1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy governs the awarding of the Davison Family Scholarship. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Scholarship.

2. **KEYWORDS**

Surgery, education, training, professional development, career, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous, scholarship, financial hardship, financial disadvantage

3. **BODY OF POLICY**

3.1. **Background**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is committed to promote and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors who wish to pursue surgical careers.

The Davison Family Scholarship has been established by the Davison family to acknowledge the privileged opportunity shared by brothers and surgeons, Greg and Ian Davison, with the specific purpose of extending that privilege and opportunity to aspiring Indigenous surgeons in Australia.

The overarching goal of this scholarship is to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander surgeons practising in Australia.

It has been established by Mr Ian Davison and Ms Janie Forrest to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who might, without financial assistance, be unable to contemplate a career in surgery. The recipient will be an outstanding candidate, who through their own success will have the potential to inspire and attract similar young people to the field of surgery

3.2. **Eligibility Criteria**

Applications for this Scholarship are encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have completed an undergraduate medical degree and wish to undertake postgraduate surgical training.

To be eligible for the Scholarship an applicant must:

3.2.1. Be registered as a doctor in Australia;

3.2.2. Be eligible to be a member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA); and

3.2.3. Be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia.

3.3. **Selection Criteria**

Application assessment will be based upon a short letter outlining:

3.3.1. Details of the surgical-related education, training and/or professional development opportunities to be undertaken

3.3.2. Envisaged benefits and outcomes of the opportunity

3.3.3. Commitment to pursuing a surgical career

3.3.4. Commitment to inspiring, leading and mentoring other young doctors to become the future indigenous surgeons
e. An outline of the financial need

3.3.2. Ideally the applicant would be nominated by their local or university community and/or the AIDA, but applicants are welcome to self-nominate. Membership to AIDA will be favoured.

3.3.3. The letter of application must be accompanied by:
   a. Letter/s of support from AIDA or community leader (preferred), a professional supervisor, and/or colleague
   b. Curriculum Vitae

3.3.4. The Selection Committee will consist of the following members:
   a. Chair (or nominee), Fellowship Services Committee
   b. Chair (or nominee), Indigenous Health Committee
   c. Member, Indigenous Health Committee
   d. Chair (or nominee), Prevocational and Skills Education Committee
   e. President (or nominee), AIDA

3.3.5. Selection Observers
   a. Manager, Foundation for Surgery
   b. Mr Ian Davison (or nominee), observer

3.4. Value of the Scholarship
   The value of the Scholarship is in Australian dollars.
   Prospective applicants should refer to the RACS website www.surgeons.org/member-services/scholarships-awards-lectures-prizes/ for information on the current value of the Scholarship.

3.5. Funding Source
   The scholarship is funded from the income revenue derived from the Davison Family Scholarship corpus under the Foundation for Surgery and will continue to be funded as the corpus allows.

3.6. Duration of the Scholarship
   The Scholarship is for 12 month’s duration.

3.7. Frequency of the Scholarship
   The Scholarship may be disbursed annually, subject to the availability of funding.
   The previous successful applicant is invited and encouraged to reapply each year throughout their training, providing that surgical specialisation, academic performance, personal and professional skills are maintained. The Scholarship can, therefore, be awarded to one applicant in consecutive years where appropriate.

   Due to the nature of this scholarship, it will only be publically advertised when the previous recipient completes, ceases or no longer requires the scholarship.

   The Selection Committee reserve the right to not award the scholarship if there is no suitable candidate.
3.8. Conditions of the Scholarship

The following conditions are based on the assessed and approved information supplied at the point of application. Any changes from those originally approved by RACS will require prior consent. To obtain this consent, applicants are required to complete an amendment form available from RACS.

3.8.1. Financial Arrangements

a. The recipient should refer to a financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the Scholarship. General information about whether scholarships/fellowships/grants are exempt from income tax is available on the RACS website. Please go to www.surgeons.org/scholarships/ and proceed to the FAQ section.

b. Payment of the Scholarship will be made in one instalment, prior to April in the year of application.

c. Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice. If the applicant is in Australia and does not have an ABN, the tax invoice will need to be accompanied by a “statement by supplier” (an ATO form).

d. Funds can be facilitated by Electronic Funds Transfer. Therefore, the recipient must provide an Australian nominated bank account to facilitate remittance of the awarded scholarship funds.

3.8.2. Additional Scholarships/Fellowships/Awards (“awards”)  
a. The recipient may hold additional non-RACS awards simultaneously subject to the approval of the Indigenous Health Committee.

b. The recipient must notify RACS immediately on receipt of any non-RACS award.

3.8.3. Reporting

The award is conditional upon the recipient providing RACS with a suitable report in the requested format on the activities undertaken. Evidence that the proposed professional development activity was undertaken as well as a report from the applicant’s supervisor must be included as an annex to this report (e.g., a receipt, certificate or other appropriate evidence). If a complete report is not received, the recipient may be ineligible for any further financial assistance from RACS.

Copies of the report will be sent to Indigenous Health Committee and the benefactor.

3.8.4. Timing of Award

Scholarship applications close 31 January each year, with scholarships commenced by April in the year of application.

3.8.5. Reapplication for the Scholarship

If all reporting is satisfactorily completed, scholars are eligible to re-apply in subsequent years, observing the advertised application deadlines and formats in competition with all the applications.

3.8.6. Acknowledgements
RACS and the Foundation of Surgery must be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publications and presentations relating to the award, including those made at the ASC.

3.8.7. Publications
RACS must be notified of any publications as soon as practicable after acceptance by the journal.

3.8.8. Acceptance of Offer
Recipients must sign the Acceptance Form as acknowledgement of the above conditions and return it to RACS prior to commencement of the award.

3.9. Privacy
RACS takes reasonable steps to protect the information it holds from misuse or loss and from unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. The recipient has the right to access his or her personal information and to have it corrected if inaccurate, incomplete or out of date.

3.10. Termination of the Scholarship
RACS may, at its discretion for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of an award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a recipient of his/her award. From the date of either of these decisions, the entitlement to stipend and other allowances shall cease.

3.11. Administering Committee
The Indigenous Health Committee administers the Scholarship.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
PRC: Procedure
FRM: Application form.

Approver Professional Development and Standards Board
Authoriser Council