RACS echoes call for Government cooperation to end child death on quad bikes

26 October 2017

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) acknowledges Federal Government's formation of a national Quad Bike Safety Taskforce yesterday, and praises the call by Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash and the Hon Michael McCormack for close cooperation between governments to address quad bike safety as an urgent priority.

RACS Trauma Committee Chair, Dr John Crozier, says that delay in implementing effective controls will continue to result in preventable deaths and serious injuries on quad bikes.

“Such tragedies, particularly those involving children, need to be halted—kids and quad bikes do not mix.”

Recent coronial enquiries into quad bike deaths in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania have been consistent in calling for the establishment of an independent quad bike safety assessment program. A star rating would empower potential purchasers to factor safety into their purchase choice.

RACS notes that coronial rulings have been consistent in requesting attorneys general to consider legislation banning children of 16 years or younger being riders or passengers on adult sized quad bikes.

Federal and state governments have a clear and present duty to respond effectively to the issue of quad bike safety, in the words of the Ministers, “as an urgent priority”.

About RACS
RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7,000 surgeons and 1,300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

www.surgeons.org

Media inquiries: Abderazzaq Noor, Manager Communications & Advocacy: +61 429 028 933 or Gabrielle Forman: +61 498 218 008.