

**Fellowship and Standards Division  
Department of Fellowship Services  
Surgical Oncology Section**

**Telephone: +61 3 9276 7446**

**Facsimile: +61 3 9276 7432**

**Email: [surgicaloncology@surgeons.org](mailto:surgicaloncology@surgeons.org)**

22 September 2016

**RACS ID 204398**

Senator Jonathon Duniam  
Chair, Community Affairs Legislative Committee  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Duniam

**The National Cancer Screening Register Bill 2016 and the National Cancer Screening Register (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above consultation. 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. RACS represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 Surgical Trainees and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) across Australia and New Zealand.

RACS supports the Department of Health's continuing development of digital health solutions to improve patient safety across Australia.

After reviewing the bills and associated information provided for consultation I would like to offer the following comments for your consideration:

- RACS supports the establishment of national registries for cancer and bowel cancer screening.
- RACS supports in principle the government's commitment to ensuring appropriate privacy provisions are in place for data collected and stored as part of the screening registries.
- RACS reiterates the importance that the registry software be compliant and compatible with existing software in use by Australian health care professionals. Compatibility is essential for the efficiency and success of the registries.
- RACS supports the creation of a single electronic record for each Australian participating in cervical and bowel cancer screening.
- RACS supports the development of a platform that can be scaled up to support future screening programs.

RACS appreciates the opportunity to comment on the current bills. We hope the above information is meaningful and useful and we look forward with strong interest to seeing how the consultation progresses with this significant issue. If you would like to discuss further please contact me via the attached details.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Jonathon Koea  
Chair, RACS Surgical Oncology Section Committee**