

# FPM

Faculty of Pain Medicine  
ANZCA

2026–2027

*Australian Government Pre-Budget Submission*

## Advancing Goal 2 of the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education

*Building a national pain education  
and competency framework for  
health practitioners*



## Executive summary

Following the successful completion of Goal 1 of the [National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education](#) (the Strategy) which delivered the world's first Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education ("Standards"), the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) within the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), seeks \$660,000 over 18 months to deliver Goal 2 of the Strategy.

Delivering Goal 2 will operationalise the Standards through a nationally consistent pain management competency and capability framework, supported by practical self-assessment, curriculum mapping and implementation tools. This will enable consistent, scalable and measurable implementation of the Standards across a range of health disciplines, education levels and community contexts and provide clear guidance to those creating education programs.

This targeted investment will:



Deliver a nationally endorsed competency and capability framework with practical tools for implementation.



Enable curriculum reform and alignment across universities, training programs and professional groups.



Strengthen workforce capability, cultural safety and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other priority and under-served populations.



Strengthen supervision and clinical practice in primary, community and specialist care.

The Commonwealth's investment in Goal 1 has established a strong national foundation. Goal 2 represents a low-risk, high-value continuation of this investment, focused on implementation, consistency and measurable workforce impact. It is the essential next step to ensure these Standards are embedded effectively and consistently across the country and ensure they deliver tangible improvements in care and outcomes.

*Chronic pain places a \$139 billion annual burden on the Australian economy. Improving health practitioner capability is one of the most cost-effective and scalable strategies for improving outcomes and reducing avoidable demand on the health system.*

## 1. Why Goal 2 is needed now

The national consultation undertaken as part of Goal 1 demonstrated strong sector support for the Standards, while also delivering a consistent message: additional infrastructure is required to enable effective implementation.

Feedback from universities, peak bodies, health services and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) confirmed readiness to adopt the Standards. However, stakeholders consistently emphasised that adoption will not be achievable or sustainable without a nationally consistent competency and capability framework and accompanying implementation tools.

**The stakeholder quotes illustrated below are drawn directly from the major consultation undertaken as part of Goal 1 work in June 2025.**

*"We will use the Standards to guide curriculum development and identify gaps."*

*"We need practical tools to support cultural safety, rural practice and trauma-informed care."*

*"Curriculum development is expensive – it will be excellent if someone has already developed the frameworks."*

*"The breadth and depth of these Standards is aspirational. We need examples and practical tools to implement them."*

*"A 'mapping' document to the NSQHS. Having these standards directly aligned with them will increase buy-in."*

*"Development of a checklist that can be utilised to review education offerings against the standards would be helpful."*

Four common themes emerged, each aligning directly with the proposed outputs of Goal 2:

1. **Clear, practical competencies/capabilities** that define expected knowledge, skills and behaviours across professions and levels of practice.
2. **Self-assessment and curriculum mapping tools** to enable organisations to assess existing education and training against national expectations.
3. **Structured guidance on implementation across diverse settings and professions**, including examples of learning outcomes, supervision expectations and education design.
4. **National consistency and alignment**, supported by a shared competency and capability framework recognised across accreditation, regulatory and education systems.

Without timely investment in Goal 2, there is a material risk that implementation of the National Standards will be fragmented, inequitable and unsustainable. This would significantly dilute the return on the Commonwealth's initial investment and entrench existing variation in pain management capability, particularly in rural, regional and under-resourced settings.

## 2. FPM's leadership and successful delivery of Goal 1

FPM is the world's first medical academy dedicated to pain medicine and has a long track record of national leadership in education, standards and workforce development.

Recent work includes:

- Leading the development of Australia's National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education
- Delivering Goal 1, funded by the Commonwealth, culminating in the first set of Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education (February 2024 – October 2025).

Goal 1 has now been delivered, with the faculty completing all required research, engagement and co-design activities and establishing the foundations needed for national implementation.

