

March 21, 2018

Executive Officer, Medical
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
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Draft revised guidelines 'Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship'

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Medical Board of Australia's draft revised guidelines *Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship*.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to high standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine. As the education and training body responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthesia and pain medicine for Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia, ANZCA is committed to ongoing continuous improvement, promoting best practice, and contributing to a high quality health system.

ANZCA is supportive of the revised guidelines as being adequate and reasonable and acknowledge that good regulatory practice requires regular periodic review to ensure currency, accuracy and appropriateness.

A point that was raised through consultation with ANZCA fellows was that the Medical Council of New Zealand's Statement *Sexual Boundaries in the Doctor-Patient Relationship - A resource for doctors* includes advice about when a sexual relationship with a former patient is never acceptable. Fellows suggested that similar guidance should be considered for inclusion in the Australian guidelines.

Should you require any further information in relation to this response, please contact Jo-anne Chapman, General Manager Policy, Safety and Quality via email policy@anzca.edu.au or telephone (03) 8517 5341.

Yours sincerely



Professor David A Scott
President