



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality

VASM Survey Report March 2022

Patient Transfers: Within hospitals and between hospitals

VASM Webinar Series
Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 6.00pm–7.30pm

Speaker profile

6.00pm – 6.05pm

Open the session – Transfers in Victoria: what can we learn from VASM data

Associate Professor Philip McCahy, FRACS



Clinical Director, VASM

He 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 been heavily involved in teaching trainees and medical students around the world. He has taught trainees and students in the UK and has worked in Tanzania as part of the Urolink arm of the British Association of Urological Surgeons. Pre-pandemic, Philip led trips to Tonga as part of RACS Pacific Islands Project as urology advisor for the RACS Global Health and will be resuming his role as overseas travel eases up.

6.05pm – 6.15pm

Good transfer culture and behaviour

Professor David Watters, FRACS, AM OBE



Chairman, VPCC & Professor of Surgery, Deakin University and University Hospital Geelong

He is the Chair of the VPCC as Victoria's new independent council to improve care for patients before, during and after surgery. He is an international surgical leader and educator, and former president of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He also holds the Professor of Surgery position at Deakin University and University Hospital Geelong. David is a General Surgeon with special interests in Endocrine, Emergency and Colorectal Surgery. His previous appointments include: Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne (2000-2010), and Professor of Surgery at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby (1992-2000). He is actively engaged in advocating for global surgery, having spent almost 20 years in developing countries including Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Zambia and South Africa. His research interests include history of surgery, surgical audit and performance, colorectal outcomes, perioperative mortality and global health.

6.15pm – 6.25pm

Transfer related patient harm: insights from the insurer

Lachlan Crowe, VMIA Program Lead – Harm Prevention



Program Lead, VMIA

He is an experienced improvement and healthcare professional. He leads VMIA's acute care harm prevention program of work, supporting health services and clinicians to improve outcomes and prevent avoidable patient harm.

Lachlan is an Associate Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Management and has completed a Master of Health Management. Prior to his work in projects and quality improvement he worked clinically as a physiotherapist in Australia and the English NHS.

6.25pm – 6.35pm

Transfers within hospitals and between hospitals

Dr Nathalie Webb, FRACS



Deputy Programme Director, Monash Health

She is an Australian-trained Urologist with post-fellowship specialisation in paediatric and reconstructive Urology. Along the way, she obtained a Masters of Surgical Education with a focus on simulation methodology. She is currently a consultant urologist at Monash Children's Hospital and Deputy Program Director of Surgery and Interventional Services at Monash Health.

Speaker profile

6.35pm – 6.45pm

Transferring patients: regional hospital perspective



Clinical Director of General Surgery,
Bendigo Health

Mr Graeme Campbell, FRACS

He is Clinical Director of General Surgery at Bendigo Health. He served as a Councillor at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) for nine years, including serving as Vice President. He currently works part-time for RACS as a Clinical Director of the International Medical Graduate Assessment and Support. He is also a Director for the RACS' CCRISP course. He has lived and worked in Bendigo since 1991. His sub-specialty includes endoscopy, skin lesion excisions, carpal tunnel decompression, varicose vein surgery, hernia repairs (laparoscopic and open) and scrotal surgery.

6.45pm – 6.55pm

Receiving transfer patients: metropolitan hospital perspective



Head of Department of Surgery,
Monash University &
Director of Oesophago-Gastric-
Bariatric Unit, Alfred Health

Professor Wendy Brown, FRACS

She is an Upper GI and Bariatric Surgeon. She is the Programme Director for Surgical Services and Chair of the Monash University Department of Surgery at Alfred Health, the Director of the Oesophago-Gastric and Bariatric Unit Alfred Hospital as well as Clinical Director of the ANZ Bariatric Surgery Registry and Clinical Lead of the Victorian State Upper GI Cancer Registry. Her sub-specialist interests are oesophago-gastric cancer, gastrooesophageal reflux disease and bariatric surgery. Her research interests focus on the health benefits from weight loss, physiology of upper GI procedures, optimal service delivery models for bariatric surgery and registry science. She collaborates with basic researchers exploring mechanisms of satiety, NASH and oesophageal cancer. She is Chair of the International Federation for Surgery for Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) Global Registry, Chair of the Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council Surgical Sub-Committee, Past President of OSSANZ and ANZGOSA, Past Senior Examiner in General Surgery for the RACS, Past- Chair of the Scientific Committee of IFSO.

