



**ANZCA**

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

# About ANZCA



To serve the community by  
fostering safety and quality  
patient care in anaesthesia,  
intensive care and  
pain medicine





## Statistical Snapshot

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- Formed 1992.
  - 4673 Fellows.
  - 1553 trainees.
  - One anaesthetist per 7016 people in Australia and New Zealand.
  - 270 Fellows in the Faculty of Pain Medicine (about 60% are also anaesthetists).
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- Provides more than \$600,000 for research projects annually.
  - Conducts 80 medical education events annually.
  - Pass rate for Final Examination – 80%.
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- (January, 2010)
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# Anaesthesia

Each day more than 17,000 Australians and New Zealanders will have an anaesthetic.

Throughout their lives, most people will be anaesthetised - during the birth of a baby or for a surgical procedure; from a routine day case through to major cases requiring complex, split-second decisions that keep them alive.

Many of today's operations are possible only because of developments in anaesthesia. Many procedures for the very young, the very old and the very ill are now possible through advanced and safer anaesthesia techniques.

When people have an anaesthetic, an anaesthetist is with the patient all the way, from planning overall care, watching over a patient's health and well-being throughout a procedure, to ensuring a smooth and comfortable recovery. Relief of pain and suffering is at the centre of the practice of anaesthesia.

Anaesthetists spend at least seven years in post-graduate training. This includes two years of pre-vocational experience and five years in specialist anaesthesia training after graduating from medical school. Anaesthetists need to be good, all-round doctors with a strong

understanding of basic anaesthetic sciences of physiology and pharmacology and how these might influence each patient's response to anaesthesia. They also need to be excellent communicators and collaborators as their role often places them in a central position in the care of the patient undergoing surgery. The specialist qualification for Australia and New Zealand is Fellowship of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCA).

Specialist anaesthetists work across the full scope of practice including anaesthesia for surgical and non-surgical procedures (including sedation and all forms of anaesthesia, e.g. topical, local, regional and general); perioperative/periprocedural care and management; assessment and management of patients requiring analgesia, critical/intensive care, and patients in emergency and trauma situations (including resuscitation and life support).

Australia and New Zealand are among the safest nations in the world in which to have an anaesthetic, thanks largely to the work of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) in setting standards, training and accreditation of specialist anaesthetists.



## About ANZCA

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is the professional organisation for more than 4600 specialist anaesthetists (Fellows) and more than 1500 anaesthetists in training (trainees).

Formed in February 1992 after 40 years operating as a Faculty of Anaesthetists within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, ANZCA, which includes a Faculty of Pain Medicine, is one of Australasia's largest medical specialist colleges. ANZCA is directly 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. In addition, the College has a significant role in the advancement of anaesthesia in South East Asia and South Pacific Island countries. In particular, it has offered its training program in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

ANZCA is a non-Government, not-for-profit organisation run by a Council comprising elected members of the College from Australia and New Zealand, who serve for three-year terms up to 12 years. The work of these anaesthetists, and those who run education, training and continuing professional development (CPD) programs, is largely pro bono.

Undertaking pro bono work includes hundreds of anaesthetists who oversee training in hospitals (e.g. Supervisors of Training), form committees and special interest groups, such as anaesthesia in rural areas, obstetric anaesthesia, and diving and hyperbaric medicine.

ANZCA does not control the number of anaesthetists who practice in Australia and New Zealand. The number of specialist anaesthetists is determined by the number of positions in hospitals made available and funded by governments. The pass rate for ANZCA's Fellowship examination has been approximately 80% for many years.

The College's training, education and assessment programs are reviewed and accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ). In 2008 ANZCA was granted the Australian and New Zealand Medical Councils' highest level of accreditation. Regular reports are provided to the AMC and MCNZ to ensure that the education provided is contemporary and relevant and of the highest international standard.

ANZCA's head office is in Melbourne. ANZCA also has regional offices in Victoria, NSW, Queensland, the ACT, Western Australia, South Australia/NT and Tasmania and a national office in New Zealand.

### Faculty of Pain Medicine

Formed in 1998, ANZCA's Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) was the first multidisciplinary medical academy in the world to be devoted to education and training in pain medicine.

It was formed by organisations representing anaesthetists, physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists and practitioners of rehabilitation medicine and is unique in that its Fellowship and representation at all levels remains multidisciplinary.

At January 1, 2010 there were 270 FPM Fellows and 73 trainees. Of the total number of FPM Fellows, 62% are also qualified anaesthetists.



## Education and Training

ANZCA's primary objective is to educate and train doctors to become anaesthetists and to offer life-long professional support. The College ensures the highest standards and safety of anaesthesia practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Trainees complete at least five years of training and are supervised by a network of qualified anaesthetists at accredited hospitals throughout Australia and New Zealand and, more recently, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

ANZCA also conducts assessment for international medical graduate specialists in accordance with processes established by the Australian and New Zealand Medical Councils, medical boards, and governments.

The ANZCA training program ensures that trainees are prepared for the full scope of practice as Fellows of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCAs) including practice as a specialist anaesthetist working in a general hospital and in a full range of clinical settings including, but not limited to, public hospitals (metropolitan/tertiary, regional and rural), private hospitals and non-hospital settings.

The curriculum is regularly under review to ensure trainees are receiving the best and most relevant training possible; contemporary both in terms of educational practice and also clinical content.

ANZCA's education development unit provides a range of services including clinical teaching courses, workshops, seminars and extensive e-learning and distance education activities to ensure that ANZCA remains at the forefront of innovation and best practice. The curriculum was modernised in 2004 and then subject to an extensive review process between 2008 – 2010 demonstrating the College's ongoing commitment to providing anaesthetic education of the highest possible standard.

