



# ANZCA

FPM

CEO

Australian and New Zealand  
College of Anaesthetists

2 February 2026

Dr Shirley Bowen  
Director General  
Western Australian Department of Health  
Sent via email: shirley.bowen@health.wa.gov.au

Dear Dr Bowen,

In December 2025, I commenced as chief executive officer of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), one of the largest medical colleges in Australia and New Zealand.

As you would appreciate, the college is responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, setting and fostering the highest standards of clinical practice, safety and high-quality patient care in anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine.

There are 122 active ANZCA anaesthesia trainees in WA working at 11 teaching hospitals across the state. WA also has 678 active ANZCA fellows and 30 overseas trained specialists on the ANZCA Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) pathway.

The Western Australian Rotational Anaesthetic Training Program (WARATP) is run on behalf of all WA anaesthesia training hospitals to administer the selection and placement of trainees to allow the completion of ANZCA training requirements in the core and specialised study units.

Our WA Regional Committee has been working in recent months on identifying anaesthesia training and workforce gaps, issues and opportunities.

In February, ANZCA Council is meeting in Perth when President, Professor David Story, the Faculty of Pain Medicine Dean, Dr Dilip Kapur and I are taking that opportunity to meet with WA's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Andrew Jamieson, from 1.30-2.30pm on 20 February. This follows a positive meeting with previous CMO Dr Simon Towler, in December where we discussed WA's draft Statement of Intent.

If suitable, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you beforehand or as part of this meeting to discuss relevant issues relating to anaesthesia and its clinical practice across the state, including anaesthesia training, supply and demand of trainees and fellows, SIMGs and training networks.

I look forward to working with you and your department closely.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Lance Emerson**  
Chief Executive Officer

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