



ANZCA
FPM

National Anaesthesia Day
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024

Media release

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Westmead Hospital specialist features in national patient safety campaign

The head of Westmead Hospital's Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Dr Mark Priestley, features in a national campaign that celebrates Australian expertise in safe patient care.

Dr Priestley, who was first introduced to Westmead Hospital as a medical student in 1983, is one of six anaesthetists profiled in a series of posters celebrating the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) 2024 National Anaesthesia Day on Wednesday 16 October.

"You're in safe hands" is the theme for this year's National Anaesthesia Day.

The aim of the campaign is to focus on practising anaesthetists to help the community understand what anaesthetists do, how well qualified they are and the essential role they play in the health system.

Dozens of hospitals in Australia are supporting the National Anaesthesia Day campaign on 16 October – the anniversary of the day in 1846 that ether anaesthesia was first demonstrated publicly.

The campaign highlights key information, including that:

- Most people will need an anaesthetist at some time in their lives.
- Anaesthetists often make complex, split-second decisions during an operation.
- Millions of anaesthetics are given each year in Australia.
- Australia is one of the safest countries in the world to have an anaesthetic.
- Anaesthetists are specialist doctors with more than 12 years of medical training.
- Your anaesthetist will care for you throughout the whole operation.

ANZCA, as one of Australia and New Zealand's largest specialist medical colleges with 8200 specialist anaesthetists (fellows) and 580 specialist pain medicine physicians, is responsible for the training, examination and specialist accreditation of anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and for the standards of clinical practice in Australia and New Zealand.

For further information or interviews contact the ANZCA Communications team at communications@anzca.edu.au or on 0418 583 276.