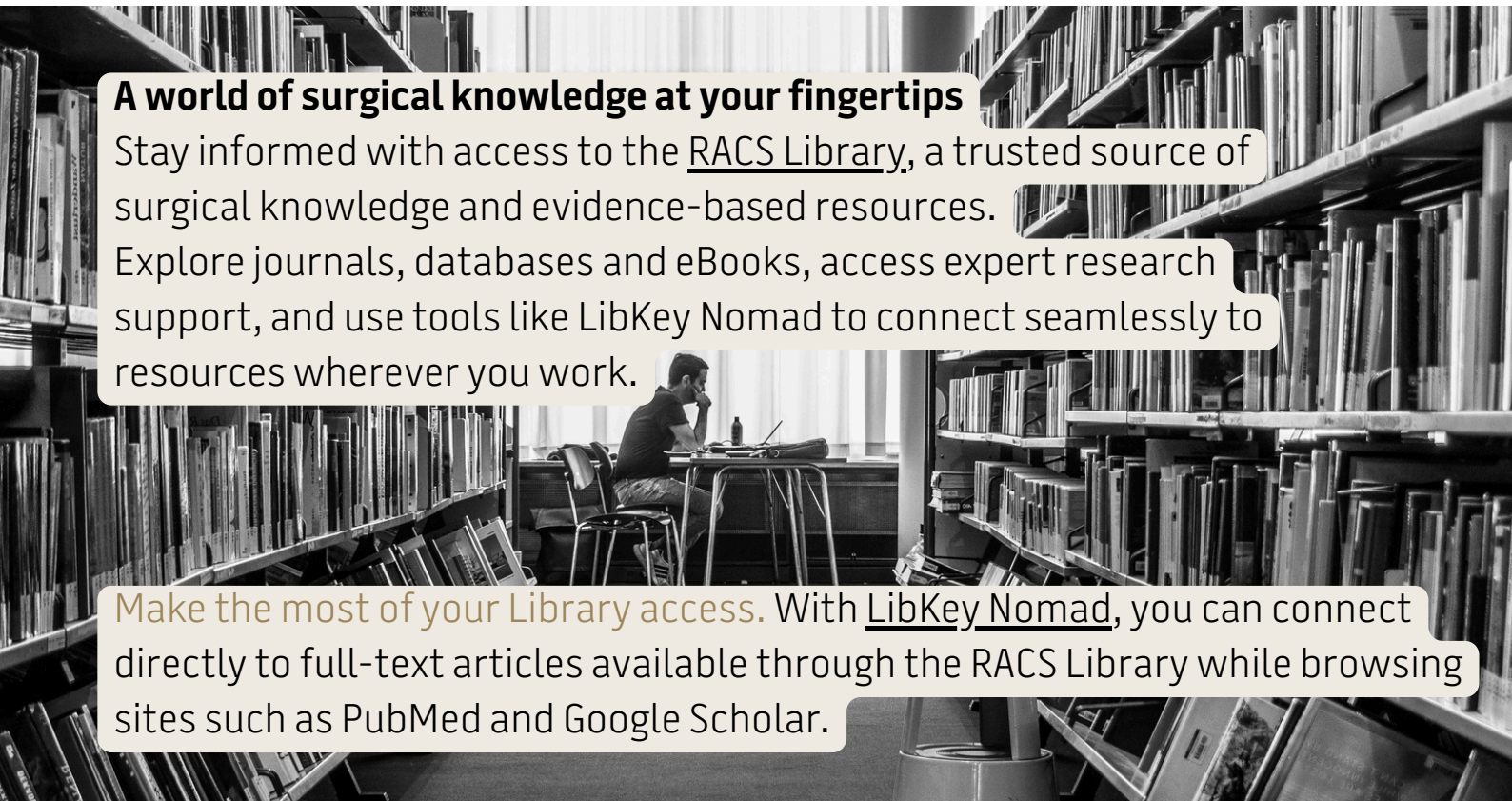
We're making CPD easier to manage through streamlined requirements, automatic recognition of eligible College and specialty society activities, improved digital access and the development of mobile-enabled tools.

The CPD Activity Guide helps you identify activities that contribute to your CPD, while our monthly Beyond Scrubs newsletter highlights events, courses and webinars relevant to your location and specialty, including opportunities to earn CPD hours.