Key achievements include:

- **Governance:** The establishment of a highly engaged governance advisory group representing all major sectors and professions.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Extensive multidisciplinary and cross-sector consultation and engagement across multiple health practitioner disciplines and levels of education, specialist services, primary care, consumer groups and priority populations.
- **Evidence and analysis:** Completion of national literature, policy and practice mapping. Rigorous thematic analysis and validation process ensured the Standards reflect contemporary practice and community expectations.
- **National endorsement:** The Standards were strongly endorsed by stakeholders for their emphasis on person centred care, cultural safety, communication, collaboration and evidence-based practice.
- **Output:** A dedicated digital hub provides a national platform for dissemination, engagement and future scaling of the standards. (The hub will go live following formal approval of the Standards by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing).



### 3. Goal 2: National pain management competency and capability framework

Aim
To develop, pilot and nationally promote a competency and capability framework that translates the Standards into clear, practical and measurable expectations across all professions and service settings.
Key features
<p>The framework will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Define observable competencies and levels of capability for pain management education.</li><li>Provide a common reference point for curriculum design, staff development and accreditation.</li><li>Embed cultural safety, gender-responsive care, trauma-informed practice and rural/remote relevance.</li><li>Co-designed with consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, rural/remote stakeholders, peak bodies, educators and clinicians.</li></ul>
Outputs (FY 2026–2027) – What will success look like?
<p><b>a. National competency and capability framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Multidisciplinary, evidence-informed, and tailored to Australian contexts.</li><li>Structured across levels of practice and service environments.</li><li>Adopted by education providers, specialist colleges and health services as the reference point for pain management education.</li></ul> <p><b>b. Self-assessment and curriculum mapping tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Practical checklists, templates and mapping guides.</li><li>Pilot testing across a representative sample of universities, health services and ACCHOs.</li></ul> <p><b>c. Guidance on alignment with accreditation, regulation and safety standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clear links to National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS), profession-specific accreditation standards, and existing clinical care standards.</li><li>Enabling implementation without additional compliance burden.</li></ul> <p><b>d. National implementation program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-branded resources, webinars, workshops and digital tools.</li><li>Targeted engagement with priority groups, including rural/remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.</li><li>Early evidence of improved workforce capability and confidence in pain management practice, supporting safer, more consistent care and improved patient outcomes over time.</li></ul>

Outputs will be developed iteratively, with early piloting and validation informing national rollout and final implementation resources.

This work directly builds on the commitments outlined in the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education, and addresses gaps identified during consultation.

## 4. Investment required

A total of **\$660,000 over 18 months** will support:

Project team staffing, including expertise in pedagogy, evaluation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnership roles.

National co-design, piloting and consultation.

Development and dissemination of tools and implementation resources.

This investment will leverage the strong national foundation and governance structure already established through Goal 1.

### Value for money

By providing a single, nationally endorsed framework and implementation toolkit, this investment avoids the need for multiple jurisdictions, universities and professional groups to independently develop parallel competency frameworks, representing a significant efficiency gain across the system.

This is a modest, targeted investment that builds directly on Commonwealth supported and published strategies, existing Commonwealth funding and governance structures and delivers durable national value. It will:

- reduce duplication across jurisdictions, universities and professional groups.
- improve workforce capability and confidence.
- support earlier, more effective care and reduce avoidable acute presentations.
- provide a durable framework with long-term value across all health professions.

Clarifying expected competencies and capabilities, and providing practical implementation tools will shift the Standards from principles to practice, improving outcomes for patients and supporting workforce development.

## 5. Chronic pain context and problem

Chronic pain is one of Australia's most significant and complex health challenges. It affects millions of Australians, is a leading cause of healthcare use, and has profound impacts on wellbeing, productivity, and workforce participation. Despite its prevalence, up to 80% of people living with chronic pain do not receive best-practice care.

The burden on the health system is substantial. Chronic pain contributes to an estimated 12–16% of emergency department presentations. A single hospital admission for conditions such as low back pain can cost between \$13,000 and \$15,000. Nationally, chronic pain is estimated to cost \$139 billion annually, including \$48.3 billion in lost productivity and workforce participation.

These impacts are felt most acutely by priority populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people in rural and remote communities, women, older Australians, and those living with multiple chronic conditions. Inconsistent access to culturally safe, multidisciplinary and evidence informed care compounds existing inequities.

