



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF  
DENTAL SURGEONS  
INCORPORATED  
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11 December 2007

Mrs Cheryl Samuels  
Standing Committee on Broadband  
in Rural and Regional Communities  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mrs Samuels

The College extends its thanks for the opportunity to provide information surrounding the Committee's review of the use of telecommunication services by rural and remote area health services and in particular the benefits and opportunities for rural and regional communities of having access to telecommunications (including broadband) and other technology services, as it relates to the College.

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons provides an examination based process for Fellowship to the College by dental professionals. In addition, the College has an Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons training program which has been accredited by both the Australian Dental Council and the Australian Medical Council.

The purpose of Fellowship is to establish a life long learning pathway for professional improvement at advanced clinical expertise to enhance the provision of dental health services to the community. This is evidenced by the recognition that the College Primary Examination enjoys with all Australian and New Zealand universities when a Masters candidate is applying for entry to a university program.

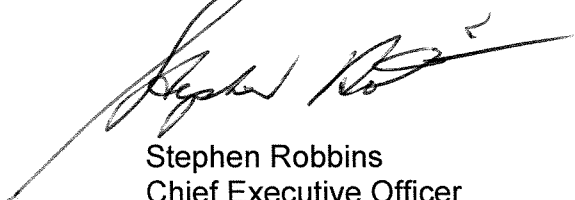
As the College develops its education and training processes, technology plays an important factor in offering web based learning and assessment to enrolled candidates seeking Fellowship.

In the near future the College is expecting to deliver its intensive Orientation Course and Finals Workshop (preparation for the College Primary and Final Examinations) via web based streaming technology. The opportunities to both the general and specialist dentist in Australia are enormous.

The educational and examination activities of the College are currently accredited by the Dental Practice Board of Victoria where Continuing Professional Development is a mandatory requirement under legislation. With the advent of national registration and accreditation in process with COAG, the College is concerned that access to high speed broadband and other broadcasting technologies may be limited and subsequently disadvantage dental professionals in rural and regional communities.

The College would encourage the NSW government to strongly support the enhancement of telecommunications in these areas and investigate opportunities where organizations such as ours are provided with expertise and funding to progress the advancement of clinical practice in dentistry.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robbins', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen Robbins  
Chief Executive Officer