



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Surgeons welcome new investment in weight loss surgery

**Thursday 28 October, 2010**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has welcomed the New Zealand Government's announcement today that funding of \$2 million will be invested in weight loss surgery over the next four years.

The initiative will enable up to 300 additional weight-loss operations to occur over this period. This represents an increase of more than 25 per cent in the number of operations currently being undertaken.

Chair of the College's New Zealand National Board Mr John Kyngdon said that while the College believes that a healthy lifestyle and sensible diet are the most important means of preventing and addressing weight related illness, it is also the case that surgery can sometimes have a beneficial effect.

Mr Kyngdon said that surgeons accordingly support the Government's initiative to offer surgery to those whose efforts to lose weight have been unsuccessful and who are likely to benefit considerably from such surgery.

"We know that surgery is part of a spectrum of measures to manage health in the morbidly obese," he said. "There are several operations recognised as useful in weight loss surgery and having the flexibility to offer different types of surgery to meet different patients' needs is useful."

"Unfortunately demand for this kind of surgery far outstrips supply. To provide this surgery fairly we will need to ensure that processes are in place to select those individuals most in need and most likely to benefit. The College would welcome an opportunity to collaborate with the Government to help ensure that these selection processes work effectively."

"We know that the benefits to society, where these operations are successful, can be significant in terms of extending life, improving quality of life, and in allowing individuals to contribute more fully to society," Mr Kyngdon said.

**Media inquiries:** Justine Peterson  
NZ Manager, RACS  
Ph 04 385 8247 (work); mobile 027 279 7455