



# Position statement on duties of specialist anaesthetists

## Background Paper

### 1. Purpose

To clarify the breadth of duties undertaken by specialist anaesthetists.

### 2. Scope

This professional document applies to all specialist anaesthetists, recognising that the breadth of duties for this group of practitioners is wide and varied, and extends to roles beyond the operating theatre.

### 3. Background

In April 2012 ANZCA Council established a document development group to explore the potential amalgamation of the professional documents *PS16 Statement on the standards of practice of a specialist anaesthetist* (most recently reviewed in 2008) and *TE06 Guidelines on the duties of an anaesthetist* (interim review in 2010; re-badged as *PS57* in 2012 and *PS57(A)* in 2021).

The document development group believes that a statement on the standards of specialist anaesthetists is best dealt with within the ANZCA *Code of Professional Conduct*, recognising that while the code is written for Fellows of the College, it could reasonably be expected that the standards expressed therein apply to all specialists.

The amendments to *PS57(A) Position statement on duties of specialist anaesthetists* largely reflect changes to the curriculum, and contemporary nomenclature. The introduction to the document has been amended to reflect the growing recognition that the duties of specialist anaesthetists extend beyond the operating theatre, and importantly include roles in perioperative medicine, management, audit, research and education.

### 4. Summary

It was decided to withdraw *PS16 Statement on the standards of practice of a specialist anaesthetist* upon release of a revised code of conduct.

#### Process of document review

The document development group comprised:

Dr Rodney Mitchell (Chair), FANZCA, Councillor  
Dr Peter Roessler, FANZCA, Director of Professional Affairs (Professional Documents)  
Dr Justin Burke, FANZCA  
Dr Alison Corbett, FANZCA  
Dr Vaughan Laurenson, FANZCA, Director of Professional Affairs (Deputy Assessor)

The following were also consulted:

ANZCA regional/national committees  
Special interest groups  
ANZCA Trainee Committee  
Faculty of Pain Medicine Board and regional committees  
Mr Paul Cargill, Policy Officer, Community Development

A revised version of PS57(A) was promulgated in mid 2013 with pilot status for approximately one year. There were no amendments proposed during this period and at the end of the pilot phase the document was finalised without amendment.

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