



ANZCA
FPM

23 April 2026

The Hon Dr Monique Ryan MP
Member for Kooyong
Member of the Australian House of Representatives

Sent via email: Monique.ryan.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Ryan,

On behalf of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network, we stand with you in your work to strengthen Australia's health system through continuing and extending high-quality, clinically relevant research. This letter follows a recent letter sent to you by David A Scott, a former ANZCA president and Kooyong resident.

We know how important medical research is to you and ensuring that it is properly funded by the Australian government.

The ANZCA Clinical Trials Network (CTN) brings together clinicians and researchers across Australia and New Zealand to deliver investigator-led trials that address real-world challenges in anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine. ANZCA's clinical trials are facilitated at more than 130 hospitals, nationally and internationally, bringing together a network of world leaders in research, including rural and regional hospitals. Our CTN investigators have been awarded more than \$A80 million in competitive research grants.

Our trials continue to inform contemporary clinical guidelines and policy. For example, the RELIEF trial, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2018, has directly influenced clinical care to reduce acute kidney injury and surgical site infections after surgery. This evidence was important during the recent national intravenous fluid shortages, balancing the need to preserve limited supplies with the delivery of safe, evidence-based care.

As you know, clinician-led research plays a critical role in translating frontline experience into practical, scalable solutions. ANZCA is keen to advocate constructively alongside policymakers to ensure research remains viable, valued and supported within the broader health landscape and that there is sufficient funding to support a sustainable medical research workforce.

ANZCA is aware of specific examples of outstanding early to mid-career researchers who have been forced to leave academic careers due to a lack of funding.

This is unacceptable as anaesthesia and perioperative services underpin virtually every surgical procedure in Australia's hospitals. A reduction in research directly undermines patient safety, surgical capacity, access to care and hospital performance - making research highly relevant to national health policy and reform priorities.

We would welcome the opportunity to:

- Share our insights in ensuring research is recognised as a key lever for improving health outcomes and hospital performance.
- Identify how ANZCA can assist with collaborative advocacy efforts to continue to strengthen Australia's research capability and health outcomes.

We look forward to working together to ensure Australia fosters a sustainable medical research sector.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Dave Story
ANZCA President (resident of Kooyong)



Prof Tomas Corcoran
ANZCA Clinical Trials Network Executive Chair