6.55pm – 7.25pm

Panel Discussion

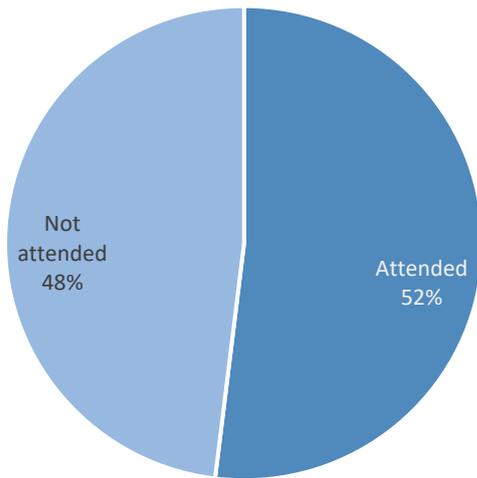
7.25pm – 7.30pm

Close session – Summary and conclusion

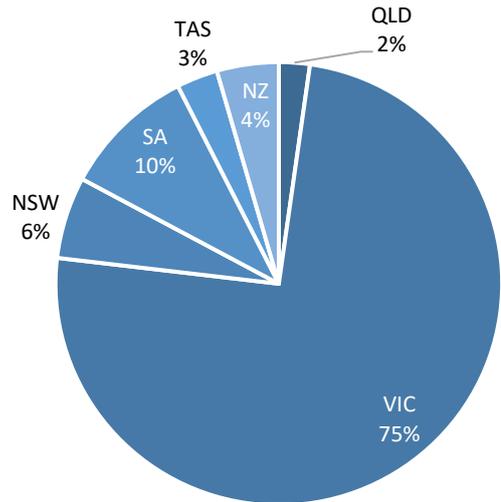
Webinar Attendance on 2 March 2022

134 out of 258 delegate registrations attended the webinar.

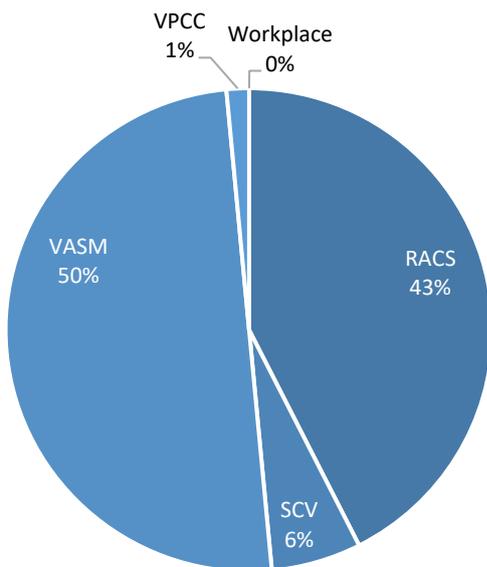
Total delegates registered
(n=258)



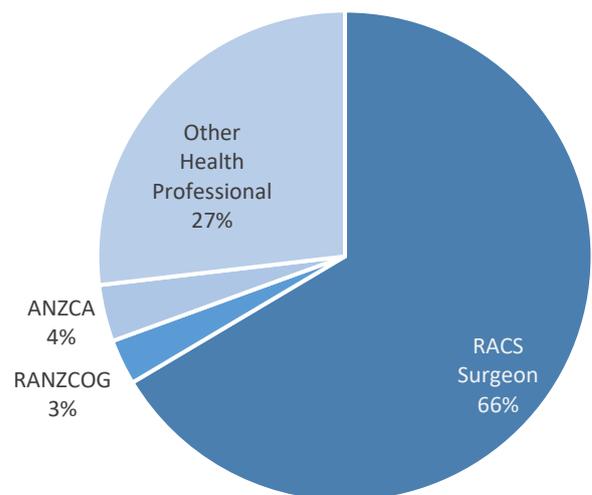
Delegates by Region
(n=134/258)



Where delegates heard of the webinar
(n=134/258)



Professional type of delegates
(n=134/258)

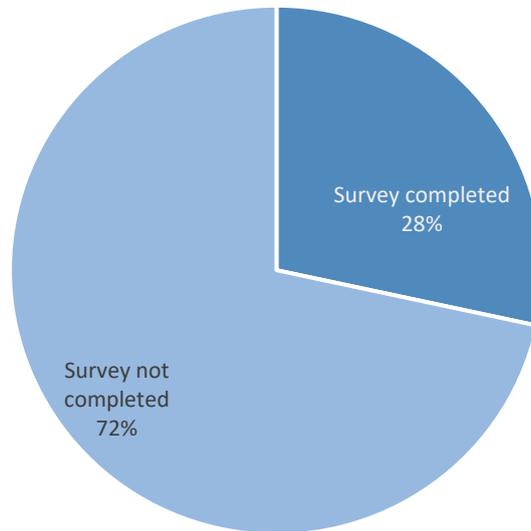


Other Health Professionals: Medical Director, VMO, Nurse, Medical Student, Quality & Safety Manager / Coordinator & Clinical Analyst.

