

Division:	External Affairs	Ref. No.	EXA-RGH-011
Department:	RACS Global Health		
Title:	Equipment and In-Kind Donations to RACS Global Health		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (the College) accepts donations of equipment as well as other in-kind donations. This policy sets out guidelines for the appropriate collection and distribution, maintenance, servicing and disposal of donated equipment and supplies.

2. KEYWORDS

Donations, Medical Equipment, In-Kind Donations, World Health Organisation (WHO)

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1 Background

Since 1995, the College has worked with the Australian Government to provide specialist medical and surgical programs to the Asia-Pacific region. Maintaining guidelines around the collection and distribution of donated medical equipment for the College's international projects is necessary to ensure donations achieve their intended objectives and do not inadvertently burden the recipient health care system.

In most cases, donations are the mainstay of equipment acquisition programs in these nations, as developing countries may lack sufficient funds to procure new equipment. The College should be sensitive to needs identified by the recipient country while employing a relevant process for equipment donation, to the mutual satisfaction of donors and recipients.

3.2 Donations

The College may accept donations in kind which may either be medical equipment or materials and supplies. Donated equipment can be either new or pre-owned.

The College supports donations of medical equipment (patient interacting instruments, appliances, modules or systems) that meet the following criteria:

- the equipment is requested by the recipient country;
- the equipment is technologically appropriate;
- the equipment is in good working condition;
- the equipment has an operation and service manual which is available in English where possible;
- the accessories and attachments are included for immediate operation;
- there is funding available that can be used to freight the equipment to the final recipient, and/or consider maintenance of the donation;
- medical supplies are safe for use and not beyond the use by date;
- donations of non-electrical equipment (instruments, beds, drip stands, stainless steel trolleys, overbed tables, bassinets etc.) in sound working order;
- the final recipient has agreed to the donation.

The recipient institution shall confirm that it releases the College from any further responsibility for the equipment once it is received.

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3.6 Emergencies

The College adheres to the advice maintained by the WHO regarding donations of medical equipment in emergencies. The WHO advises that capital equipment should not be donated in emergency situations, unless it is established that the emergency will continue over a long period.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Good Donations Practice (*WHO*, March 2000)

Equipment and Material Donations Procedure (internal use only)

Release Form (internal use only)

Approver CEO
Authoriser PDSB