



**ANZCA**  
FPM

# 2025 federal election asks – ANZCA priorities

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is one of the largest medical colleges in Australia and New Zealand.

We are responsible for the postgraduate training, examination and specialist accreditation of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians.

There are more than 8500 specialist anaesthetists and more than 600 specialist pain medicine physicians who have met our rigorous training or assessment requirements to become a fellow. We have more than 2000 specialists-in-training (in our five-year anaesthesia training program and our two-year pain medicine training program).

Setting and fostering the highest standards of clinical practice, safety and high-quality patient care is at the heart of everything we do.

ANZCA accredits hospital departments of anaesthesia for training, however, does not set the number of training places. The number of trainees and new Australian anaesthetists is controlled by state and territory health departments and their affiliated hospitals.



ANZCA requests that the federal government considers and delivers on the following six priorities and calls for action:



Greater **ANZCA involvement and pilot evaluation** of the **expedited specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) pathway** for anaesthesia to ensure patient safety remains priority.



Support ANZCA in our role to **train more anaesthetists by funding more training positions** so the specialist anaesthesia workforce pipeline can meet growing demand.



Implementation of **tangible workforce solutions focusing on servicing rural and regional areas to recruit and retain doctors in those areas**, helping address unique healthcare needs and reducing reliance on visiting and locum staff.



Increase the number of **Specialist Training Program (STP) positions** with greater certainty in future STP funding to allow greater access to specialist care in rural and remote Australian communities.



Improve access to **specialist pain medicine services** to enhance the health and quality of life of chronic pain patients and ensure a sustainable economic and multidisciplinary solution is supported.



Embed **perioperative medicine in health system reform** where the value and benefits of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals working together on their patients' surgical journeys will improve the patient experience, reduce postoperative complications, reduce inpatient hospital days and reduce early re-admissions following surgery.

*We welcome a meeting with you and your staff to discuss these priority areas further.*