



PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY GRADUATE OUTCOMES

The Australian and New Zealand Plastic Surgery training programs aim to produce the highest quality Fellows who are capable of building on a tradition of skill and excellence in serving the community and the profession of surgery.

Plastic surgeons have a comprehensive knowledge of how tissues heal, the blood supply to the various tissues of the body, what constitutes a 'normal' appearance (and an enhanced one), and the mechanical forces at work in the body, and have exceptional and finely-honed technical skill. A graduate of the training program will possess this knowledge and these skills as a defining element of being a Specialist Plastic Surgeon.

A graduate of the Surgical Education and Training (SET) program is the embodiment of a good doctor, with a constant lens on patient safety, a comprehensive knowledge and skill set regarding patient selection, preparation and aftercare, and has an exceptional knowledge of specialist surgical anatomy, aesthetics, and plastic surgical conditions and their treatment.

Graduates who have completed the SET program have a recognisable and specific set of medical expertise and technical skills as well as professional competencies.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Graduates will be able to:

- Assess and treat a diverse range of patients (and their families) and conditions by applying best practice skills in diagnosis, assessment, and surgical management including thorough surgical planning, tissue handling and consideration of reconstructive and cosmetic techniques.
- Apply flexible and individualised approaches to complex problems in order to achieve an outcome that respects both form and function.
- Diagnose, assess and manage patients presenting with:
 - malignant and benign skin lesions
 - soft tissue wounds, infections of soft tissue and bone, vascular anomalies and conditions affecting the skin
 - burn injuries and their sequelae
 - cosmetic concerns and requests for surgical and non-surgical cosmetic procedures
 - cleft lip and palate, craniosynostosis and other craniofacial syndromes
 - head and neck cancer and its consequences
 - hand conditions including the breadth of hand trauma, elective hand surgery and congenital upper limb conditions
 - breast cancer and/or patients requiring breast reconstruction
 - chest wall, trunk or perineum conditions, tumours, deformities or defects requiring advanced reconstructive techniques including areas of surgical oncology, often in multidisciplinary teams, including colorectal surgery, sarcoma surgery and gynaecology
 - facial fractures and craniomaxillofacial trauma
 - lower limb trauma and pathology including amputation and complex reconstruction.
- Recognise, assess and manage common conditions in children such as prominent ears, benign skin conditions and hand trauma, and more complex conditions including clefts and congenital hand differences.
- Perform microsurgery, including revascularisation procedures, and apply knowledge of a broad range of flaps and techniques, and demonstrate an ability to raise and inset flaps into various defects.
- Recognise the special nature of cosmetic surgery, including the potential for harm as well as benefit and the need to manage patients holistically including when inevitable complications arise from financial incentives and the vulnerabilities which may exist in cosmetic patients.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

Graduates will be able to:

- Communicate with patients and their families using appropriate language and terminology to elicit accurate and relevant information and to engage them in developing care plans that reflect the patient's needs, goals and desired healthcare outcomes.
- Respond to individual patients' needs and the needs of a community or population, advocating for health and systemic improvement and change, if required.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of Māori health outcomes and be active in working toward eliminating differences in health outcome for at-risk populations.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and work to improve the health disparities and the delivery of care experienced by these groups.
- Promote cultural safety in clinical practice and training.
- Work effectively with other healthcare professionals to prevent misunderstandings, advocate for patients, manage differences and resolve conflict.
- Demonstrate collective leadership in professional clinical practice and contribute to the improvement of health-care delivery including allocating finite resources appropriately and sustainably.
- Act in a manner that respects the safety of patients, self, and others.
- Engage in ongoing learning to maintain and improve personal practice and facilitate the learning of others through effective teaching.
- Critically evaluate literature related to plastic and reconstructive surgery and contribute to the development and dissemination of new knowledge and practices in the specialty.
- Document and share written and electronic information about a patient's care to optimise clinical decision-making, patient care and safety, and confidentiality and privacy.