

Media Release

1 September 2017

Condolences sent to the family and friends of Jean Huang

The Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS) Board President, Dr Mark Magnusson has expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Ms Jean Huang.

“This needless tragedy highlights the importance of the invisible safety net protecting patients in Australia. The accreditation of facilities and the qualification and registration of health practitioners. Patient safety is paramount.

“This case highlights that unfortunately the guidelines, accreditations, restrictions and registrations only help protect our patients when they are adhered to. They are there to create a safe environment.

“Patients should seek confirmation of the accreditation of any facility at which a procedure is taking place and the qualifications of the practitioners involved. These should be on display. This includes those providing the treatment and anyone assisting, especially with intravenous medication or anaesthesia.

In Australia and New Zealand, anyone who has a six-year medical degree and has current registration is allowed to perform cosmetic surgery. This leaves the consumer overwhelmed by choice, and a wide range of doctors with varying levels of expertise and training.

As a peak organisation for cosmetic surgery in the region, ASAPS represents 300 comprehensively qualified aesthetic plastic surgeons. Every aesthetic plastic surgeon has undertaken 8 to 12 years of specialist surgical training beyond their medical training and has qualified to become a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) – the only institution accredited to train surgeons in Australia and New Zealand.

“It’s important for people when selecting a surgeon, to ensure the person is suitably qualified and will follow best practice in terms of ethical behaviour to mitigate against as much of the risk as possible associated with any type of surgical procedures. By seeking out an ASAPS surgeon, patients can be assured they have a doctor who is dedicated to upholding the highest standards in the cosmetic surgery field,” Dr Magnusson said.

“Unfortunately none of this chatter will help Ms Huang and her family and friends. For them this tragedy is real,” Dr Magnusson said.

For more information and to find ASAPS surgeon visit asaps.org.au.

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Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons has been one of the peak bodies for cosmetic surgery in Australia and New Zealand for 40 years. We are committed to making sure you receive the best advice, find an appropriately qualified aesthetic plastic surgeon and experience world-class treatment before, during and after your surgery.

ASAPS Members have 8 to 12 years of specialist surgical training beyond their medical degree. Surgeons with this level of training are easy to identify because they have FRACS after their name. Each of our members is committed to helping you achieve your cosmetic goals in a safe and caring environment, every step of the way.