



ANZCA
FPM

September 13, 2023

Medical Council of New Zealand | Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa

e mail: consultation@mcnz.org.nz

Dear Mrs Joan Simeon,

Disclosure of harm following an adverse event

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to setting the highest standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, and pain medicine. As one of the largest medical colleges in Australia, ANZCA is responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, in addition to promoting best practice and ongoing continuous improvement that contributes to a high-quality health system.

Thank you for the invitation to provide feedback on the updated guidelines relating to the disclosure of harm following adverse events. ANZCA commends the Medical Council New Zealand on this work and supports the revised guidelines. We consider that the revised statement offers strong principles and values for disclosure of harm and provides clear definitions of all terms used.

The new section (15) outlining the considerations of the patient's needs and preferences, with its emphasis on cultural safety is instructive.

We also particularly welcome the team-led approach, the very practical guidance relating to the necessity of having senior doctor involvement, the requirement for contemporaneous and thorough documentation, and the reminder that there are avenues for support for doctors in these difficult situations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these revised guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Dr Graham Roper
Chair, New Zealand National Committee

For further information please contact:
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