

Briefing document – Faculty of Pain Medicine ANZCA

Hon Andrew Bayley

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Introduction

On behalf of our New Zealand Fellows and Trainees of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) of the Australian College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), we wish to congratulate you on your new appointment as the Minister for ACC. We look forward to working with you, and continuing to work with the Government, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to ensure that all New Zealanders have on-going access to high quality specialist pain medicine.

The aim of this document is to provide a brief overview of the Faculty and our work, which has significant and unrealised potential to save money and suffering by addressing both acute and chronic pain at an early stage in primary, secondary and tertiary care. We have also attached our brochure detailing the role of Specialist Pain Medicine Physicians, and the Sapere Research Group's Report on the incidence, cost, and treatment of pain: *Return on Investment of adequately resourced specialist pain services*.¹

About ANZCA

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), which includes the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is responsible for training anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists, and for setting the standards of clinical practice in New Zealand and Australia.

About the Faculty of Pain Medicine

The Faculty of Pain Medicine is the principal body and professional organisation for Specialist Pain Medicine Physicians (fellows) and Specialist Pain Medicine Physicians in training (trainees) across New Zealand and Australia. It is responsible for the standards of clinical practice for pain medicine in Australasia. The Faculty's constituent bodies are ANZCA, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and its Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists – representing the multidisciplinary approach required to treat pain.

Our key areas of work include:

- recruiting, training, and examining medical specialists to the most exacting standards;
- supporting our fellows and trainees throughout their careers;
- setting high standards of clinical care to ensure constant institutional improvement;

- acting as the voice of the specialty on behalf of our membership while promoting the sharing of knowledge and best practice; and
- working closely with government on crucial policies and with key stakeholders across New Zealand and overseas to ensure that pain medicine specialists and anaesthetists continue to play a central role in shaping and delivering the healthcare agenda.

The Faculty worked closely with the Ministry to lead the development and evaluation of the well received, multi-disciplinary, *Mamaenga roa Model of Care for chronic pain in New Zealand*^{2,3}.

When appropriately resourced within clinical networks, The *Mamaenga roa Model of Care Framework* will:

- improve equity of access to specialist pain services;
- and deliver best practice patient care delivery and integration of efficiencies; and
- provide ACC with access to services to address chronic pain related to injuries, one of the main contributors to the high cost of long-term claims.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how Specialist Pain Medicine Physicians can work with ACC to reduce the burden of chronic pain via more appropriate early intervention.

Sincerely

Dr Chris Rumball,



Chair, New Zealand Committee

Faculty of Pain Medicine, (ANZCA)

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References

1. Moore D, Davies P. The problem of chronic pain and scope for improvements in patient outcomes. Wellington: Sapere Research Group. 2018 Oct. <https://srgexpert.com/resource/the-problem-of-chronic-pain-and-scope-for-improvements-in-patient-outcomes/>
2. Broadbent A. Advocacy at ANZCA: A ground-breaking model of care for pain in NZ. ANZCA Bulletin. 2022 Sep 1;31(3):10-1. [Accessed at; Feb 2024](#)
3. New Zealand Ministry of Health (2022) Mamaenga roa Model of Care for people living with chronic pain, https://issuu.com/wboppho/docs/pain_model_of_care_final_v1.0/1
4. New Zealand Ministry of Health (2023) Health Workforce Strategic Framework, <https://health.govt.nz/publication/health-workforce-strategic-framework>