



ANZCA
FPM

CEO

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

5 February 2025

Kiri Rikihana
Manukura Tuarua | Deputy Chief Executive
Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand

Tēnā koe Kiri,

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated 19 December 2025 regarding ANZCA's implementation of the *Model standards and procedures for specialist medical college accreditation of training settings* in Aotearoa New Zealand. The correspondence came to our attention on 2 February, after it was initially sent to incorrect email addresses. Thank you for granting an extension to the response date.

To guide the implementation of this significant project across Australia and now potentially in Aotearoa New Zealand, ANZCA has formed the Accreditation Renewal Steering Group, which will convene for its inaugural meeting in early March 2026. This group is representative of Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand to ensure that relevant regional nuances are considered. Furthermore, the steering group will consider the college's implementation roadmap for anaesthesia and pain medicine training sites and the development of any college-specific requirements.

ANZCA, including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), have confirmed adoption of the model standards with the Australian Medical Council and will commence accrediting training settings against these standards from 2027. For ANZCA, the general accreditation cycle typically commences in April or May each year, while for FPM it commences in February, subject to scheduling arrangements. As the project remains in the early stages of implementation, formal communications to training settings have not yet been issued. The project communication and change management strategy will also be considered by the Accreditation Renewal Steering Group.

Whilst we support the model standards and the standardisation of practices across all specialist medical colleges, initial consultations have identified the need for college-specific requirements to strengthen certain criteria for training, particularly given the time-critical decisions inherent in the high-risk nature of anaesthesia care and its significant implications for patient safety. In terms of pain medicine, college-specific requirements are being considered to address the nuanced multidisciplinary requirements for pain medicine training, which are not addressed through the broad model standards.

We acknowledge the Medical Council of New Zealand's authority for approval in New Zealand and welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively as implementation of the model standards progresses, alongside the development of any college-specific requirements.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss a shared approach and support ongoing alignment. For further information and to organise a college meeting please contact ceo@anzca.edu.au.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Lance Emerson
Chief Executive Officer