1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The College is committed to the promotion and development of surgery as a career path for Indigenous doctors. The Foundation for Surgery ASC Award provides the opportunity for final year medical students and doctors identifying as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and with an interest in surgery to attend the College’s Annual Scientific Congress held in May.

2. KEYWORDS
Annual Scientific Congress, Education, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous Award, Foundation for Surgery

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Aims of the Award
The Award aims to provide final year medical students and doctors who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and are considering a career in surgery with an opportunity to:

3.1.1. Participate in the educational program of the College at its Annual Scientific Congress
3.1.2. Network with Fellows and meet influential healthcare professionals in the surgical profession
3.1.3. Gain an understanding of the activities of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
3.1.4. Discuss with College leadership career path issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical professionals.

3.2. Eligibility
To be eligible for the Award an applicant must:

3.2.1. Identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and be eligible to be a member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.
3.2.2. Possess, or be a final year student engaged in, a medical degree from an Australian medical school.

3.3. Application Process
3.3.1. Submit an application on the prescribed College form, which includes a current Curriculum Vitae and two (2) letters of reference supporting the application.
3.3.2. The application is to include a submission of up to 500 words on the benefit(s) of attending the RACS Annual Scientific Congress, and should address:
   a. Current and future commitment to Indigenous health activities
   b. Interest in pursuing a surgical career
   c. Relevance to current stage of training or medical career.
3.4. Award Recipient Selection Process

3.4.1. Award recipients will be selected by an assessment panel consisting of:
- Chair, Indigenous Health Committee (or nominee)
- Censor in Chief (or nominee)
- Chair, Professional Development and Standards Board (or nominee); and
- President, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) (or nominee)

3.4.2. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the selection process in the first week in March.

3.4.3. Up to 3 awards may be offered each year, depending on the availability of funding and the quality of applications. The Committee will endeavour to achieve a gender balance in award recipients.

3.5. Award

The award recipient shall receive:

- A return economy airfare to the ASC from the major city nearest to their permanent residence;
- Accommodation for 5 nights at a College nominated preferred conference hotel;
- ASC 4 day registration;
- Ticket to the ASC Dinner; and
- Invitation to the Indigenous Doctors Roundtable Breakfast.

3.6. Conditions of Award

The award recipient will be required to:

3.6.1. Show confirmation of conference leave (or similar) and ensure that conference attendance will not be at detriment to their studies.

3.6.2. Provide a 500 word post-conference report to RACS within 2 weeks of the ASC being held. The report may be used in promotional material by RACS and AIDA.

3.7. Funding

The Awards will be funded by the Foundation for Surgery.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Procedure for Foundation for Surgery Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ASC Award

Approver: Professional Development and Standards Board
Authoriser: Council