



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Surgeons' manifesto challenges major political parties

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As part of its commitment to take informed positions on issues of public health, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has prepared a 2010 Election Manifesto, outlining the problems confronting the Australian health system, and suggesting ways government, in partnership with health professionals, can resolve these.

“The document has been sent to Australia’s major political parties, and the College has asked them to respond in time for our Australian Fellows to make an informed vote at the 21 August 2010 federal election,” College President Mr Ian Civil said. “Basically the document is a challenge to our political leaders to recommit to health reform.”

“While it includes calls for additional and targeted investment in the health system, it is not a mere wish-list. Rather it seeks to help solve the problems of our health system in a realistic and innovative manner.

“Indeed, the College has been at the forefront of efforts to use existing resources more wisely, recently launching a Surgical Safety Checklist to enhance operating theatre safety at minimal cost, and developing a sector-wide consensus statement to help hospitals run their acute and emergency services more efficiently.

“It is in this spirit that we have developed the manifesto,” Mr Civil said.

The manifesto addresses issues of pressing concern in five broad areas: the future health workforce; patient safety; pressures in regional and rural Australia; access to care, and; funding.

The document will also be sent to those members and senators contesting the forthcoming poll. It is hoped it will help them understand the pressures facing the Australian health system, and ways to relieve this pressure, as they campaign for re-election among the people who seek care or who daily work within the nation’s hospitals and GP clinics.

“The College looks forward to engaging with the nation’s leaders on critical health reform issues as we head to polling day,” Mr Civil said.

The College’s 2010 Election manifesto can be viewed at www.surgeons.org

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