



ANZCA
FPM

National Anaesthesia Day
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024

Media release

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Patients to benefit from new Tasmanian medical simulation project, the Tasmanian Anaesthetic Simulation Education and Training Network (TASETN)

Tasmanian anaesthetists are at the forefront of a state-wide hospital medical education initiative aimed at improving the safety and quality of patient care.

The Tasmanian Anaesthetic Simulation Education and Training Network (TASETN) is an innovative project that improves patient care through simulation education for anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses.

The joint medical education simulation project between the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and the Tasmanian Health Service has already involved 21 anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses across the state at Royal Hobart Hospital, Launceston General Hospital, the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie and the Mersey Community Hospital.

The anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses have been trained in the medical simulation approaches and will be showcasing their skills with new simulation equipment in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie on Wednesday 16 October for ANZCA's 2024 National Anaesthesia Day.

This year's National Anaesthesia Day theme is "You're in safe hands."

Dozens of other hospitals in Australia are supporting the National Anaesthesia Day campaign on 16 October – the anniversary of the day in 1846 that ether anaesthesia was first demonstrated publicly.

ANZCA, as one of Australia and New Zealand's largest specialist medical colleges with 8200 specialist anaesthetists (fellows) and 580 specialist pain medicine physicians, is responsible for the training, examination and specialist accreditation of anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and for the standards of clinical practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Lia Freestone, specialist anaesthetist at Royal Hobart Hospital, is one of six anaesthetists who feature in the 2024 National Anaesthesia Day poster campaign. Six posters have been created for the campaign, each profiling an individual anaesthetist.

Dr Freestone, TASETN Clinical Project Lead, says the TASETN is a game changer for the specialty in Tasmania.

"Simulation is a way of learning without real patients. It improves patient care and patient safety and leads to better clinical performance. This means better outcomes for patients.

"The TASETN simulation network is developing our capacity to support anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses with simulation-based education throughout Tasmania. Anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurse practice complex or uncommon things using simulation. It helps staff be skilled and ready, as individuals and as part of a team, to look after patients in the operating theatre.

“Its real benefits are improving care of very unwell patients or during emergencies. Simulation makes clinical teams stronger which is better for everyone. The TASETN network is an important initiative that looks after our patients by supporting our staff with simulation education.”

The TASETN uses a range of simulation equipment, including mannikins, simulation trainers and simulation monitors to create realistic, cost-effective scenarios.

“Often these are used in real clinical locations, such as the operating theatre, supported by medical equipment to provide an authentic high quality learning experience for staff,” Dr Freestone explains.

“The simulation equipment is essential to set up and deliver simulation education. Simulation helps staff and hospitals provide best care for patients through skilled and prepared staff.”

Dr Freestone says the National Anaesthesia Day event in the foyer of the Royal Hobart Hospital will celebrate anaesthetists and anaesthetic nurses with a display of the TASETN simulation equipment.

The TASETN is funded through the federal government’s Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) program which aims to broaden the skills of the specialist workforce, bring more specialists to regional areas, and ensure all Australians can access high-quality care.

For more information or to request interviews, please contact the ANZCA communications team at communications@anzca.edu.au or on 0418 583 276.