



ANZCA
FPM

19 September 2022

Trish Meldrum
Executive Officer
Professional Standards & Fellowship Services Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
250-290 Spring Street, East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Dear Trish

RACS Surgery in Children Position Paper

Thank you for the opportunity for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) to provide feedback on the RACS Surgery in Children Position Paper.

ANZCA, including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to setting the highest standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, and pain medicine. As one of the largest medical colleges in Australia, ANZCA is responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, in addition to promoting best practice and ongoing continuous improvement that contributes to a high-quality health system.

We sought feedback on the guidelines from members of our Safety and Quality Committee (SQC), which includes a representative of the Society for Paediatric Anaesthesia in New Zealand and Australia.

The delivery of care to children should be emphasised as the central element of this guideline for surgery. We recommend linking to ANZCA's professional document [PG29\(A\) Guideline for the provision of Anaesthesia care to children](#) and the corresponding [background paper](#). SQC members highlighted that section 9 of the background paper contains statements that might be relevant in the decision-making processes about scope of practice.

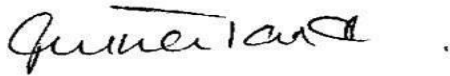
Our main feedback on the position paper is it should acknowledge that the healthcare facility should be appropriately resourced and staffed to manage the care of paediatric patients, and that the important role of other disciplines such as anaesthetists, physicians, nurses and allied health should be recognised. In addition, co-morbidity and other factors increase the risk associated with anaesthesia and should be carefully considered when determining the timing and location of surgical care.

We recommend that a request be made for the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Rural Health Commissioner and nursing and allied health services to be involved in the further development of this document.

Further changes to the guideline have been proposed by SQC members Professor Guy Ludbrook and Dr Richard Scolaro. These are shown as tracked changes on the attached document. We hope they will be helpful in developing the final guideline.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the RACS Surgery in Children position paper. Should you require any further input, please do not hesitate to contact ANZCA's policy staff at policy@anzca.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Sutherland', followed by a small dot.

Associate Professor Joanna Sutherland
Chair, Safety and Quality Committee