

2 April 2020

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Dear John

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons State Committee meeting was held last night, where the response to the COVID-19 dominated the meeting discussions. I have been tasked with informing you the unanimous conclusions from this meeting of RACS leaders. Firstly, we agreed that outside of some initial confusion around the initiation of non-urgent elective surgery postponement, the Department's response has been well constructed and the communication from yourself and the Chief Health Officer has engendered trust and pride in the planning of our health services.

We the Surgeons of Queensland want the Health Department and the Queensland government to know that we want to do the best we can to give high quality emergency and urgent surgical care to the people of Queensland. We will do so without thought of financial gain but in a way that utilises appropriately the resources of the private and public sectors to ensure the ongoing functioning of both public and private health systems. We will contribute to providing optimal surgical care but with regard to the safety of the perioperative staff, patients and our health service colleagues. We expect to be re-deployed to assist patient care, whether prior practice was in public or private, as long as safe within our scopes of practices, to whatever facility requires our assistance in dealing with the impact of COVID-19. In relation to our junior staff members, particularly registrar level, we want to continue to train them in surgery and welcome the opportunity to have them assist surgical care in whatever setting including the private sector. We understand that junior members of staff may be appropriately redeployed to assist in this public health emergency. All redeployments should be done considering maintenance of emergency surgery and trauma service provision.

RACS via the State Committee and our Fellows want to be involved in the decisions made to ensure the best outcomes for all patients, including in the recovery stages when we will work together proactively, agilely and collaboratively to meet the waiting demand for less urgent surgical care.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, I am available on my mobile [REDACTED].

Kind regards



Professor Deborah Bailey
Chair, Queensland State Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

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cc: Dr Robert Franz – Chair, Surgical Advisory Committee

