



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

College of Surgeons endorses viable neurosurgical service in Dunedin

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The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has welcomed the New Zealand Ministry of Health's decision to retain a neurosurgical unit in Dunedin as part of a restructured South Island neurosurgical service.

Chair of the New Zealand National Board, Mr John Kyngdon said the College was impressed by the consultation process undertaken by the expert panel tasked with reviewing neurosurgical services. "The panel, two of whose members are distinguished Fellows of the College, consulted widely and have listened to the views of all stakeholders," Mr Kyngdon said.

"The panel is to be commended for taking public submissions into account," he said.

"The College has said its views on this matter would be informed by the findings of the panel – and this is the case. We had concerns that the service in Dunedin might not be sustainable but the panel's recommendations – particularly the emphasis on research and teaching at the unit – will help ensure the service's viability.

"The decision to establish an independent Governance Board to oversee one integrated South Island neurosurgical service is also a positive step.

"The panel has laid the groundwork for a properly resourced, properly administered service in the South Island, with an ongoing and viable presence in Dunedin. That's good news for the people of Dunedin," Mr Kyngdon said.

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