



ANZCA
FPM

President

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

20 March 2026

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

By email: CCS@safetyandquality.gov.au

Cc email: Carolyn.HULLICK@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Professor Duggan

Future work on perioperative medicine clinical care standards

I am writing to express our interest in collaborating on developing a Clinical Care Standard addressing the fundamental elements of perioperative care.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine and Chapter of Perioperative Medicine, is committed to setting the highest standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine.

At a recent meeting of the board of our Chapter of Perioperative Medicine, members discussed the possibility that a Clinical Care Standard on perioperative care might be included in the commission's future work plan. There was strong support for ANZCA and our partners from other specialist medical colleges collaborating with the Commission should such work proceed.

A recent study published in *The Lancet Public Health* underscores the urgent need to rethink and standardise perioperative care pathways, further emphasising the importance of developing a clinical care standard.

As part of establishing the Chapter of Perioperative Medicine within ANZCA, we have formed a multidisciplinary Advocacy and Policy Committee comprising anaesthetists, surgeons, intensivists, geriatricians, general medicine physicians and general practitioners.

This committee provides advice on guidance required for clinicians providing specialist-led perioperative medicine services, and contributes to the development and revision of professional documents within ANZCA's portfolio. We believe this structure places the college in a strong position to contribute constructively to the development of a national Clinical Care Standard on this subject.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how a partnership approach might best support the development of a Clinical Care Standard for perioperative care. Please let me know a suitable time to meet, I can be contacted at president@anzca.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Dave Story
President

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