1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy outlines the terms of reference for the Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infection Committee.

2. KEYWORDS
Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infection Committee Terms of Reference.

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background
The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is committed to ensuring the highest standard of safe and comprehensive surgical care for the community.

Healthcare associated infections acquired in the hospital setting are a major cause of preventable and sometimes serious harm for patients. The College has a role to engage with government and external organisations on addressing the challenges associated with healthcare associated infections. The Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infection Committee aims to actively promote principles of infection control and to encourage surgeons, trainees and support staff to maintain effective infection control procedures in their work practices.

Prevention of healthcare associated infections is an essential part of good healthcare practice and requires regular monitoring and review. A coordinated approach to the prevention and control of health care associated infections is essential to improving patient safety.

3.2. Objectives
The Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infection Committee is responsible for providing advice on issues related to healthcare associated infections and to promote appropriate infection control strategies to Fellows, Trainees and International Medical Graduates.

3.3. Duties and Responsibilities

3.3.1. To advise the Professional Standards Committee in relation to healthcare associated infections.

3.3.2. To be responsible for developing and maintaining the College’s Infection Control Position Paper.

3.3.3. To engage with government and external organisations on healthcare associated infections, including interpreting data, participating in debates and providing a surgical response to issues such as surveillance, data collection and reporting.

3.3.4. To be responsible for developing and implementing a communication strategy to actively promote principles for infection control and to encourage that effective work practices are maintained by surgeons, trainees and support staff to prevent healthcare associated infections.

3.4. Powers
The Committee has such executive powers, supervisory functions and decision-making authority as the College Council delegates to it from time to time.
### 3.5. Composition

The Chair shall be a Fellow appointed by the Professional Standards Committee. Committee members will consist of College Fellows invited by the Chair with an interest in healthcare associated infections. Other non-Fellow experts may be co-opted from time to time.

### 3.6. Tenure and Method of Appointment

Committee members will be appointed by the Professional Standards Committee for a three year term, with the ability for reappointment for a further two terms.

### 3.7. Meetings

The Committee shall meet on a needs basis, usually by teleconference, and shall reach decisions by consensus. Persons deemed appropriate may be co-opted to attend all or part of meetings/ teleconferences but will not have any voting rights.

### 3.8. Quorum

A quorum shall be a majority of the committee.

### 3.9. Accountability

The Committee is accountable to Council via the Professional Development and Standards Board and the Professional Standards Committee.

### 3.10. Reporting Structure

Committee meetings will be recorded in minutes and reported regularly to the Professional Standards Committee.

### 4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Nil

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