GROW

Invest in your professional development and career.

Explore scholarships, grants, the RA CS awards program and career opportunities through Surgical Vacancies, or develop your skills as an educator, supervisor or mentor. Get leadership experience by joining a RACS committee.



A world of surgical knowledge at your fingertips

Stay informed with access to the RACS Library, a trusted source of surgical knowledge and evidence-based resources. Explore journals, databases and eBooks, access expert research support, and use tools like LibKey Nomad to connect seamlessly to resources wherever you work.

Make the most of your Library access. With LibKey Nomad, you can connect directly to full-text articles available through the RACS Library while browsing sites such as PubMed and Google Scholar.

What membership gives you

L E A R N · G R O W · C O N N E C T · G E T S U P P O R T

CONNECT

Build relationships across specialties, generations and countries.

RACS sections, interest groups, committees and events provide opportunities to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas and contribute to your professional community. Find a Surgeon also helps patients and the public find appropriately qualified Fellows.

GET SUPPORT

Access practical and personal support when you need it.

The RACS Support Program, delivered by Converge International, provides Fellows, Trainees, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs), RACS Global Health volunteers and their immediate family members with up to four free, confidential counselling sessions each calendar year. You can also access peer support, wellbeing resources, hardship provisions and advice on professional matters through the College.

Support that's easier to access

We've extended Service Desk opening hours and introduced new ways to get help, making technical support easier to access when you need it.

EXPLORE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Find out more about the benefits, services and opportunities available to you.

Explore RACS benefits for Fellows

Explore RACS benefits for Trainees





A hundred years on, still moving forward.

For 100 years, surgeons across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand have come together through RACS to select, train and examine their successors, set the standards of the profession and hold each other to them. Each generation builds on the knowledge, judgement and commitment of those who came before. From the early Fellows who established the College to the surgeons shaping its work today, every member is part of a professional legacy stretching back a century.

As well as the usual opportunities to connect with colleagues, develop your skills and contribute to the profession, 2027 will bring a range of special events and initiatives to celebrate our first 100 years and the Fellows who will help shape the next 100. Find dates, events and opportunities via RACS Calendar of Events.

Founders Centenary celebrations

Kick off the year by returning to where it all began. The Founders Centenary is taking place in Dunedin in February alongside the Aotearoa New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting and Louis Barnett Prize.

Celebrating women in surgery

Celebrate the achievements of outstanding women surgeons and RACS leaders by exploring Women on Walls, a series of commissioned portraits displayed across College spaces.

Annual Scientific Congress 2027

Come together in Melbourne for the 95th RACS Annual Scientific Congress. Under the theme ‘A century of service, the future is you’, the Congress will be a highlight of our centenary year.

Local celebrations and open house

Take part in a centenary-themed ASM in your region or visit our Spring Street head office, which will open its doors for a special centenary open house. Look out for local events and activities throughout the year.

Celebrating our legacy

Explore the centenary commemorative book and ongoing 100 Stories series celebrating 100 people, achievements and milestones that have shaped RACS.

Quick reference page

Get started

1. Show your FRACS. Download the FRACS logo, templates and branding guide to showcase your Fellowship and give patients confidence in your professional credentials.
2. Keep your Find a Surgeon profile updated. This helps patients find you on one of RACS' most visited webpages. Review or update your listing using our step-by-step instructions.
3. Keep your profile up to date. This helps RACS share relevant opportunities, events and news with you. Log in to the member portal, go to eHub and select My Profile.



Key contacts

IT Service Desk

Password resets, account information and support logging into the member portal.

Fellowship Services

General enquiries, updates to your details, fees.

CPD Team

CPD requirements, tracking, and audit support.

Wellbeing and support

eap@convergeintl.com.au – free, confidential counselling and peer support.

john.quinn@surgeons.org – Executive Director of Surgical Affairs, Australia.

sarah.rennie@surgeons.org – Surgical Advisor, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Scholarships & Grants

Enquiries about the scholarships and grants program.

Foundation for Surgery

Enquiries or to make a donation to RACS' charitable arm.

Global Health

Volunteer opportunities across the Indo-Pacific.

Annual Scientific Congress

ASC enquiries.

Publications and media

Contribute a story or give us feedback on our communications and publications.

Library

Research support, database access, and document delivery.

Local support

Navigate to the contacts page of your local RACS office.