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# ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Royal Australasian College of Surgeons welcomes call for tighter regulation of cosmetic surgery**

**Friday 2 November, 2012**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has welcomed a call by the South Australian Deputy State Coroner for national reforms to the cosmetic surgery industry, including mandatory post-operative consultations within two days of surgery. The Deputy State Coroner made the recommendations following an inquiry into the tragic death of a South Australian woman, Ms Lauren Edgar, after a liposuction procedure.

College President, Associate Professor Michael Hollands, said the College had made numerous submissions to government calling for tighter regulation of cosmetic surgery.

“In August 2010 the College made a submission to the Inter-Jurisdictional Cosmetic Surgery Working Group, whose subsequent recommendations were yesterday endorsed by the Deputy State Coroner,” Associate Professor Hollands said.

“This submission emphasised the need for tighter regulation of practitioners offering cosmetic procedures, and the places where these procedures are performed, and highlighted issues around infection control and medical complications. It also highlighted the need for meaningful audit and continuing professional development arrangements.

“There is a pressing need for much tighter regulation of all cosmetic procedures, irrespective of their setting. Unfortunately, while hospitals and day surgeries are currently regulated, office based procedures fly under the regulatory radar.

It is now time for governments to regulate the cosmetic surgery industry, ideally through the auspices of the Australian Medical Council,” Associate Professor Hollands said.

“The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is ready to work with government to develop these regulations and ensure patient safety.

“Any new regulatory framework should apply to all practitioners performing cosmetic procedures, be they cosmetic surgeons or Plastic and Reconstructive surgeons.”

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