



ANZCA

FPM

President and CEO

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

19 August 2026

Ms Margaret Bennett OAM
Chief Executive, Southern NSW Local Health District
PO Box 1845
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Via email: SNSWLHD-OfficeOfTheCE@health.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Prof Pooshan Navathé, Executive Director Medical Services
Dr Elizabeth Mullins, Director Medical Services, Coastal

Dear Ms Bennett,

ANZCA support for an anaesthesia training position at South East Regional Hospital, Bega

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is writing to provide our support for the establishment of a rotational anaesthesia training position at South East Regional Hospital, Bega. As part of this establishment, we ask that the district consider committing funding towards this position for the 2027 hospital employment year.

ANZCA's Training Accreditation Committee has approved South East Regional Hospital for vocational training in anaesthesia for 26 weeks, with a further site visit planned for 2027 with the intention of a longer accreditation period. In February 2026, the college's ACT Regional Committee formally supported the hospital's inclusion in the Canberra rotational training scheme for an initial twelve-month period. Canberra Health Services has advised that it can allocate trainees to Bega from 2027. The rotational scheme at South East Regional Hospital was also recently discussed at ANZCA's NSW Regional Committee meeting.

ANZCA's regional and rural workforce strategy prioritises rural training rotations and place-based networks, reflecting consistent evidence that specialists are more likely to practise in the settings in which they trained. Establishing accredited specialist anaesthesia training at Bega is the most reliable way to build and retain a specialist workforce on the far south coast.

As you are aware, jurisdictional governments determine funded training positions, with ANZCA partnering by accrediting training sites, ensuring trainee supervision and maintaining the high standards that make Australian anaesthesia among the safest in the world. We have been working with South East Regional Hospital fellows on Commonwealth Specialist Training Program (STP) funding for 2027, which is provisionally in place. That contribution would not cover the position in full, and district support would be required for the balance.

The college commends the proposal and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you or your team.

For further information, please contact Dr Suyin Tan, Head of Department Anaesthesia, South East Regional Hospital (Suyin.Tan@health.nsw.gov.au), or Joseph Mansour in relation to ANZCA Rural Training Pathways (jmansour@anzca.edu.au).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tanya Selak
President

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Chief
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