



ANZCA

FPM

President and CEO

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

18 June 2026

Dr Justine Harris
Chief Medical Workforce Advisor
NSW Ministry of Health

Via email: Justine.Harris@health.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr Harris

ANZCA support for Mid North Coast rural anaesthesia training pathway and identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) has recently been working closely with our NSW fellows to ensure rural and regional workforce sustainability and First Nations equity across the state.

One of the items relates to the development of a dedicated rural anaesthesia training pathway on the Mid North Coast, centred at Coffs Harbour Health Campus. This pathway also includes the potential implementation of identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions.

We write to express our support for locally grounded training pathways such as this Mid North Coast pathway. We recognise this is one of the most effective ways to build a sustainable specialist anaesthesia workforce in rural and regional areas and have seen success stories via rural pathways in other jurisdictions (specifically Queensland and Victoria) and in NSW. This support extends to expanding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in the specialist anaesthesia workforce, which is a priority for the college and reflected in our [Reconciliation Action Plan](#). Similar roles have recently been implemented in Queensland based on anaesthetist and college advocacy.

We welcome the Ministry's support for this pathway and identified positions, as well as the continued engagement with the Ministry, Mid North Coast Local Health District and local clinicians in support of this work.

ANZCA is also exploring how the Specialist Training Program (STP) support might assist the pathway.

The college also acknowledges the parallel NSW Ministry of Health-ANZCA-HETI working group which is considering a networked model across the state. This pathway directly contributes to understanding the structure and composition of anaesthesia services in the area.

Please contact Dr Rosmarin Zacher, Supervisor of Training, Coffs Harbour Health Campus regarding the pathway structure and operations (Rosmarin.Zacher@health.nsw.gov.au) or Joseph Mansour, Rural Training Pathways Coordinator, regarding the rural training pathway and STP (jmansour@anzca.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

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