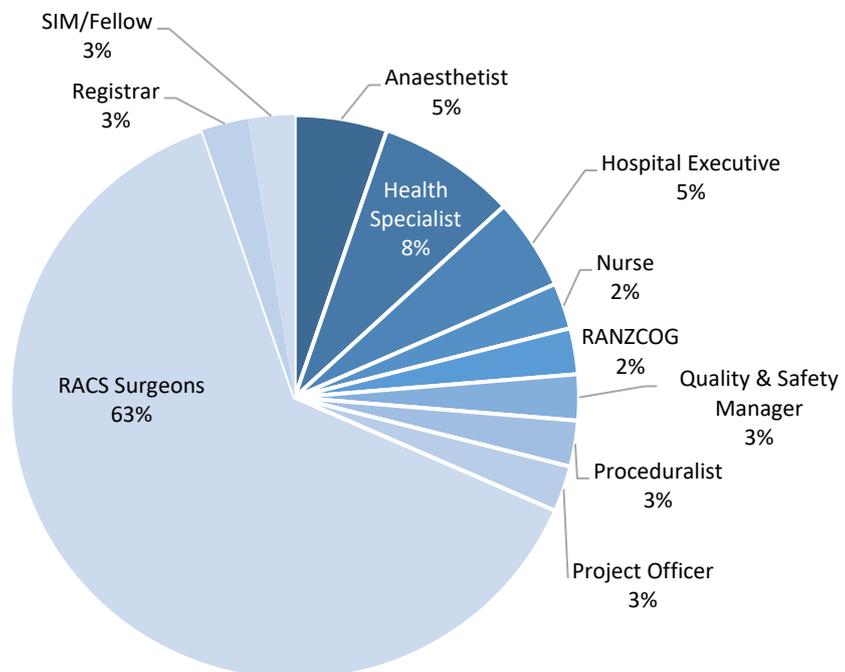
Webinar Survey- 2 March 2022

38 out of 134 attendees completed a survey.

Delegates who completed the survey
(n=38/134)



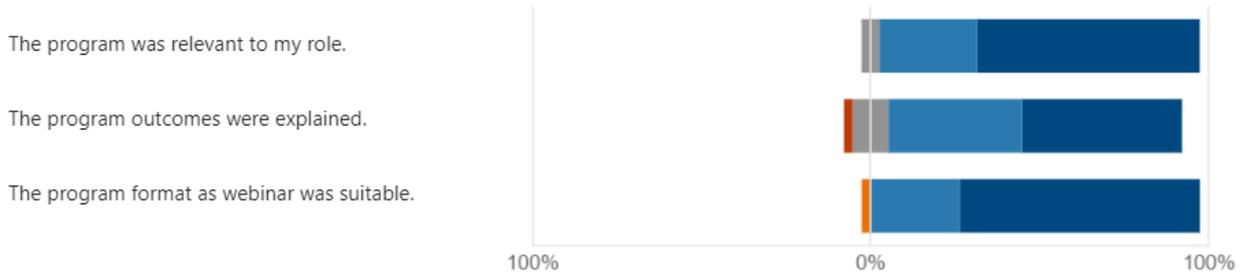
Delegate job title
(n=38/134)



2. About the program:

[More Details](#)

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



3. About the convener:

[More Details](#)

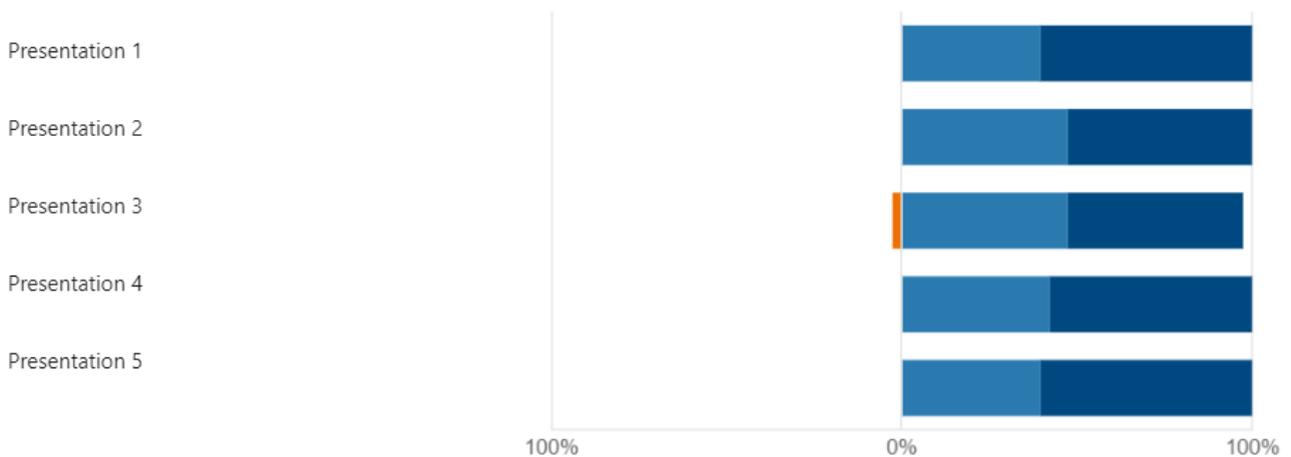
■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree



