



Statement: GP Anaesthetists in metropolitan centres

October 2019

ANZCA's mission is to serve the community by fostering safety and high quality patient care in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine.

The highest level of expertise in delivering safe and high quality clinical care is provided by specialist anaesthetists. In the interests of delivering best patient outcomes, this expertise should be utilised wherever practicable. Specialist anaesthetists also contribute in an expert capacity to clinical support activities, such as education, research, Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement processes.

The provision of anaesthesia is a medical responsibility¹, and all medical practitioners providing anaesthesia services require a clearly defined scope of practice. Approval for scope of practice should be determined by the credentialing committee, (or equivalent), of the employing or appointing authority. This committee should consider qualifications, competence, performance, continuing professional development relevant to anaesthesia and professional suitability, relative to the required standard of clinical practice for the organisation.

Reference:

1. Gelb AW, Morriss WW, Johnson W, et al. World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WHO-WFSA) International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia. *Anesth Analg* 2018; 126: 2047-55.