Recommendations on Practice Re-entry for a Specialist Anaesthetist

1. INTRODUCTION

There are some anaesthetists who wish to upgrade their knowledge and clinical skills voluntarily before returning to clinical anaesthesia practice after a prolonged period of absence. This may have been due to a variety of reasons (such as family commitments, practice in another area of medicine, practice overseas in a volunteer capacity, or a long period of illness).

ANZCA considers that in such circumstances, the anaesthetist should be advised to follow an agreed "retraining" or "refreshment of knowledge and skills" program before re-entering independent specialist clinical practice.

2. ANZCA PRACTICE RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

2.1 This program is an educational service by ANZCA for anaesthetists to re-enter specialist anaesthesia practice after an absence of more than 12 months from practising clinical anaesthesia. It involves participation in a program that offers a renewal of experience in current anaesthesia practice.

2.2 The program requires supervised experience in clinical anaesthesia in a hospital or practice for a duration that is appropriate for the participant. This duration would usually be at least four weeks for every year of absence from clinical practice, up to a maximum period to be determined by the supervisor in item 2.3.3.

2.3 The participant must submit an individual program for prospective approval by the College. The program must:

2.3.1 Nominate the hospital department or anaesthesia practice in which the anaesthetist wishes to undertake the practice re-entry program;

2.3.2 Provide details of the clinical experience to be undertaken, and

2.3.3 Enclose an endorsement of the program and its duration by the director of the nominated department or a senior specialist anaesthetist in the nominated practice.

2.4 At the completion of the program, the director of department or specialist anaesthetist designated in item 2.3.3 will confirm to the College in writing
that the participant has satisfactorily completed the program. ANZCA will then endorse the participant as having satisfactorily completed a retraining program.

2.5 ANZCA recognises that the circumstances of each anaesthetist wishing to follow this process will vary, and that the program should be tailored to the individual.

2.6 The process described above is distinct from the professional practice review component of the continuing professional development program, and distinct from any process involving assessment of an anaesthetist’s practice at the request of a medical board, council or health authority.

RELATED ANZCA DOCUMENTS

PS16 Statement on the Standards of Practice of a Specialist Anaesthetist

PS57 Statement on Duties of Specialist Anaesthetists

PS58 Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Anaesthesia

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