



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
**Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality**



## **VASM SURVEY REPORT**

### **Did the patient have to die? Peer feedback after surgical deaths.**

VASM Second-Line Assessment Workshop Webinar Series

Wednesday, 8 December 2021, 6.00pm-7.30pm

# Speaker profile

6.00pm – 6.05pm

## Open the session – Peer review assessment

**A/Prof Philip McCahy, FRACS**



Clinical Director, VASM

Associate Professor Philip McCahy is the Clinical Director of VASM. He is a benign urologist at Monash Health and in Gippsland. He happily talks anytime about stones and VASM and runs a popular undergraduate surgery tutorial program for Monash University. Prior to moving to Australia in 2007, he was a consultant urologist in Kent, UK and on the Court of Examiners for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

He has also been heavily involved in teaching trainees and medical students around the world. He has taught trainees and students in the UK, has worked in Tanzania as part of the Urolink arm of the British Association of Urological Surgeons, is the urology advisor to RACS Global Health and leads a regular trip to Tonga as part of RACS Pacific Islands Project.

6.05pm – 6.15pm

## Legal implications of the VASM peer review process

**Mr Michael Gorton, AM**



Principal, Russell Kennedy Lawyers

Michael is an experienced commercial lawyer with a focus on the health sector. Michael's clients benefit from his practical and commercial approach. Through his association with peak industry bodies and his position on numerous boards, Michael keeps abreast of developments in his area of practice and is often asked to address public and private companies and government and non-government organisations.

Michael was named Best Lawyers' 2021 and 2013 "Lawyer of the Year" for Health and Aged Care Law. He was also recognised by Best Lawyers' in 2014 - 2020 for expertise in Health and Aged Care Law, Corporate/Governance Practice, and Non-Profit/Charities Law.

6.15pm – 6.45pm

## Practical SLA assessments of VASM Orthopaedic cases

**Dr Avanthi Mandaleson, FRACS, FAOrthA**



Orthopaedic Surgeon

Avanthi Mandaleson is an Australian and Internationally trained specialist Hand and Upper Limb Surgeon in Melbourne. She is a member of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Australian Orthopaedic Association and Australian Hand Surgery Society. Her specialist areas of interest include all aspects of sports and arthroscopic surgery, soft tissue and bone trauma management including microsurgical techniques and joint replacement surgery.

6.45pm – 7.15pm

## Practical SLA assessments of VASM General cases

**Mr Ian Faragher, FRACS**



General-Colorectal Surgeon

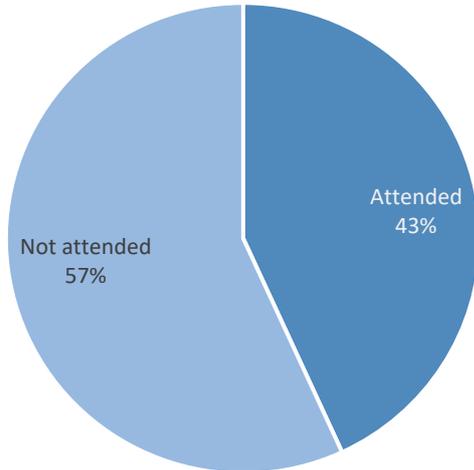
Mr Ian Faragher is Head of the Colorectal and General Surgical Unit at Western Health and has been a consultant surgeon in Melbourne in public and private practice since 1997. Ian graduated as a doctor from the University of Melbourne (MBBS), before undertaking surgical training in Melbourne, (FRACS). He undertook research into one type of inherited bowel cancer, Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer.

Ian worked in the UK (FRCS (Ed)), and has gained sub-specialty experience in Colorectal Surgery at The John Radcliffe, Oxford. This was followed by further training in colorectal surgery at Colon and Rectal Clinic of Houston (Texas, USA), and recognition as a colorectal surgeon by CSSANZ.

