

2026 International Women's Day (IWD)

Resource pack

In celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) on Sunday 8 March 2026, the College and the [Gender Equity Sub-Committee](#) (GESC) encourage you to reflect on the collated **resource pack** that showcases our women in medicine to help prompt personal reflections and discussions with colleagues.

[International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#) is a global day of recognition and celebration, acknowledging the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while also highlighting the ongoing work toward gender equity. It is an opportunity for us to come together, reflect, and show our support for an inclusive and equitable workplace and community.

For 2026 the [UN Women haven chosen "Balance the Scales"](#) as their theme, drawing attention to unfair systems and policies that prevent women and girls from being safe, heard, and free to shape their futures, with a specific emphasis on justice system reform.

This theme presents the opportunity for reflection, which is aided by the GESC - [Gender Equity Self-Assessment Quiz \(2023\)](#) which can be used to challenge gender balance and equity practices within your own health services, departments and teams.

Launch of ANZCA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Framework

We're committed to upholding the highest standards in respecting and embracing diversity, while actively promoting inclusion and equity wherever and whenever possible. Released in January 2026 our new [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Framework](#), sets out a clear and unified approach to advancing inclusive, equitable, and respectful environments across the college and the professions we serve.

- [ANZCA statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion](#)
- [ANZCA 2026 - 2028 DEI Roadmap](#)

Watch a video, read an article or revisit the museum's online exhibition – the idea is to take a moment to reflect on the inspirational women who have driven (and continue to drive) change to help balance the scales.

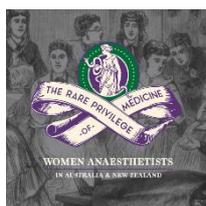
Recordings (video/recording)

- [ANZCA Women in anaesthesia \(YouTube Playlist\)](#)
Watch one or all 21 videos from ANZCA's *Women in anaesthesia* YouTube playlist, with past GESC recordings including:
 - [2025 International Women's Day \(IWD\) Webinar recording](#)
'March Together – Forward': a joint collective initiative of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS).
 - [2024 GESC Menopause matters webinar recording](#)
Gain insights into how menopause affects women in the workplace and gain strategies to best support those affected.
- [2025 WFSA Inspiring change: Women leading the future of anaesthesia and science webinar recording](#)
Webinar organised by World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists' (WFSA) DEI Committee to mark the occasion of the 2025 International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- [2025 ANZCA ASM Plenary presentation recording](#)
Dr Liz Crowe's presentation – 'Sitting in the rubble: coping with grief and loss', for anyone interested in exploring how we can try to futureproof our staff.

Articles

- Allen, K.J., Brahmbhatt, A., Rough, K., Caicedo Salazar, J., Phukubye-Johnson, P. and Desmond, F. (2026), Strategies to advance gender equity in anaesthesia leadership: a state-of-the-art review*. *Anaesthesia*. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.anzca.edu.au/10.1111/anae.70120>
- Carter, J.C., Purcell, N., Stewart, C.H., Pearce, G.C., Balkin, M. and Allen, K.J. (2024), Still a 'boys' club': a qualitative analysis of how gender affects a career in anaesthesia in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. *Anaesthesia*, 79: 694-705. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.anzca.edu.au/10.1111/anae.16281>
- Silver, J.K., Feld, L.D. and Clark Onwunyi, V.R. (2024), Reframing the gender equity discussion in anaesthesiology: adopting best practices to promote physician retention and belonging. *Anaesthesia*, 79: 675-679. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.anzca.edu.au/10.1111/anae.16288>

Online Exhibition



Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History

[The Rare Privilege of Medicine: Women Anaesthetists in Australia and New Zealand](#)

This online exhibition '*The Rare Privilege of Medicine: Women Anaesthetists in Australia and New Zealand*' explores the professional lives of some early women anaesthetists across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Keen on more information

[Gender Equity Library guide](#) - designed for anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians interested in locating resources relevant to gender equity, including those resources available through the ANZCA library.

Gender equity at the 2026 ASM

Those attending ANZCA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 1 – 5 May 2026 in Auckland can explore and discuss gender equity at our key sessions:

- Friday 1 May 2026 W20 - *Menopause for working anaesthetists: A hot topic*
- Friday 1 May 2026 W25 - *WELI: From imposter to intentional - empowering women to communicate consciously*
- Monday 4 May 2026 SA09 - *Equity in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine Breakfast*
- Tuesday 5 May 2026 CS31 - *Gender Equity Sub-committee (GESC) Concurrent session*

Coming soon – Understanding and Addressing Unconscious Bias E-Module

The college will soon release its purpose-built e-modules - *Understanding and Addressing Unconscious Bias* an uplift from the [Gender equity Sub-Committee's \(GESC\) - Unconscious bias toolkit](#) previously released in 2023.

The 60 minute e-module will be made available to members via ANZCA's Learning Management System (LMS) - [Learn@ANZCA](#) with the CPD allocation for [Practice Evaluation – Cultural safety](#).

This resource pack has been designed for the purposes of online use, please connect with ge@anzca.edu.au if you have any issues accessing the links provided.