

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Professor David Watters

Telephone +61 3 9276 7404

Facsimile +61 3 9249 1208

Email: college.president@surgeons.org

18 April 2016

Professor Chris Baggoley
Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health
Australian Government
GPO box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

RACS ID: 141515

Email: chris.baggoley@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Baggoley,

RE: WHO global plan of action on interpersonal violence

I write on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand specialist medical colleges listed at the bottom of this letter to express our full support of the proposed WHO global plan of action on interpersonal violence. We endorse the WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children. The Colleges support all evidence-based initiatives that assist in the prevention of trauma and the reduction of the devastating effects of injury.

We refer to the [RACS position on Domestic Violence](#) and in particular the [RACS position on Alcohol-Related Harm](#) which references that "Every year more than 70,000 Australians are the victims of alcohol-related assaults of which 24,000 are victims of domestic violence. In addition, almost 20,000 children across Australia experience substantiated alcohol-related child abuse."

The Colleges encourage consideration of the following policy areas as means to reduce alcohol-related harms:

- *Restricting the physical availability of alcohol (Hours and Outlets);*
- *Restricting the economic availability of alcohol (Taxes);*
- *Reduce exposure of adolescents to alcohol advertising;*
- *Data collection of alcohol use.*

These recommendations have also been proposed by The Royal Australasian College of Physicians and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in their joint [2016 Alcohol Policy](#).

We commend the Australian Government for leading the recommendation, in conjunction with the governments of Brazil, Canada, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and European Union Member States to the 69th World Health Assembly (WHA), to advance this important issue.



We fully support the proposed resolution and look forward to its passing at the WHA Executive Board meeting in May 2016. The Australian Government is welcome to use this statement to strengthen the message and we offer our continued support and assistance in promoting this message.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Watters OBE
President



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS



Australian Society of Anaesthetists



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists**

Excellence in Women's Health



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

THE LEADERS IN COLLABORATIVE EYE CARE