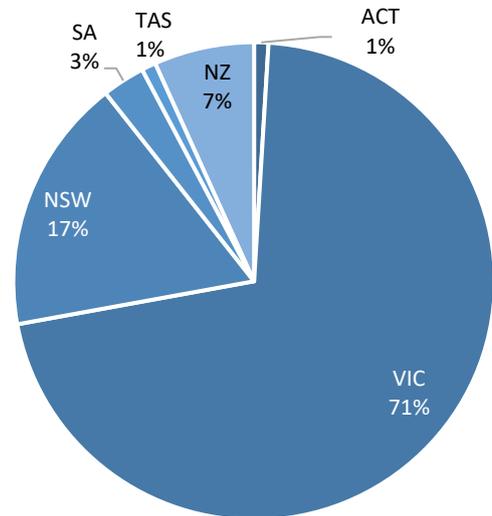
## Webinar Attendance on 8 December 2021

104 out of 241 delegate registrations attended the webinar.

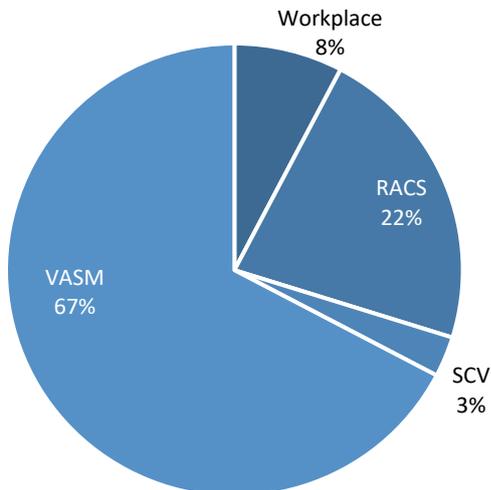
Total delegates registered  
(n=241)



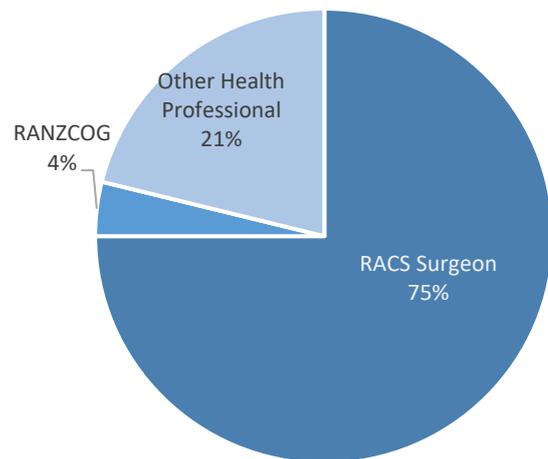
Attendees by Region  
(n=104/241)



Where delegates heard of the webinar  
(n=104/241)



Professional type of delegates  
(n=104/241)

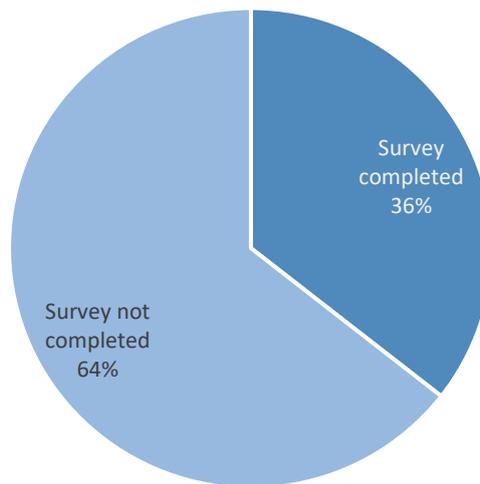


Other Health Professionals: Medical Director, VMO, Nurse, Medical Student, Quality & Safety Manager / Coordinator & Clinical Analyst.

