

# The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons

ABN 44 503 186 462



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9 October 2015

Dr Catherine Ferguson, FRACS  
Chair, Post Fellowship Training and Education Committee  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
College of Surgeons Gardens  
250-290 Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Dr Ferguson

## **Re: Review of the Post Fellowship Education and Training (PFET) Program**

Thank you for the opportunity for the Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) to provide feedback on the review of the Post Fellowship Education and Training (PFET) Program.

The ANZSCTS recognises the benefits of modifying the PFET process in making it desirable for Specialties to encourage its development of courses for accreditation. These changes should strengthen the Colleges standards and criteria that act as a benchmark for accessing and accrediting high quality educational courses and activities. We agree courses should be assessed using the more general Course Accreditation Policy of the Skills Education Committee.

We wish to emphasize the importance of items you have noted in the draft document:

- The Society is a small craft and removing the requirement for a formal contract, annual reporting and annual fees should assist and encourage our Fellows to participate.
- Introduction of a reaccreditation process will further strengthen the validity of the course.

We also wish to note for your consideration co-badging short courses with Universities as an avenue in seeking accreditation. This group would work with the Specialty/ies in developing a course to obtain College endorsement at the same time expanding its reach with its attraction to those with an interest in the surgical field.

On behalf of the ANZSCTS I am pleased to support the College's current draft review of the Post Fellowship Education and Training (PFET) Program and ANZSCTS will remain involved in the PFET accreditation process.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to call me on 0439 415 696

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Bannon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Bannon  
President  
ANZSCTS

Cc: Mr Phillip Antippa, PFET Committee Representative