A key driver of this problem is variable and fragmented pain management education. Despite strong evidence for interdisciplinary biopsychosocial approaches to pain, education and training remain inconsistent across professions, settings and jurisdictions.

Persistent challenges include:

- **A continued reliance on biomedical models within many education and training pathways**, including specialist medical training programs, with limited and inconsistent integration of contemporary multidisciplinary, biopsychosocial and culturally safe approaches to pain management. This contributes to uneven and insufficient pain education across universities, training programs and professional groups.
- **Slow translation of research into education and clinical practice**, with evidence-based advances in pain management often taking more than a decade to be reflected in education and routine clinical care.
- **Significant variation in training quality**, particularly in key capability areas such as communication, cultural safety, opioid stewardship, and pain care in rural and remote settings.
- **A lack of national consistency to support curriculum reform and educator capability at scale**.

These challenges directly undermine the objectives of the [National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions](#), which calls for coordinated, equitable and evidence-informed care across all settings. Without national consistency in practitioner education, the ability to deliver this vision is compromised.

## 6. Alignment with Australian Government priorities

Goal 2 aligns with key Australian Government health and workforce priorities, including the Chronic Conditions Prevention and Integrated Care Program and the refreshed [National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions](#). The nationally consistent framework developed under Goal 2 will also provide a strong foundation that can be leveraged by jurisdictions, services and future grant recipients under the Chronic Conditions Prevention and Integrated Care Program.

It supports these priorities by strengthening prevention and early intervention through improved practitioner capability; embedding integrated, multidisciplinary and person-centred care across settings; improving management of multimorbidity; and advancing health equity through culturally safe education and targeted implementation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, and rural and remote communities.

Goal 2 also contributes to health workforce reform, mental health and suicide prevention, and safety and quality agendas by delivering a nationally consistent, scalable competency and capability framework that can be leveraged across future chronic conditions and workforce initiatives.

# ALIGNMENT WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



## GOAL 2



### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Ensures cultural safety, community-led approaches and two-way learning are embedded in training.



### Health workforce reform

Strengthens national capability by embedding contemporary pain education across training pathways.



### Mental health and suicide prevention

Enhances trauma-informed communication and biopsychosocial approaches to care.



### National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions

Supports equitable access to evidence-based, person-centred care.



### Rural and remote health reform

Builds capability where workforce shortages and training gaps are most acute.



### Women's health and gender equality

Addresses documented disparities in pain recognition and management.

## 7. Conclusion

The completion of Goal 1 represents a significant national achievement. The sector is ready to act, but requires structured, competency-based tools to do so effectively and consistently.

Funding Goal 2 in the 2026–27 Budget will consolidate the Commonwealth's initial investment, enable national adoption of the Standards, and deliver measurable improvements in care, equity and system sustainability.

FPM welcomes the opportunity to work with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to align Goal 2 with the new Chronic Conditions Prevention and Integrated Care Program and ensure strong integration with future funding priorities.

### Contact details

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## References

1. Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. National strategic framework for chronic conditions. Canberra: Australian Government. 2017.
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THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
PAIN SOCIETY

1 February 2026

The Hon Mark Butler MP  
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Re: Support for Goal 2 of the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education**

Dear Minister Butler,

On behalf of the Australian Pain Society, the national peak body for multidisciplinary professionals working in pain research, education and clinical care, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Faculty of Pain Medicine's proposal to progress Goal 2 of the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education.

The Australian Pain Society represents clinicians, researchers and educators across medicine, nursing, psychology, physiotherapy, pharmacy and allied health who work collaboratively to improve outcomes for the many Australians living with persistent pain. Chronic pain remains one of Australia's most significant and costly health challenges, affecting around one in five Australians and contributing substantially to health service use, reduced workforce participation and diminished quality of life. Strengthening the capability of the health workforce to deliver contemporary, evidence-based pain care is therefore a critical national priority.

The Australian Pain Society was pleased to support the development of the National Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education through representation on the Governance Advisory Group, and we thank the Faculty of Pain Medicine for the collaborative and inclusive process. Our representative, Sinan Tejani, made a valued contribution to the deliberations, and the Australian Pain Society welcomed the opportunity to help ensure the Standards reflect multidisciplinary, person-centred and best-practice approaches to pain management.

