



ANZCA
FPM

Position statement on the role of ANZCA in advocating for the health and wellbeing of all people

Doctors enjoy a privileged position of trust in society, and with this comes the responsibility to advocate on behalf of the healthcare needs of that society in general. Accordingly, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, as a specialist medical college, will make statements when deemed appropriate, on issues that impact the health and wellbeing of particular individuals, groups of individuals or the population at large.

The purpose of ANZCA and its Faculty of Pain Medicine is:

To serve our communities by leading high quality care in anaesthesia, perioperative and pain medicine, optimising health and reducing the burden of pain.

Further to this purpose, ANZCA:

1. **Supports** access to healthcare as a basic human right.
2. **Opposes** all forms of discrimination, given the potential for this to negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of our trainees, fellows, staff, patients and the wider community.
3. **Endorses** the principles that (a) health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity; and (b) the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. (From the World Health Organization's constitution preamble – <http://www.who.int/about/who-weare/constitution>)

September 2024