



Australian Society of Ophthalmologists

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Society of Ophthalmologists Incorporated ABN 29 454 001 424

*Tuesday 5 July 2011*

## **EYE SPECIALISTS DISMISS RORT CLAIMS.**

CLAIMS\* Anaesthetists helping with cataract surgery were rorting the Medicare safety net were a gross exaggeration, the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists said today.

ASO President Dr Brad Horsburgh said the number of cataract procedures attracting Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN) capping was insignificant compared to the total number carried out.

Of the 200 000 cataract procedures performed in 2010 less than three percent were performed in 'out of hospital' settings.

"The number of procedures being questioned, performed as out-patient services in non-accredited day-surgeries is less than one per cent of the total," Dr Horsburgh said.

Dr Horsburgh said the benefits of restored vision after cataract surgery added significantly to overall, improved health outcomes.

"The ASO has always maintained better vision improves overall community health and successfully convinced the Labor government not to reduce the Medicare cataract rebate by 50 per cent," he said.

"The ASO recommends cataract procedures be carried out in accredited in-patient facilities."

"As a responsible, professional body we are determined to provide the highest quality care for our patients, and to defend our professional reputation from that very small minority who might seek to take advantage from exploitable loopholes in Medicare's rebate policies."

\* <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/roxon-health-rorts-crackdown/story-fn59niix-1226086716768>

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