

POLICY

Portfolio	Fellowship Engagement	Ref. No.	POL-3129
Department	Victorian Regional Office		
Title	Victorian Fellows Essay Prize		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets out the details to be considered for determining the award of an Annual Essay competition prize organised by the Victorian State Committee.

2. BODY OF POLICY

2.1. Background

This prize, established in 2022, was developed to promote engagement with Fellows following a period of restricted delivery in face-to-face activities.

At a time when Fellows were particularly stretched or socially isolated, the VSC sought to provide an event that facilitated the thoughts and stories of Fellows.

2.2. Objectives

- Increase engagement with Fellows
- Encourage Fellows to write an appropriate essay.
- Promote a topic that encourages Fellows to share their career, insights and contribution to surgery.

2.3. Eligibility Criteria

The prize is open to all Fellows in Victoria.

2.4. Composition

The essay should be based on the topic specified by the Victorian State Committee, within the word limit of 1,000 words, and submitted by the due date.

2.5. Selection Criteria

Three representatives chosen by the Victorian State Committee will determine the prize recipient, who will judge the essays.

Papers will be scored from 1 to 10 on the following criteria:

- 45% Originality
- 45% Quality of Content
- 10% Compliance with Composition Criteria

There must be a minimum of five entries for the competition to proceed. The judges must reach a unanimous decision.

2.6. Prize

The prize will include a certificate and an invitation to the exclusive GJ Royal Lecture. As well as listed as an award winner on the RACS website.

2.7. Frequency of the Prize

The prize may be presented annually, and the winner is announced as part of the annual VSC awards.

2.8. Publication

The winning essay will be included on the Victorian page of the RACS website, linked to in the VSC newsletter. The Victorian State Office will promote the prize winner through its networks and the local media. Submissions may be used in RACS publications. The winning essay may be included in RACS Surgical News.

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3. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

[RACS Ethical Stories and Images Policy](#)

Approver: RACS Victorian State Committee
Authoriser: Council