

## AGES STATEMENT ON SURGICAL URGENCY & COVID-19

The Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy & Surgical (AGES) Society extends its support to all AGES members and to all healthcare workers during the unprecedented crisis unfolding due to COVID-19. This is a truly challenging and difficult time.

**AGES strongly recommend the immediate postponement of all gynaecological surgery other than essential Category 1 surgery.**

**AGES recommend the immediate** postponement of ALL Category 2 & 3 surgery, in both public and private institutions.

**AGES** commends and supports The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) on their joint leadership calling for the immediate postponement of all non-emergency surgery on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. This followed the initial call from The Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.

AGES fully supports The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG), the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (CICM) for their joint statement on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, acknowledging their concern regarding the risk to both patient and health-care worker after the reversal of the original decision to stop all non-critical elective surgery.

AGES has developed a practical guide to risk minimisation for essential category one gynaecologic surgery which provides practical advice in this area. This and other important practice information is available on our website. ([www.ages.com.au](http://www.ages.com.au)). We also recommend institutions ensure access, training, and the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) is available for all staff during gynaecological surgery.

**Stuart Salfinger**

*AGES President*