



Thursday August 27, 2015

Access to anaesthesia and pain relief a human right, health experts say

Leading medical specialists across Australia and New Zealand have banded together in opposition to “inhumane” treatment of people seeking asylum throughout the world.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and its Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists (NZSA) have released a position statement calling for access to appropriate healthcare for any person seeking asylum.

“Access to healthcare including safe surgery, anaesthesia and pain management is a basic human right and should not be compromised for those seeking asylum,” ANZCA President Dr Genevieve Goulding said.

“We believe universal access to safe affordable surgery and anaesthesia when needed, including appropriate analgesia for pain – whether it is acute or chronic pain – is a basic human right.”

You can read the full position statement [here](#).

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