

**Queensland State Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Leckhampton Offices Level 2 59-69 Shafston Avenue
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14 November 2015

Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: hasc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Chair of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee,
Ms Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee

RE: Inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission

Thank you for extending us the opportunity to comment on the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission.

As the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is committed to taking informed and principled positions on issues of public health at both state and federal levels.

The College has already established positions on matters related to chronic disease including [obesity](#), [tobacco](#) and [alcohol-related harm](#). These positions support moves to develop health promotion plans to halt the alarming problems caused by these co-morbidities; problems surgeons often see in the operating theatre.

The College would be supportive in principle to the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission, to work on plans targeting the above issues for the good of the Queensland community. This would hope to see some positive change in the rate of obesity among Queenslanders that is 10 per cent higher than other states.

A similar organisation conducting this type of work would be the Victorian Government health promotion body VicHealth, who have mounted many successful campaigns and continue to reinvest in new research and programs in this area.

However, the College would want to ensure that this establishment would not bring risk to surgeons providing their day-to-day services in public hospitals across the state.

We commend the Queensland Government in its endeavours to address chronic disease. There is great potential in the work a body such as the Queensland Health Promotion Commission could do.

On behalf of RACS, thank you again for giving us the opportunity to provide comment on this important area of public policy.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



RACS

Patron H.R.H The Prince of Wales

Yours Sincerely,

Owen Ung
Chair, Queensland State Committee

College of Surgeons of Australia and New Zealand

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