



ANZCA
FPM

National Anaesthesia Day
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024

Media release

Wednesday 16 October 2024

'You're in safe hands' national patient safety campaign launched

A national awareness campaign that celebrates the role of anaesthetists in safe patient care is being launched this week.

"You're in safe hands" is the theme for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) 2024 National Anaesthesia Day on Wednesday 16 October.

Six anaesthetists have been profiled in a series of posters for the campaign which is supported by dozens of public and private hospitals in Australia and New Zealand.

"Our campaign focuses on highlighting individual practising specialists to help the community understand what anaesthetists do, how well qualified we are and the essential role we play in the health system," ANZCA President Professor Dave Story explains.

"There are more than three million operations and surgical procedures a year in Australia and Australia is one of the safest places to have an anaesthetic."

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.

National Anaesthesia Day celebrates the anniversary of the day in 1846 – 16 October – that ether anaesthesia was first demonstrated publicly.

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.