1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the College view that Fellows should avoid operating on close family members, even though it is not illegal to do so.

2. KEY DIRECTION STATEMENT

As a fellowship based organisation, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons commits to ensuring the highest standard of safe and comprehensive surgical care for the community we serve through excellence in surgical education, training, professional development and support.

3. VALUES

- Service and Professionalism
  - performing to and upholding the highest standards
- Integrity
  - upholding professional values
- Respect and Compassion
  - being sympathetic and empathetic
- Commitment and Diligence
  - being dedicated, doing one’s best to deliver
- Collaboration and Teamwork
  - working together to achieve the best outcome

4. BACKGROUND

Surgeons generally take the view that they would not want to operate on family members as there are naturally close family bonds and emotional attachments that could make more difficult decisions about surgical treatments, especially if complications develop.

5. BODY OF POLICY

The College advice to surgeons is to avoid operating on close family members even though it is not illegal to do so. Should a Fellow of the College be required to operate on a family member, then it is essential to ensure that the treatment offered is appropriate, delivered in a proper environment with due care and at a high standard. It should also meet the wishes of both the patient and the surgeon.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1 Access

People who have access to this policy are:
- General public
- College Fellows and trainees
- Staff

6.2 Communication

Stakeholders, who are impacted by this policy, will be notified of the policy or any changes to the policy through the Professional Development and Standard Board and the College’s website.