4. About the presentations:

[More Details](#)

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

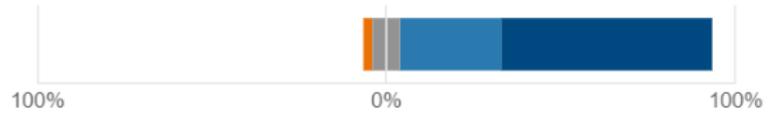


5. About the summary and conclusion:

[More Details](#)

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

It was well paced and suited to the group.



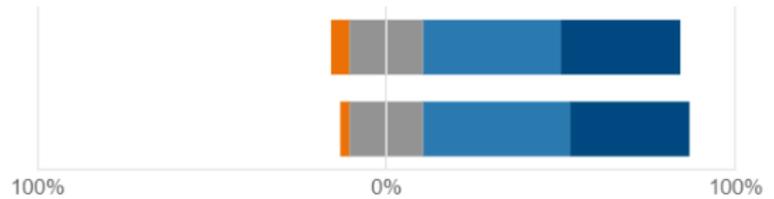
6. About your learning outcomes:

[More Details](#)

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

I have gained valuable knowledge and skills.

I can apply the skills and knowledge in my role.



7. Comments

[More Details](#)

Insights

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Responses

Latest Responses

"It was a really good webinar. "

"Please keep more time for questions the next time. Thank you. "

5 respondents (23%) answered **transfers** for this question.



Category	Comments
Quality of program format	<p><i>"Thanks. Great speakers and chair. Thanks for organising this VASM."</i></p> <p><i>"Great speakers and well chaired with good discussion and responses to on line questions."</i></p> <p><i>"The webinar was impressive for the insightful and broad-ranging presentations, and the style of the presenters."</i></p> <p><i>"Very professionally organised and run."</i></p>
Value of program theme	<p><i>"It was interesting and useful to see how the data pans out for interhospital transfers."</i></p> <p><i>"Excellent talk and insight."</i></p> <p><i>"I hope we can put in place a statewide referral system."</i></p> <p><i>"The speakers were good, but the topic required a condensation of the content and leave the speakers to answer more questions."</i></p>
Quality of presentations	<p><i>"Well done guys. An excellent presentation. Congratulations from a South Australian!!!"</i></p> <p><i>"To improve the transfer process, Dr Campbell (Bendigo) hit the nail on the head: Central coordination!"</i></p> <p><i>"Simple practical common-sense presentations."</i></p> <p><i>"I really enjoyed this webinar - thanks VASM"</i></p> <p><i>"While the case presentations and discussion were interesting, it felt very one sided with mainly larger centres. I appreciate the sentiment of the receiving clinician always saying "yes" to referrals but really this is not usually the issue with transfer."</i></p>
Improvements	<p><i>"Focus on Metro, Regional was a token. No rural input No concrete recommendations to the way forward. Apart from VMIA, No AV. No AVR, No bed manager, too surgeon focused. Do other states do it better?"</i></p> <p><i>"It would be good to get some advice on what could be done at the coalface to try and improve matters."</i></p> <p><i>"Please keep more time for questions the next time."</i></p> <p><i>"I think more discussion time would have been helpful to take full advantage of the variety of skills/ experience the panel."</i></p>
Suggestions for future topics	<p><i>"We need more generalists with special interests."</i></p> <p><i>"I think the specific point of so many different EMRs is perhaps the biggest point that will help patients and clinicians if we were united as a state to one EMR."</i></p> <p><i>"Talking about Anaesthetists might have been one of the few/the only anaesthetist in the session? No one from ARV? No one discussing what's other states do better/worse?"</i></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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