Goal 1 has established an important foundation by articulating clear and contemporary expectations for pain education across professions. Goal 2 is now the essential next step. The development of a national competency and capability framework, together with practical implementation and self-assessment tools, will support consistent uptake of the Standards across university curricula, vocational and specialist training programs, and clinical services.

Progressing Goal 2 will:

- establish nationally consistent expectations for pain management capability
- support curriculum reform and alignment across education and training pathways
- strengthen interdisciplinary practice and supervision
- improve equity, cultural safety and access to care, particularly for people in

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rural and remote communities and other underserved populations

- enhance the preparedness of both the current and future workforce to deliver safe, effective and person-centred pain care

The Australian Pain Society strongly supports this investment as we see first-hand the variability in pain education and capability across the workforce. Consistent, nationally aligned training will help reduce unwarranted variation in care, improve consumer outcomes, and support more coordinated, multidisciplinary models of pain management across Australia's health system.

As part of a united sector committed to improving the lives of Australians living with pain, the Australian Pain Society encourages the Australian Government to fund the progression of Goal 2 in the 2026–27 Budget.

Thank you for your leadership in this area. The Australian Pain Society would welcome the opportunity to continue working collaboratively to strengthen pain education and care nationally.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Smith MAPS, MSciMed(Pain Mgmt)  
**President, Australian Pain Society**



January 24, 2026

The Hon Mark Butler  
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## Letter of support: A mission-oriented approach to Progressing the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education

Dear Minister Butler,

On behalf of the Australian Pain Solutions Research Alliance, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Faculty of Pain Medicine's (FPM) request for Commonwealth investment to progress Goal 2 of the *National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education*. This initiative represents a critical, mission-oriented investment in Australia's health, research, and innovation landscape, directly aligning with the national priority of supporting healthy and thriving communities.

Chronic pain remains one of Australia's most significant health challenges, affecting one in five Australians and imposing an annual economic burden of \$139.3<sup>i</sup> billion, including healthcare costs, lost productivity, and broader social impacts. Behind these figures are people whose lives, families, and futures are profoundly shaped by inadequate access to timely, evidence-based pain care. This burden falls disproportionately on women, older Australians, First Nations peoples, and communities in rural and remote areas, where access to best-practice care is most limited, underscoring the urgent need for equitable solutions that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals for good health, quality education, and reduced inequalities.

### **A mission-oriented approach to a national challenge**

This proposal represents a coordinated, cross-sectoral effort to tackle a complex national challenge. By uniting universities, health services, professional bodies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), and consumers, we are mobilising the entire ecosystem to achieve a shared mission: to transform pain care in Australia through a nationally consistent and high-quality education framework.

#### **Goal 1 successfully delivered: A foundation for transformation**

During 2024-2025, FPM, with Commonwealth support, successfully delivered Goal 1 of the National Strategy: Australia's first National Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education. These standards, shaped through deep engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including a strong consumer voice championed by the Australian Pain Solutions Research Alliance (APSRA), set a clear, contemporary benchmark for high-quality pain education.

#### **Goal 2 is now essential to bring the Standards to life**

The development of a national competency and capability framework, supported by practical implementation tools and self-assessment resources, is the critical next step to ensure these Standards are embedded consistently across education programs, clinical training pathways, and service settings. This directly addresses the Australian Universities Accord's emphasis on workforce readiness and the National Health and Medical Research Strategy's goal of building a sustainable pipeline from discovery to implementation.

Progressing Goal 2 will:

- Establish nationally consistent, role-specific expectations for foundational and advanced pain management knowledge and skills, fostering a more capable and adaptable workforce.
- Enable universities, professional bodies, and services to develop and map curricula and training against the Standards, supporting the translation of research into practice, a key focus of the Strategic Examination of Research and Development (SERD).
- Support culturally safe, contemporary, and equitable pain education, particularly for First Nations communities and rural and remote settings, directly aligning with the national priority of elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems.
- Strengthen the capability of the current and future workforce to prevent, identify, and manage pain effectively, leading to improved health outcomes and a more resilient health system.
- Improve access to safe, timely, and person-centred pain care across Australia, reducing the economic and social burden of chronic pain.
- Create opportunities for innovation and commercialisation through the development of new educational tools, platforms, and resources, contributing to a 'Future Made in Australia'.

