

PRESS RELEASE

RANZCO Applauds Minister Hunt, National Cabinet on Upcoming Return of Elective Surgeries

Following ANZAC Weekend, Australians will again be able to have much-needed cataract surgery to correct eyesight

Sydney, 21 April 2020 - The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) welcomes the announcement by the National Cabinet that some elective surgery including cataract and other eye surgeries can begin again following Anzac Weekend.

RANZCO has been working closely with Minister Greg Hunt's office to ensure Australians can begin receiving sight-saving procedures like cataract surgery once the government deemed the situation appropriate. Continuing to adhere to government guidelines, RANZCO Fellows will be able to resume this procedure from 27 April. RANZCO will be updating its COVID-19 guidelines once details of the resumption of surgery is provided by the government.

Minister Hunt's recent announcement that the country had received 60 million face masks with another 100 million more to come through the end of May was a welcome signal to the College and its patients.

"We are eager to restart surgery, such as fixing cataracts, now that the Australian government has deemed it appropriate" comments RANZCO President A/Prof Heather Mack.

"Cataract is the most performed surgery in Australia with a growing backlog. It is especially important that vulnerable Australians are able to have their vision restored. We know this sight-saving procedure improves mental and physical health, preventing falls and other injuries."

RANZCO thanks Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Minister Greg Hunt and Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy for their continued review of these policies during these extraordinary times.

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