1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The ANZSCTS is the peak professional body for the cardiothoracic specialty and will advocate on behalf of members, with the government on all MSAC submissions, assessments, proposals and existing MBS Item number reviews.

The ANZSCTS Government Relations Committee considers any proposed submissions / assessments / proposals /reviews pertaining to the cardiothoracic specialty and develops the Society’s position with regard to matters of this nature and the implications for cardiothoracic surgeons and the broader healthcare sector. The deliberations and recommendations from the working group are then considered by the ANZSCTS Executive.

2. KEYWORDS
Cardiothoracic, Advocacy, submissions, guidelines

3. BODY OF POLICY
The Government Relations Committee was established by the ANZSCTS Executive to provide a forum to discuss and make recommendations regarding MSAC submissions, proposals, assessments and changes to the Department of Health’s MBS item number allocation as it impacts the cardiothoracic specialty. This work will be ongoing.

3.1. The objectives of the Government Relations Committee
3.1.1. To consider and make recommendations to the ANZSCTS Executive regarding MSAC submissions or to review ongoing assessments referred to it by MSAC.

3.1.2. To advocate for ANZSCTS on all matters in relation to existing MBS Item numbers.

3.1.3. To make recommendations to the ANZSCTS Executive regarding advocacy strategies.

3.2. Duties and Responsibilities
3.2.1. To review and assess MSAC applications brought to its attention by the ANZSCTS Executive via MSAC Notifications, Fellows or by other means.

3.2.2. To review, assess and make recommendations on any proposed changes to MBS Item numbers and changing environment.

3.2.3. To be responsible for developing the advocacy strategy for consideration by the ANZSCTS Executive.

3.3. Powers
The working group has no powers or supervisory functions. It is responsible for considering matters referred to it and for making recommendations on those matters to the ANZSTCS Executive.
3.4. **Composition**  
The working group shall comprise:
  - Co-Chairs
  - ANZSCTS President
  - Size of the working group as determined by the Co-Chairs

The ANZSCTS Executive may be co-opted as required.

3.5. **Meetings**  
The committee will meet as required and will be determined by the Co-Chairs together with the ANZSCTS President.

3.6. **Accountability**  
The Co-Chairs are accountable to the Executive for fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities outlined in the terms of reference and for the fulfilment of any other matters delegated by the ANZSCTS Executive.

The Co-Chairs will provide a report / updates to the ANZSCTS President who will then update the ANZSCTS Executive.

3.7. **Reporting**  
The working groups proceedings shall be reported in the ANZSCTS Executive agenda for discussion/decision making and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4. **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**  
No documents associated with this policy.

**Approver** President  
**Authoriser** C.O.O