
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
MEDIA RELEASE



Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality Annual Report released

Thursday 19 December, 2013 – for immediate release

The Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality's 4th Annual Report was released today revealing progressively increasing participation rates by surgeons.

Managed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, ANZASM involves the collation and clinical review of data relating to cases where patients have died in hospital while under the care of a surgeon.

The principal aims of the audit are to inform, educate, facilitate change and improve the quality of practice within surgery. The peer review process is designed to highlight system and process errors and to identify trends in surgical mortality.

The Chair of ANZASM, Professor Guy Maddern, said he was pleased to note that the proportion of surgeons actively participating in the audit had significantly increased, from 60% in 2009 to 94% in 2012.

Also, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists participated in the audit process for the first time and their data is reflected in this report.

Professor Maddern said, "Our regional offices reported more than 50% of gynaecological Fellows participated in the audit and that is an outstanding result in the first year (of participation)."

He said the Annual Report provides overview data of the results, but the detail can only be effectively dealt with in peer-reviewed publications.

"The audits are essentially an educational exercise, enabling the surgical community to promote safer health care practices," he said.

Professor Maddern also welcomed the increased usage of the 'Fellows Interface', the online web-based system for the inputting of surgical case and first-line assessment forms.

"A greater bi-national awareness and acknowledgment of the value of the audit among health professionals should see increased surgical participation and data completeness of forms and enable further, in-depth trend analysis and informative reporting," Professor Maddern said.

The ANZASM Annual Report is available on the College's website:

<http://www.surgeons.org/for-health-professionals/audits-and-surgical-research/anzasm.aspx>

Ends:

**Media inquiries: Brian Adams, Manager Media & Public Relations
04 290 289 33 or (03) 9249 1263**