



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Trauma experts converge on Melbourne for Trauma Week

**Monday 14 November, 2011**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons today welcomes trauma surgeons and trauma specialists from overseas and around Australia to Melbourne for its annual Trauma Week.

With road trauma the biggest killer of people under the age of 44 in Australia and New Zealand, many of the week's events will address ways in which this tragedy can be more effectively tackled.

Surgeons will be calling on those motorists who do the right thing by not speeding, by not drinking and driving and by wearing seat belts to implore less sensible motorists to change their behaviour and travel sensibly.

Chair of the College's Trauma Committee, Associate Professor Daryl Wall said trauma prevention was a central theme of Trauma Week.

"Those attending this week's events want to minimise the incidence of trauma. That's why we urge all Australians and New Zealanders to exercise caution and common sense on our roads. And we urge people to remind less sensible drivers of the tragic costs of dangerous driving. Young people in particular should be reminded that a moment's foolishness can cost them their lives or leave them confined to a wheelchair," he said.

Highlights of the week include a Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) course being held at the Epworth Hospital, Richmond, today and tomorrow. The College's Trauma Committee and sub-committees will meet on Wednesday, while Thursday's Trauma Committee workshop will address Trauma Quality Improvement. An Acute Neurotrauma workshop will also be held on Thursday.

The National Trauma Research Institute will meet on Friday and Saturday, the theme of its conference being "From Roadside to Recovery – Successful Systems of Trauma Care".

Associate Professor Wall said the week presented participants with the opportunity to compare systems of trauma management currently operating around the world.

"This includes an audit of trauma quality improvement activities and trauma registries in Australia, enabling trauma specialists to identify what is working best and how systems can be improved. By bringing a scientific and statistical approach to bear we can actually measure the success of innovations in trauma care," he said. "This can be applied to all stages of the process, from recovery and early care of the patient by paramedics right through to definitive care in the hospital and on to post-operative care."

"Trauma prevention strategies continue to reduce the incidence of trauma. In Australia and New Zealand, deaths per 100,000 of the population have dropped from 30 per 100,000 to just 6 per 100,000 over the last forty years thanks to trauma prevention initiatives and trauma care improvement."

**Media inquiries: Michael Barrett, Manager Media & Public Relations  
0429 028 933 or (03) 9249 1263**