



UROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA  
AND NEW ZEALAND

23 May 2023

Hon Mark Butler MP  
Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Suite MG50.1  
Parliament House

By email: [minister.butler@health.gov.au](mailto:minister.butler@health.gov.au)

Dear Minister Butler

Further to your address at the recent Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Annual Scientific Congress, the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ) Board acknowledges the work you are currently engaged in to improve the regulatory framework for doctors who perform surgery so as to protect Australians going forward. It is clear there have been major gaps in the regulatory framework for assessing the criteria for use of the title, surgeon.

USANZ continues to have concerns about surgical standards particularly in areas where non surgeons are embarking on invasive procedures and often in non-hospital settings as has been revealed in the media.

We note your initiatives to improve the safety of cosmetic surgery, however, USANZ is particularly concerned about Section 5(e) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023* and would like to see an amendment where only specialist medical practitioners be allowed to call themselves surgeons, even in the future.

We concur with our surgical colleagues that Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs is required for any doctor who provides surgical interventions. This assessment should include demonstration of competence and be carried out in an appropriate clinical setting that is also subject to accreditation and standards. To perform surgery without appropriate accreditation and assessment should be deemed unlawful.

USANZ welcomes the opportunity for further dialogue with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Prof Helen O'Connell AO  
President  
Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand