



ANZCA

FPM

2 June 2026

Mr Steve Dunlop
Director, Medical Specialists Services Section
Medicare Benefits and Digital Health Division
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Dear Mr Dunlop,

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2026 regarding the Faculty of Pain Medicine's (FPM's) MBS Continuous Review request response for specialist pain medicine physician access to MBS items 132 and 133.

We appreciate the department's acknowledgement of the broader structural complexities within the MBS framework. Timely access to comprehensive assessment and care planning is central to the delivery of safe, high-quality pain medicine services. Without required changes we remain concerned that current arrangements may limit equitable access for patients with complex and chronic pain conditions and may not fully reflect contemporary multidisciplinary models of care.

We welcome the department's ongoing engagement with stakeholders and would like to meet with you and relevant departmental staff to discuss the potential pathways and practical options to support high-value care and appropriate use of items 132 and 133 in pain medicine practice, that support both the sustainability of Medicare and improved patient outcomes.

The ANZCA CEO, Dr Lance Emerson and the new FPM Dean, Prof Michael Veltman will be in Canberra on Monday 29 June 2026 if suitable for an in-person meeting in the afternoon. Our office would be pleased to coordinate – we are contactable on ceo@anzca.edu.au.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the department.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lance Emerson
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Dilip Kapur
Director of Professional Affairs, FPM

CEO
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

Dean
Faculty of Pain Medicine