

A Life Less Ordinary: Anaesthesia in the Top End



The Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital (RDPH) Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine is keen to welcome Specialist Anaesthetists (FANZCAs) who seek challenging medicine, sociocultural variety and a tropical lifestyle to join our team - commencing in 2026 and onwards.

We live and work on Larrakia land, the home of the Saltwater people. We are honoured to share, respect and care for their country, elders and the wider First Nations community.

You'll be joining a proudly diverse department. We are a team of friendly and supportive anaesthetists, with a strong balance of genders, cultures, families, singles, LGBTQI and dynamic outside interests. The hospital bike commute is unparalleled in its coastal beauty and wildlife. Our children have excellent childcare and schooling options, and thanks to a city unburdened by traffic, we are often home in time to enjoy sunsets and evenings with our families and friends. Australia's most spectacular National Parks are in our backyard and Asia is on our doorstep - with short flights to Bali, Dili, and Singapore.

Watch & read the Specialist and trainee perspective:

<https://youtu.be/27o1W2l6D9c>

[ANZCA Darwin Video – “Beyond City Limits”](#)

[ANZCA | Beyond City Limits: Darwin](#) (article)

Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital is one of the most geographically isolated tertiary hospitals in Australia. It is a 370 bed hospital for over 180,000 people from a catchment of over one million square kilometres. Around 14,000 operations are performed annually between the two campuses. We cover most surgical specialties except cardiac surgery. This includes a high emergency and trauma surgery caseload, approximately 15% paediatrics and ~2200 obstetric deliveries including significant high risk cases. RDPH is the home of the National Trauma and Critical Care Response Centre, with involvement in mass casualty disasters including the Bali bombings, Ashmore Reef and East Timor crises and deployment to natural disasters in neighbouring island nations. Our patients face extraordinary challenges including a high burden of chronic disease, social disadvantage and extreme geographic isolation. Half of the NT population live in remote communities. The NT is famously linguistically diverse, with over 100 spoken Aboriginal

languages. Our Aboriginal community forms 27% of the NT population but make up 50% of hospital inpatients.

Our department runs the Acute Pain Service, the Perioperative Medicine service and the Hyperbaric Unit. Clinical support services include an 18 bed ICU with ECMO and a Level 5 NICU. Regular outreach support is provided to regional hospitals in Gove and Katherine. Out of theatre anaesthesia services include diagnostic and interventional radiology, cardiac electrophysiological and electroconvulsive therapy. Our trainee population includes ANZCA rotational and independent registrars, Provisional Fellows, GP Anaesthetic trainees, ACEM and CICM trainees, residents and medical students.

Specialist Anaesthetists (FANZCA)

Specialist work is rich and complex, with all aspects of your clinical experience utilised, often on a weekly basis. Clinical Support Time is honoured and we encourage contributions via our various Department Teams, which include Clinical Service Liaison, Education/Training, Research, Equipment, Quality & Safety, Sustainability, Perioperative Medicine, Hyperbaric Medicine, Acute Pain/Regional and Welfare. Many FANZCAs work at the adjoining Darwin Private Hospital, and some in Retrieval Medicine with Careflight.

We support flexibility and balance, offering a range of full-time and fractional appointments with competitive remuneration. Relocation assistance will be provided and short-term subsidised accommodation is available on-campus. We have a generous provision of 6 weeks Recreation Leave and 2 weeks Study Leave per annum, and plentiful Public Holidays during the beautiful Dry Season in the NT. An extra week of Recreation Leave per year is provided after 5 years of service, as well as flexible Sabbatical leave options.

Enquiries

Dr Sandy Smirk	Director	Sandy.Smirk@nt.gov.au
Dr Tej Mettho	Deputy Director	Tej.Mettho@nt.gov.au

Apply via <https://jobs.nt.gov.au/>