



## ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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Friday 28 July 2006

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons warns patients undergoing surgical procedures to check the credentials of their doctors, before they let them cut anything out.

At a meeting to extend surgical privileges at the Logan Day Surgery in Queensland yesterday, three general practitioners were unanimously knocked back by a credentialing committee that included a representative from the College.

"GP's do not have the experience or skill to operate on patients unless it is done under a local anaesthetic," said College representative Dr Hugh Bartholomeuz. *TO CHECK SURGEON'S CREDENTIALS*

The College praises Queensland Health for taking surgical standards seriously and now calls on the Government to check the credentials of others GPs who are undertaking surgical procedures in private hospitals.

We also thank the Government for taking this problem seriously as they have now made it mandatory that a College representative must be present when GPs apply for surgical privileges.

"We also know that in some private hospitals there are doctors bypassing applying the appropriate surgical standards and the public has no way of assessing whether they are the right standards.

"Why should the public be saddled with that problem?"

"The College is all about credentialing and standards and we have a high standard that we are determined to uphold for all our patients.

"The most important safeguard for patients who need surgery is to check that their surgeon is a Fellow of the College, it is easy to do there is a College office in all Australian capital cities, give us a call," said Dr Bartholmeuz.