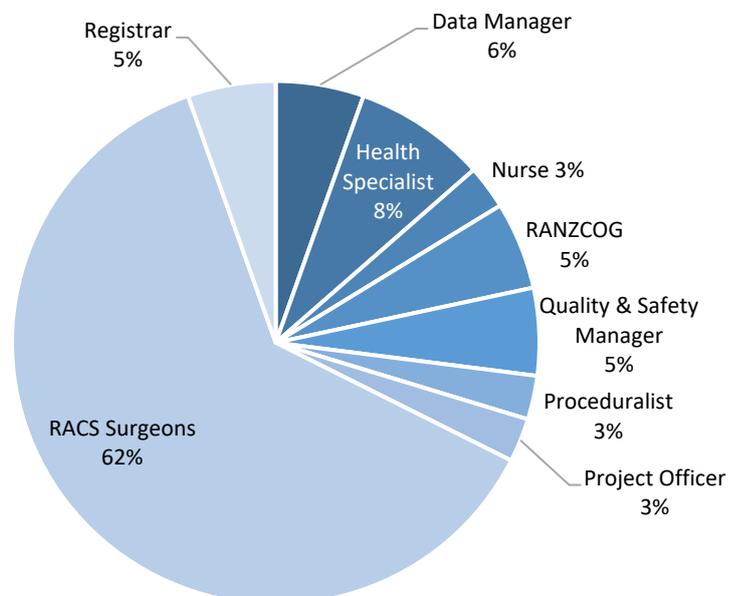
## Webinar Survey - 8 December 2021

37 out of 104 attendees completed a survey.

Delegates who completed the survey  
(n=37/104)



Delegate job title  
(n=37/104)



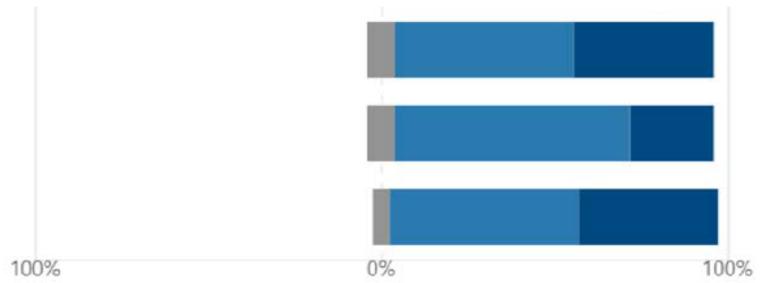
## 2. About the program:

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

The program was relevant to my role.

The program outcomes were explained.

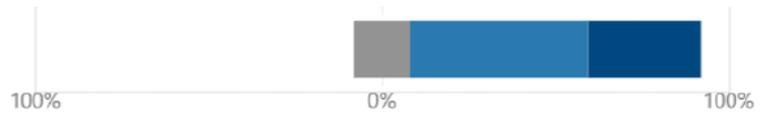
The program format as webinar was suitable.



## 3. About the convener:

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

The convener encouraged participation and discussions.



## 4. About the presentations:

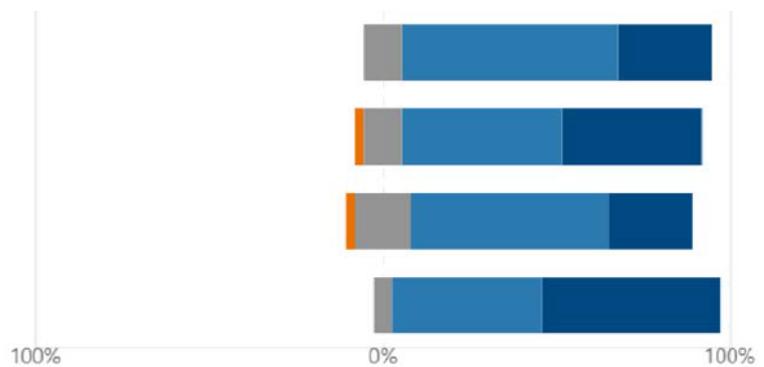
Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Presentation 1 by Philip McCahy

Presentation 2 by Michael Gorton

Presentation 3 by Ian Faragher

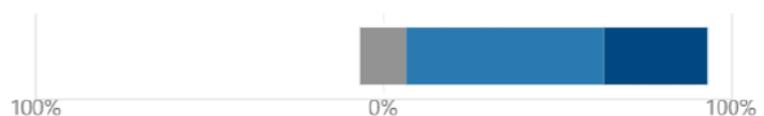
Presentation 4 by Avanthi Mandaleson



## 5. About the summary and conclusion:

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

It was well paced and suited to the group.

