



MEDIA RELEASE– 29 November 2021

Society rejects call for ‘cosmetic surgeon’ registry

The most effective ways to ensure consumers identify practitioners of cosmetic surgery who have received the ‘gold standard’ surgical training in Australia is to educate them about the importance of looking for a ‘FRACS’ surgeon and understanding the significance of this title.

In Australia AMC (Australian Medical Council) accredited training for cosmetic or aesthetic surgery is conducted under the imprimatur of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and is as part of the Plastic and Reconstructive Training SET (Surgical and Education Training) program delivered by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Cosmetic surgery is performed by a wide array of practitioners in Australia with varying levels of training and qualifications. Some only have a basic medical degree with no specialist surgical training.

“Some non-FRACS cosmetic surgery practitioners have called for a national register of practitioners but we see this as potentially confusing, if it were to include practitioners without a FRACS,” says Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) president, Dr Dan Kennedy.

All surgery, including cosmetic surgery, carries risk and prospect of complications which is why it is important consumers understand the value and depth of the RACS training.

Entry into this highly-competitive, five-year program is undertaken by medical graduates and is subject to ongoing assessment and review. After successful completion of the program graduates are entitled to call themselves specialist plastic surgeons and become Fellows of the RACS (FRACS).

The Surgical Education and Training curriculum is under constant review and improvement and opportunities for aesthetic/cosmetic training ensure all graduates receive comprehensive, world-class training in aesthetic and cosmetic surgery covering all areas of the body and face.”

This is not to be confused with a FACCS which is a title awarded by the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine and is not subject to Australian government

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oversight and accreditation. A previous application by the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine and to the AMC for accreditation was unsuccessful.

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