**This investment will strengthen education, clinical practice, and workforce capability across the entire pain sector, ensuring the Standards deliver real, measurable improvements in care for the millions of Australians living with pain.** As part of a united sector, we strongly encourage the Australian Government to support FPM's proposal to progress Goal 2 and to continue this nationally significant reform. This investment will improve the quality, equity, and consistency of pain education and care, and ultimately transform outcomes for people whose lives are profoundly affected by chronic pain.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Mark Hutchinson**

**Chair, Australian Pain Solutions Research Alliance**

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<sup>1</sup> Deloitte Access Economics. The Cost of Pain in Australia. Canberra: Deloitte Access Economics; 2019.



January 30, 2026

The Hon Mark Butler  
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Letter of support: Progressing the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education**

Dear Minister Butler

On behalf of Painaustralia, I would like to express our strong support for the Faculty of Pain Medicine's (FPM) request for Commonwealth investment to progress Goal 2 of the *National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education*.

Chronic pain remains one of Australia's most significant health challenges, affecting one in five Australians and imposing an annual economic burden of \$139.3<sup>i</sup> billion including healthcare costs, lost productivity and broader social impacts. Behind these figures are people whose lives, families and futures are profoundly shaped by inadequate access to timely, evidence-based pain care. This burden falls disproportionately on women, older Australians, First Nations peoples, and communities in rural and remote areas, where access to best-practice care is most limited.

**Goal 1 successfully delivered**

During 2024-2025, FPM led the development of (Goal 1) Australia's first National Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education, setting clear, contemporary expectations for what high-quality pain education should include across disciplines and sectors. Critically, they were shaped through deep engagement with universities, regulators, health networks, professional bodies, ACCHOs, specialist services and consumers reflecting the sector's shared commitment to building a more capable and equitable workforce.

**Goal 2 is now essential to bring the Standards to life**

Developing a national competency and capability framework supported by practical implementation tools and self-assessment resources to ensure the Standards are embedded consistently across education programs, clinical training pathways and service settings

Progressing Goal 2 will:

- Establish nationally consistent, role-specific expectations for foundational and advanced pain management knowledge and skills
- Enable universities, professional bodies and services to develop and map curricula and training against the Standards
- Support culturally safe, contemporary and equitable pain education particularly for First Nations communities and rural and remote settings
- Strengthen the capability of the current and future workforce to prevent, identify and manage pain effectively
- Improve access to safe, timely and person-centred pain care across Australia

**This investment will strengthen education, clinical practice and workforce capability across the entire pain sector, ensuring the Standards deliver real, measurable improvements in care for the millions of Australians living with pain**

Alongside other leaders in the pain sector, we strongly encourage the Australian Government to support FPM's proposal to progress Goal 2 and to continue this nationally significant reform. This investment will improve the quality, equity and consistency of pain education and care, and ultimately transform outcomes for people whose lives are profoundly affected by chronic pain.

Yours sincerely,



**Monika Boogs**  
**CEO of Painaustralia**

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<sup>i</sup> Deloitte Access Economics. The Cost of Pain in Australia. Canberra: Deloitte Access Economics; 2019.



January 30, 2026

The Hon Mark Butler  
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Re: Support for Goal 2 of the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education**

Dear Minister Butler

On behalf of Chronic Pain Australia, the national, consumer-led peak body representing the 3.6 million Australians living with chronic pain, we are pleased to express our support for the Faculty of Pain Medicine's (FPM) proposal to progress Goal 2 of the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education.

Chronic pain is one of Australia's most significant health challenges, affecting one in five Australians and costing the nation billions in healthcare usage, lost productivity and broader social impacts. Chronic Pain Australia's *National Pain Report 2025* and *Kids in Pain Report 2025* identify prolonged wait times, an average of three years to diagnosis, limited access to multidisciplinary care, and highly variable service pathways across the health system. These issues are compounded by the inadequate and inconsistent integration of proportionate, evidence-based pain management across most health professional curricula, contributing to delayed and inconsistent care, and avoidable iatrogenic harm.

In 2025, FPM delivered Goal 1, establishing Australia's first *National Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education*. These Standards provide clear, contemporary expectations for high-quality education across professions and sectors and were shaped through deep engagement with universities, regulators, professional bodies, health networks, specialist services and consumers.

**Goal 2 now represents the critical next step**

Developing a national competency and capability framework supported by practical implementation tools and self-assessment resources to ensure the Standards are embedded consistently across education programs, clinical training pathways and service settings

Progressing Goal 2 will:

- Establish nationally consistent expectations for pain management capability
- Support curriculum reform across universities and training programs

- Strengthen clinical practice and supervision across the health and community sectors
- Improve cultural safety, equity and access particularly for priority populations
- Enhance the capability of the current and future workforce to deliver safe, effective and person-centred pain care

Chronic Pain Australia strongly supports this investment because it addresses the critical need for consistent, proportionate and evidence-based pain education across the health workforce, and responds directly to demonstrated service gaps, workforce capability needs and consumer priorities identified through CPA's national reporting.

We believe that progressing Goal 2 will meaningfully strengthen education and clinical capability across Australia's health workforce and ensure the Standards translate into consistent, high-quality care for people living with pain.

As part of a united sector, we encourage the Australian Government to support this important national reform and fund the progression of Goal 2 in the 2026–27 Budget.

Yours sincerely,



**Nicolette Ellis**

**Chair**

**Chronic Pain Australia**

January 30, 2026

The Hon Mark Butler  
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **Letter of support: Progressing the National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education**

Dear Minister Butler

As representatives of key bodies within the pain sector we write with a unified voice to express our strong support for the Faculty of Pain Medicine's (FPM) request for Commonwealth investment to progress Goal 2 of the *National Strategy for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education*.

Chronic pain remains one of Australia's most significant health challenges, affecting one in five Australians and imposing an annual economic burden of \$139.3<sup>i</sup> billion including healthcare costs, lost productivity and broader social impacts. Behind these figures are people whose lives, families and futures are profoundly shaped by inadequate access to timely, evidence-based pain care. This burden falls disproportionately on women, older Australians, First Nations peoples, and communities in rural and remote areas, where access to best-practice care is most limited.

### **Goal 1 successfully delivered**

During 2024-2025, FPM led the development of (Goal 1) Australia's first National Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education, setting clear, contemporary expectations for what high-quality pain education should include across disciplines and sectors. Critically, they were shaped through deep engagement with universities, regulators, health networks, professional bodies, ACCHOs, specialist services and consumers reflecting the sector's shared commitment to building a more capable and equitable workforce.

### **Goal 2 is now essential to bring the Standards to life**

Developing a national competency and capability framework supported by practical implementation tools and self-assessment resources to ensure the Standards are embedded consistently across education programs, clinical training pathways and service settings

Progressing Goal 2 will:

- Establish nationally consistent, role-specific expectations for foundational and advanced pain management knowledge and skills
- Enable universities, professional bodies and services to develop and map curricula and training against the Standards
- Support culturally safe, contemporary and equitable pain education particularly for First Nations communities and rural and remote settings
- Strengthen the capability of the current and future workforce to prevent, identify and manage pain effectively
- Improve access to safe, timely and person-centred pain care across Australia

# FPM

Faculty of Pain Medicine  
ANZCA

**This investment will strengthen education, clinical practice and workforce capability across the entire pain sector, ensuring the Standards deliver real, measurable improvements in care for the millions of Australians living with pain**

As a united sector, we strongly encourage the Australian Government to support FPM's proposal to progress Goal 2 and to continue this nationally significant reform. This investment will improve the quality, equity and consistency of pain education and care, and ultimately transform outcomes for people whose lives are profoundly affected by chronic pain.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Dilip Kapur**  
**Dean, Faculty of Pain Medicine**

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<sup>i</sup> Deloitte Access Economics. The Cost of Pain in Australia. Canberra: Deloitte Access Economics; 2019.