### Standard setting

A series of professional documents is maintained by ANZCA. These are an important resource for promoting quality and the safety of patients undergoing anaesthesia for surgical and other procedures and are listed on the ANZCA website. In addition, ANZCA's Quality and Safety Committee oversees and contributes to a range of quality assurance initiatives including incident and mortality reporting, publication of information relevant to the safe practice of anaesthesia, and development of guidelines based on best evidence.

ANZCA regularly conducts accreditation of public and private hospitals, which involves site visits, detailed examination of facilities, caseload, specialist staffing and qualifications, and continuing professional development to ensure the highest standards are met.



### Continuing Professional Development

Participation in the continuing professional development (CPD) program was made mandatory in 2009. ANZCA also runs a series of scientific meetings each year in various locations as part of its CPD program. The biggest is the Annual Scientific Meeting, which rotates to a different location each year. The meeting, attended by up to 2000 people, includes addresses by local and international experts, new techniques and technology, research projects and an extensive workshop program.

There are 16 special interest groups (SIGS) that anaesthetists can join through which they can study and report to ANZCA on specific areas of anaesthesia such as acute pain, day care anaesthesia, obstetrics, and critical care in unusual environments. The SIGs are tripartite bodies with the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.

Through its Faculty of Pain Medicine, ANZCA is also responsible for the education, training and continuing professional development of pain medicine specialists who must undertake two years' training in addition to their parent specialty.

## Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine as a career

Before they can apply for the training program, trainees must have completed two years of general hospital experience after graduation from medical school. This can include up to 12 months in anaesthesia or intensive care but the aim is to ensure a grounding in general medicine and in disciplines other than anaesthesia.

The program consists of five years' supervised training - two years of basic vocational training and three years of advanced vocational training. This comprises 33 months of clinical anaesthesia, three months of intensive care medicine and 24 months of other disciplines.

Assessment is principally by examination but also includes formative assessments by staff in hospitals that are regularly inspected by ANZCA to ensure the highest standards in teaching, supervision and clinical care.

Training in pain medicine can be associated with training in anaesthesia. The Faculty of Pain Medicine within the College is responsible for training within that discipline. Training requirements vary from one to three years depending on primary qualification, previous exposure to pain medicine and experience.

Once anaesthesia training is completed, trainees receive the Diploma of Fellowship of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and they are recognised as specialists with the letters FANZCA after their names.

Further information about a career in anaesthesia and/or pain medicine is available from the College.



# ANZCA and the community

## Research

ANZCA has a proud record in funding important research which has led to significant improvements in patient safety and alleviation of pain and suffering. Each year more than \$600,000 is allocated from College funds to support important research projects.

The ANZCA Foundation was relaunched in 2007 to attract extra funding for research and education.

The Foundation's aim is to increase the safety and comfort of patients undergoing anaesthesia, to improve outcomes of critically ill patients and to improve the treatment of acute pain, cancer pain and persistent non-cancer pain.

ANZCA also has a Trials Group that aims to improve the evidence base of anaesthesia by developing and conducting high quality, multi-centre randomised controlled trials. These can include assessing new procedures and equipment.

## Advising government

ANZCA is actively involved in preparing submissions in response to a range of government policy initiatives as well as specific inquiries.

This includes submitting data to Australian and New Zealand medical organisations such as the AMC and MCNZ and the New Zealand Ministry of Health and Clinical Training Agency Board.

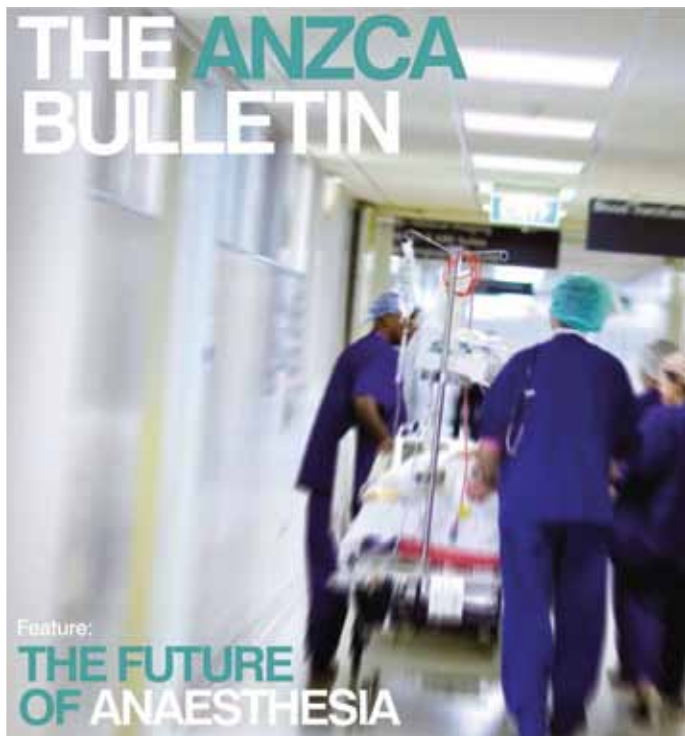
It also involves supplying information and workforce information to health departments to maintain reasonable ratios of anaesthetists to populations and compiling data on patient safety.

## Communications

ANZCA's communications unit produces a quarterly *ANZCA Bulletin*, six-weekly *ANZCA E-Newsletter*, Annual Report and oversees content on the ANZCA website – [www.anzca.edu.au](http://www.anzca.edu.au).

The communications unit is also responsible for disseminating public information through other publications and via the media.

ANZCA also has a well resourced library to assist Fellows with information about clinical or research issues and a museum about the historical aspects of anaesthesia with regular conducted tours for the public.



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