



PRESIDENT  
Professor  
David A Scott  
MB, BS, PhD, FANZCA,  
FFPMANZCA

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

ABN 82 055 042 852

*Advancing anaesthesia,  
improving patient care*

September 1, 2017

Honourable Brad Hazzard MLA  
Minister for Health  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: [wakehurst@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wakehurst@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
[office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Hon Brad Hazzard,

**Re: Meeting request**

I am writing to you in light of the recent media report on 31 August 2017 regarding an alleged unsafe breast implant procedure in a Chippendale Clinic in NSW. I would like an opportunity to meet with you to discuss safe sedation.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to high standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine. As the education and training body responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthesia and pain medicine for Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia, ANZCA is committed to ongoing continuous improvement, promoting best practice and contributing to a high quality health system.

The medical specialty of anaesthesia is critical to the provision of safe and effective anaesthesia and perioperative care for patients. This is achieved through my College's involvement in setting professional standards in its role as the standard-setting body for anaesthesia and pain medicine specialists in Australia and New Zealand. ANZCA's quality improvement initiatives include anaesthesia mortality reviews, collection of patient outcome data, publishing information relevant to the safe practice of anaesthesia, preparing evidence based guidelines, and advocating for improved patient care.

Risks associated with the administration of anaesthetic and sedative drugs are significant - as highlighted by this recent media story. The adverse incidents resulting from anaesthesia can be rapid and unpredictable, and as such, we consider that any diagnostic or surgical procedures that require intravenous sedation must be carried out in a licensed facility with appropriate staffing, equipment and access to emergency support.

While ANZCA notes your Government has made steps to consider regulations in relation to private health facilities and provided feedback to your Department in July 2017, as part of the consultation on draft *Private Health Facilities Regulation 2017* (the Regulation), these recent events reported in the media highlight the urgency for having in place, minimum standards for the provision of safe, appropriate and quality health care for patients in private health facilities in New South Wales.

Some of the broad principles of safe sedation covered in my College's professional documents essential for procedures such as breast implants, are as follows:

**Staff:** Day surgery procedures, using general anaesthesia (including sedation), neuraxial anaesthesia, or local or regional anaesthesia involving significant doses of local anaesthetics, must be managed by a suitably qualified medical practitioner;

**Facility:** The facility should be designed specifically for the management of a day surgery/procedure patient;

**Equipment:** Day theatre facilities and equipment should be comparable to inpatient theatres. Provision of resuscitation equipment including oxygen and suction must be provided and available; and

**Emergency Plan:** A clear emergency response plan to recognise and manage patient deterioration must be in place. There must be a clear plan for patient transfer if required.

Given the serious nature of this latest reported incident, I request to meet with you and relevant departmental representatives to discuss safe sedation as a matter of priority. My College would like to work with your Government to ensure patient safety is paramount when sedation is administered.

For any further information about my availability to meet with you, please contact Jo-anne Chapman, General Manager Policy, Safety and Quality via email [jchapman@anzca.edu.au](mailto:jchapman@anzca.edu.au) or telephone (03) 8517 5341.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor David A Scott**  
**President**