



ANZCA
FPM

18 September 2026

Attention: National Standards Program
NSQHS Standards (third edition)
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Via email: NSQHSSThirdEdition@safetyandquality.gov.au

Draft National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards (third edition) consultation – ANZCA feedback

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the updated NSQHS standards (standards) developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission).

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is committed to setting the highest standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine. As one of the largest medical colleges in Australia, ANZCA is responsible for the binational postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, and promoting best practice and high-quality care. The active engagement with community representatives is central to our decision-making to ensure that safe, high-quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine meets community expectations.

ANZCA notes that a simplified structure comprising three overarching standards is proposed to deliver the shared vision of high-quality care for everyone. In regard to the Person-Centred Practice Standard, ANZCA notes the emphasis on building trusting relations between the health care workers and patients (and their families / carers).

ANZCA advocates the following core elements of person-centred care should include:

- **Biopsychosocial integration:** which incorporates the biophysical, psychological, cultural and social elements of a person's life and health history in understanding a person's experience (with regards to pain and its impact). This approach promotes self-determined decision-making and active patient self-management of their condition.
- **Cultural safety and trauma-informed care:** emphasises the importance of psychological safety and cultural responsiveness. ANZCA recognises that health inequities exist between different cultures that present barriers to accessing timely, quality, individualised health care (*PS62 Position statement on cultural competence and cultural safety 2024*). A culturally safe health care system is supported by ensuring a diverse healthcare workforce. For consistency, we recommend that the importance of a diverse workforce is noted within the Patient Centred Practice Standard (in addition to Safe Clinical Systems Standard).
- **Shared decision-making:** ANZCA's perioperative end-of-life care guidelines (*PG67(G) Guideline for the care of patients at the end-of-life who are considered for surgery or interventional procedures 2022*) encourages clinicians and patients to work together to select treatments based on clinical evidence and patient's informed preferences but notes that most clinicians struggle with treatment limitation decisions. We recommend that standard 2.02 factors in end-of-life care.

Yours sincerely,

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ANZCA Safety & Quality Committee Chair