



7 July 2009

Mr Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 520
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: adjudication@acc.gov.au

Dear Mr Jones

Re: Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) application for authorisation A91106 – final determination.

Thank you for your letter of 18 June in which you advise that the ACCC has issued a final determination in respect of the above application. Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) will not appeal this decision.

However, it is our view that the current cosmetic surgery environment is a confusing environment for consumers. ASPS' main interest throughout this consultative process has been to maintain and improve standards of patient care and service which are driven by nationally consistent standards and not by market opportunity. In this regard we remain of the view that a National Code developed by the AMC or similar medical body would be a good outcome for the Australian community.

We note the stringent conditions imposed on the ACCS and understand the ACCS has an obligation to fulfil these in a reasonable timeframe. In our view, the true test of the Code will be in its implementation and enforcement.

While we welcome the distinction the ACCC determination makes in terms of the difference between endorsement and authorisation of the Code, it is hoped the general public and media will appreciate the difference and understand the distinction. We trust the ACCS is cognisant of its responsibility to correctly inform the public in this regard.

Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons will continue to maintain an interest and a watching brief on all developments regarding the implementation of the ACCS Code. We remain available for a continuing consultation with the ACCC on all matters relevant to the practice of plastic surgery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Callan".

Peter Callan MBBS FRACS (Plast) MBA
President