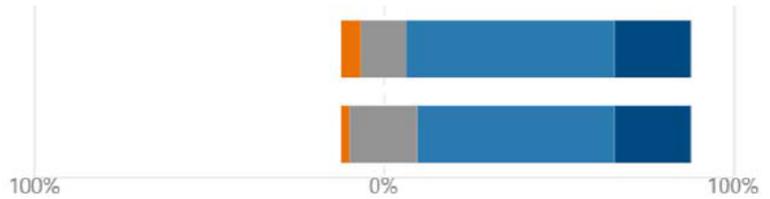


## 6. About your learning outcomes:

■ Strongly Disagree 
 ■ Disagree 
 ■ Neutral 
 ■ Agree 
 ■ Strongly Agree

I have gained valuable knowledge and skills from this program.

I can apply the skills and knowledge from this program in my role.



## 7. Comments

14

Responses

Latest Responses

"great program ,thank you"

3 respondents (21%) answered **presentations** for this question.



| Category                      | Comments   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Quality of program format     | <p>"Good meeting, the discussion was objective and focused."</p> <p>"I found the format disappointing, those presenting did a good job, but for me the topics were difficult to make interesting to me."</p>   |
| Value of program theme        | <p>"This was an excellently presented webinar. Thank you."</p> <p>"Great program, thank you."</p>  |
| Quality of presentations      | <p>"Well, and clearly presented issues. Very relevant to hospital surgical practice."</p> <p>"Well paced presentations. Objectives clear and relevant information provided."</p> <p>"Very impressed by the clarity of Avanthi Mandelson's presentation!"</p> |
| Improvements                  | <p>"Some of the case presentations were a bit lengthy. All in all, it was a very useful evening. I am looking forward to the next webinar."</p>  |
| Suggestions for future topics | <p>"A few more case studies would be good. I found the webinar was more about the reporting process, but it was good to get an idea of what this process is."</p>  |

# About the Stakeholders

## Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality

The Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality (VASM) seeks to review all deaths associated with surgical care.

VASM is a collaboration between Safer Care Victoria (SCV), a branch of the Victorian Government's Department of Health and Human Services, the Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council (VPCC) and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The VASM project is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. The VASM management committee meets three times per year and oversees the project which constitutes an invaluable foundation to the running and success of the audit program. RACS manages VASM through the Melbourne head office.

## Safer Care Victoria

Safer Care Victoria (SCV) is the peak state authority for leading quality and safety improvement in healthcare. SCV was established to oversee and support health services to provide safe, high-quality care to patients every time, everywhere. As well as monitoring the standards of care provided, SCV is partnering with consumers and their families, clinicians and health services to support the continuous improvement of healthcare.

## Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council

The Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council (VPCC) oversees, reviews and monitors perioperative care in Victoria to improve outcomes for patients before, during and after surgery. The Council was established as the result of a review to combine and strengthen the functions of the Victorian Consultative Council of Anaesthetic Mortality and Morbidity and the Victorian Surgical Consultative Council.

# Acknowledgements

VASM would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and Māori as the tangata whenua (people of the land) of Aotearoa, New Zealand and respects their continuing connection to culture, land, waterways, community and whānau/family. We would also like to thank the presenters for giving up their time and thank Safer Care Victoria and the Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council (VPCC) for collaborating with VASM.

We would like to thank the delegates for attending in the VASM Webinar Series.

# Contacts

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