ANZCA
FPM

President and CEO
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

12 November 2026

Professor Dinesh Arya
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Psychiatrist
Tasmanian Department of Health

Via email: comms@health.tas.gov.au

Dear Professor Arya,

Launceston General Hospital anaesthesia workforce – collaborative discussion

It was a pleasure to meet you at the recent CPMC Rural and Regional Workforce Forum in Launceston. Your presentation about the Tasmanian Government being a partner in innovation and the need for government, universities, colleges and clinicians to work together on new approaches to workforce development strongly resonated with us.

We are writing to seek a discussion with you about current anaesthesia workforce pressures at Launceston General Hospital (LGH), and how ANZCA and the Tasmanian Department of Health might work collaboratively to help address these pressures.

We understand that the LGH is currently carrying four vacant anaesthetist positions. The impact extends beyond workforce numbers and is affecting the hospital's capacity to provide timely and comprehensive care, including difficulties covering ad hoc ECT and MRI lists and STEMI responses, attending trauma calls, providing high-risk perioperative medicine reviews, and mitigating extended waits for some patients of more than 24 hours.

We recognise that there will not be a single or immediate solution to these pressures. However, given their breadth and potential impact on patients, clinicians and service sustainability, we believe there is value in bringing the department, LGH clinicians and ANZCA together to consider both immediate pressures and longer-term workforce solutions.

ANZCA would welcome the opportunity to work with the Tasmanian government as a partner in developing practical and innovative approaches. This could include considering recruitment and retention, regional training pathways, workforce models and other opportunities where government, health services, the college and clinicians can collectively apply new approaches to workforce development that may ultimately contribute to broader workforce reform.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet at a time convenient to you to discuss the situation and consider collaborative solutions. Please contact ceo@anzca.edu.au to organise a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tanya Selak
President

Dr Lance Emerson
Chief Executive Officer

ANZCA House
630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
+61 3 9510 6299
www.anzca.edu.au