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# Surgical leader and educator to lead new safety review council

POSTED ON 18 Sep 2019

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International surgical leader and educator Professor David Watters AM OBE will head up Victoria's new independent council to improve care for patients before, during and after surgery.



The former president of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Professor Watters will start as Chair of the [Victorian Perioperative Consultative Council](#) in October.

He was appointed by the Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos MP for a three-year term, and will be responsible for establishing the new council as an important link between the health sector and the Minister, the Department of Health and Human Services and SCV.

Inaugural council members will be appointed in late October. Together they will review cases of mortality and morbidity associated with surgery and anaesthesia, and recommend ways to improve perioperative care in Victoria.

Professor Watters is an Alfred Deakin Professor of Surgery at University Hospital Geelong (Barwon Health) and at Deakin University.

In 2018 he received the Member of the Order of Australia medal in recognition of his significant service to medicine and medical education, particularly in endocrine and colorectal surgery, and through leadership roles with professional organisations.

The new council replaces two independent councils that review mortality and morbidity cases - the Victorian Surgical Consultative Council and the Victorian Consultative Council on Anaesthetic Mortality and Morbidity.

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