



ANZCA

FPM

CEO

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

13 July 2026

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Health Insurance Amendment (Incentive Payments and Other Measures) Bill 2026
consultation – ANZCA feedback**

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including its Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on this legislation consultation.

ANZCA is the professional body responsible for the postgraduate training, assessment and continuing professional development of specialist anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians across Australia and New Zealand. We are one of the largest medical colleges with over 10,000 members and are committed to improving access to safe, high-quality anaesthesia, pain medicine and perioperative services for all Australians.

General comments

ANZCA broadly supports the intent of the Bill to establish a clear legislative framework for Commonwealth health incentive payment programs. Formalising the governance, administration, compliance and review arrangements for incentive programs should provide greater transparency, consistency and accountability across Commonwealth-funded healthcare initiatives.

While the Bill is primarily focused on incentive payment arrangements currently centred on primary care programs, ANZCA considers that future incentive frameworks established under this legislation should recognise the important role specialist medical services play in improving patient outcomes, reducing hospital demand and supporting multidisciplinary models of care.

Future incentive payment programs enabled by this legislation

ANZCA encourages the government to ensure that any future incentive payment programs enabled by this legislation support:

- **Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary models of care**, particularly for patients with chronic and complex conditions requiring coordinated management across primary care, specialist care and hospital settings.

- **Perioperative medicine initiatives** that improve patient optimisation before surgery, reduce complications and support more efficient use of surgical services and hospital capacity, providing value for patients and health services.
- **Pain medicine services**, particularly multidisciplinary pain management models that improve patient outcomes and may reduce reliance on emergency departments, hospital admissions and inappropriate opioid prescribing.
- **Rural, regional and remote health workforce initiatives**, recognising longstanding challenges in accessing specialist anaesthesia and pain medicine services outside metropolitan centres. This includes the support provided by rural and remote GPs with advanced skills, including in anaesthesia.
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health initiatives**, including incentive arrangements that encourage culturally safe and equitable access to specialist and multidisciplinary care.

Given that the Bill establishes an enabling framework under which future incentive programs may be prescribed through subordinate legislation, ANZCA recommends that:

- Specialist medical colleges and relevant clinical groups be consulted during the design of any future incentive payment programs affecting specialist care, pain management or perioperative services.
- Program evaluation frameworks include patient outcome measures, service access measures and quality indicators rather than relying solely on activity-based metrics.
- Incentive payments support the full pathway for integrated care across primary and specialist care, recognising that many patients with complex surgical, chronic pain or perioperative needs receive care across multiple sectors.

The college encourages the government to consider these areas as future incentive payment programs are developed and refined.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these comments further and contribute to the development of future incentive payment initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Lance Emerson
Chief Executive Officer