



ANZCA

FPM

CEO
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

Dean
Faculty of Pain Medicine

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Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)

Via email: anne.duggan@safetyandquality.gov.au
mail@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Professor Duggan,

Strengthening safety, quality and consumer confidence across the Australian health system

We write to you in relation to the outcomes of the 1 May 2026 Health Ministers' Meeting, where Health Ministers tasked ACSQHC to lead the identification of strategies to improve intelligence sharing, support proactive monitoring, strengthen clinical governance, strengthen the framework for credentialling and support informed decision-making for consumers. This was as a result of Health Ministers' commitment to strengthen safety and accountability within the healthcare system to prevent future patient harm and improve care for women living with endometriosis and pelvic pain.

On behalf of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and its Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), we welcome this work. The college has a longstanding commitment to safety, quality and patient-centered care across anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative medicine, and we appreciate the Commission's leadership in progressing reforms in these important areas.

We particularly acknowledge the relevance of this work to the management of endometriosis and persistent pelvic pain, where patients often experience complex, multidisciplinary care pathways and may be vulnerable to fragmented care, delayed diagnosis and variable treatment approaches. These challenges underline the importance of robust clinical governance arrangements, clear credentialling expectations, meaningful outcome measurement and access to accurate information to support informed consumer decision-making.

FPM has undertaken significant work in this area through its Pelvic Pain Position Statement (PS15), which promotes a multidisciplinary, biopsychosocial approach to the assessment and management of persistent pelvic pain. The statement emphasises evidence-based care, coordinated multidisciplinary management and the importance of avoiding interventions that may not deliver meaningful long-term benefit for patients. We believe this work provides a valuable foundation for broader discussions regarding quality, safety and governance in pelvic pain and endometriosis care.

More broadly, FPM has been leading the development of the Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education, a nationally significant initiative designed to improve the consistency and quality of pain management education across the health workforce. The standards were officially launched at Parliament House on 29 June 2026 and have been received with strong interest and support from across the

health, education, consumer and policy sectors. This work supports improved patient outcomes, more appropriate care pathways and stronger system-wide capability in the management of complex pain conditions, including persistent pelvic pain.

Importantly, ANZCA has a long history of leadership in safety and quality through our standards of clinical practice, which includes our professional documents, and support for clinical standards and quality improvement initiatives. Our material, developed via rigorous processes, are viewed as authoritative, evidence-based and highly credible resources across the Australian and New Zealand health sectors.

Given the college's expertise in these areas, we would welcome the opportunity to work with, and support, the Commission to strengthen safety, quality and consumer confidence across the Australian health system. We would be very happy to discuss this collaboration further. Please contact ceo@anzca.edu.au with any further queries or to organise a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Lance Emerson
Chief Executive Officer



Prof Michael Veltman
Dean