



ANZCA
FPM

*Te Whare Tohu o
Te Hau Whakaora*

January 23, 2025

Hon Simeon Brown

By e-mail: s.brown@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Brown

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists / Faculty of Pain Medicine

On behalf of the New Zealand fellows and trainees of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and Faculty of Pain Medicine (ANZCA/FPM), we congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Health. We look forward to working with you and continuing our productive working relationship with the Government and the Ministry, ensuring New Zealanders' access to high quality specialist anaesthesia and pain medicine.

We take this opportunity to provide a brief overview of the college, the faculty, and our work; and to request a meeting to discuss how we can use our Australasian-wide experience and expertise to work with government to address specialist health workforce concerns and deliver on health priorities for the betterment of all New Zealanders.

About ANZCA

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), which includes the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is the leading authority on anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine. It is the professional organisation responsible for training anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists, and for setting the standards of clinical practice throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. Our membership comprises 6636 specialist anaesthetists (fellows) and 1955 anaesthetists in training, 1253 of whom work in New Zealand.

Anaesthetists are involved in the integrated care of surgical patients before, during and after surgery. Specialist pain medicine physicians, who already have another specialist medical qualification in anaesthesia medicine, surgery, psychiatry, or rehabilitation medicine, for example, treat acute and persistent chronic pain, including post operative, post-trauma, cancer pain and acute episodes of pain in "medical conditions".

ANZCA is committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the provision of competent, culturally safe care to patients in all settings across Aotearoa New Zealand, to ensure delivery of equitable outcomes. Specialist anaesthetists are well represented as clinical and medical leaders throughout Health NZ Te Whatu Ora due to our "whole of system" understanding of hospital-based healthcare delivery; pain medicine specialists deliver care in multiple settings -hospital outpatients, GP referral and community-based services.

Current initiatives include facilitating cross-sector, multidisciplinary discussions on the delivery of **safe sedation** to improve access to and safe delivery of anaesthesia and pain medicine; implementing the **Framework for Cultural Safety** to improve equity; and implementing a

collaborative model of perioperative medicine to promote optimal care over the entire patient journey.

Areas for discussion

- Addressing the **shortage of pain medicine specialists** and limited capacity for multidisciplinary pain management services to meet the needs of patients with chronic pain and reduce waiting times.
- **Health workforce development and funding** as outlined in the Health Workforce Plan 2024, including attracting and retaining New Zealand-trained and specialist international medical graduates.
- Establishing an anaesthesia **digital health record**, accessible across all of Health NZ, to facilitate the interoperability of health information across all hospital services.

We look forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Graham Roper,
Chair, New Zealand National Committee
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists