



ANZCA
FPM

*Te Whare Tohu o
Te Hau Whakaora*

24 March 2026

Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | Medical Council of New Zealand
By email: strategic@mcnz.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Draft Statements on cultural safety, cultural competence and Hauora Māori.

Te Whare Tohu o Te Hau Whakaora | The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), which includes the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) and Chapter of Perioperative Medicine, thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above statements, which will replace the 2019 Statement on Cultural Safety.

ANZCA is the professional organisation responsible for postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, and for setting the standards of clinical practice throughout Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Our collective membership comprises around 10 000 fellows and trainees in anaesthesia and pain medicine, 1300 of whom work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The college has consulted with our national committees (National Committee NZ and FPM NZ) and education and policy advisors in Australia and Aotearoa, whose feedback informs this submission.

Overview

ANZCA warmly welcomes and supports both statements which clearly and concisely endorse and embed the required deep cultural knowledge, understanding, and self-reflection that underpins safe medical practice and that progresses health equity. The college supports having a separate statement for Hauora Māori both to recognise Māori indigenous rights to good health, self-determination and equity, and because, self-evidently, specific strategies are needed to address the disproportionately poorer health outcomes Māori experience from the health system. Continued and unacceptable disparity provides stark evidence of widespread individual and systemic discrimination and racism in the health system; we tautoko the Medical Council for these important evidence-based statements which provide a foundation for change.

ANZCA is a member of the Council of Medical Colleges | Te Kaunihera o Ngā Kāreti Rata o Aotearoa and supports its submission.

Brief feedback on each of the documents is offered below, but we do recognise the difficulty of balancing coverage of the complex development of (inequitable) societal mores which informs the need for these statements on the one hand, and having a clear, readable document that covers the salient issues on the other. Appending a list of recommended resources would allow for more individual, in-depth exploration as appropriate, without detracting from the focus and accessibility of the statements.

ANZCA consents to any part of this submission being quoted and published.

Statement on cultural competence and cultural safety.

Q 1 & 2 The statement is clearly written and easy to understand. The introduction provides a clear rationale for the statements – to address the determinants of health and improve outcomes for patients and communities.

The expectations which follow are reasonable and proportionate. They are clearly aligned to addressing the comprehensive range of personal and systemic forms of discrimination identified, including assumptions, cultural appropriation and appreciation, privilege and underprivilege, family structures, power imbalances, and cultural overload. The tone of the statement is balanced and supportive.

1.b – insert ‘the’ before health system.

Q 3 & 4 The college accepts the statement as complete with nothing further to be added or withdrawn. We acknowledge the concerns of other medical colleges as per the CMC submission, however, and would be comfortable with their recommendations regarding:

- further clarification of cultural competence and cultural safety
- linking to the *Good Medical Practice* framework
- including cultural safety outside the clinical interaction
- explaining the term ‘cultural appropriation’.

Statement on Hauora Māori (Māori health and wellbeing)

Q 5 & 6 the statement is clearly written and easy to understand and the expectations –

- to understand indigenous rights to good health, self-determination and equity
- understand and respect Māori culture
- advance equity for Maori

are reasonable and proportionate. They are consistent with ANZCA’s [Te Tiriti o Waitangi Action Plan 2025-2028](#). The college particularly welcomes the final paragraph conveying the purpose of the statement leading to “*results* in equitable outcomes for Māori compared to non-Maori health outcomes”(ANZCA emphasis).

Q 7 & 8 As the responsibilities the statement outlines are now distinct from those identified in the Statement on Cultural Competence and Safety, you may wish to consider adding a sentence to clarify that *The following expectations apply to all registered medical practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand*.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty of Waitangi refer to two different documents; the former, being indigenous, is the one officially recognised by the United Nations and should always be used. It may be useful to append an explanation of the term ‘colonisation’ in the context of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on these important statements.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Dempsey
Chair, New Zealand National Committee



Brendan Little
Deputy Chair, New Zealand National Committee