



ANZCA

FPM

25 May 2026

Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing of Australia
Australian Government

Sent via email: mark.butler.mp@aph.gov.au
Minister.butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Butler

Request for meeting - June 2026

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) would like to request a meeting with you during our upcoming visit to Canberra on Monday 29 June 2026.

ANZCA represents over 10,000 fellows, trainees and specialist international medical graduates (SIMGs) in the fields of anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine. We work closely with governments to support safe, high-quality and evidence-based specialist training, standards and ongoing professional development across Australia and New Zealand.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss some priority items the college is leading and where government collaboration will be important.

- **National launch of the Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education at Parliament House**

Our primary purpose for being in Canberra is the launch of these standards - the first evidence-based framework for pain management education across all health disciplines and levels of training. They establish a consistent foundation for workforce capability and quality and represent a significant step forward in addressing the burden of pain across Australia. You have already received a separate invitation for this launch.

- **Launch of a streamlined process for producing dual qualified anaesthetists and intensivists**

ANZCA and the College of Intensive Care Medicine recently launched an innovative recognition process for combining training towards a dual anaesthesia and intensive care qualification, reducing the length of time it takes to complete both training programs by up to 2.5 years. There is significant value in the transferability of these critical skills, particularly in regional areas.

- **Enhancing regional and rural training, including pain medicine capability.**

The college has developed pathways that enable trainees to complete approximately 80 per cent of their training in regional and rural settings, increasing the likelihood of long-term specialist retention in those communities. We are continuing to expand these pathways across Australia, with pain medicine capability an area of growing priority.

- **Perioperative medicine – effective in improving patient outcomes and reducing costs**

President
Dean
CEO

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists
& Faculty of Pain Medicine

Evidence suggests that perioperative medicine is one of the most effective ways the health system can improve patient outcomes while reducing health care costs. We have developed a [short video and booklet](#) to communicate the benefits of benefits of perioperative medicine and would like to brief you on how perioperative care models can be scaled across the system.

- **Commence practical work with governments as an early exemplar under Workforce Schedule G of the National Health Reform Agreement**

The college is committed to working with governments and the Health Workforce Taskforce on a coordinated, interjurisdictional approach to specialist medical workforce planning and reform. ANZCA offers a low risk, high value starting point as anaesthesia is embedded across almost all acute hospital activity, making the specialty a critical function for broader system pressures and opportunities.

- **Chronic pain – a growing national health and workforce challenge**

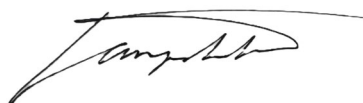
One in five Australians live with chronic pain, placing it among the nation's leading causes of disability, reduced workforce participation and escalating health system costs. While the Standards launch (indicated above_ addresses the education and workforce capability gap, significant challenges remain in access to timely, multidisciplinary pain care. This includes greater recognition of the critical role specialist pain medicine physicians play in delivering complex care. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss policy and system actions required to support the Australian health system in this space.

Our work closely aligns with the government's focus on improving access to specialists, reducing waiting times and length of stay, supporting a sustainable health workforce, and strengthening system efficiency. We would value the opportunity to discuss these items further, identifying practical areas for collaboration.

We would welcome the opportunity of meeting on Monday 29 June 2026 (afternoon) while we are in Canberra.

Our office would be happy to coordinate availability via ceo@anzca.edu.au.

Your sincerely,



Dr Tanya Selak
ANZCA President



Prof Michael Veltman
FPM Dean



Dr Lance Emerson
ANZCA CEO