



PRESIDENT

Dr Rodney Mitchell
BMBS, FANZCA, FAICD

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

ABN 82 055 042 852

*Advancing anaesthesia,
improving patient care*

August 3, 2018

Dr Joanna Flynn
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE Vic 3001

Via email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Flynn

Draft revised *Good medical practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Medical Board of Australia's draft revised *Good medical practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to high standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine. As the education and training body responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthesia and pain medicine for Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia, ANZCA is committed to ongoing continuous improvement, promoting best practice, and contributing to a high quality health system.

Overall, the draft revised code includes appropriate changes to an outline of a set of principles for practitioners that characterise appropriate practice, largely reflecting what a patient would expect from his or her doctor.

ANZCA commends the inclusion in the revised code of conduct of a discrete section on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health. ANZCA is committed to redressing health inequities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in both Australia and New Zealand. Our activities to progress this are guided by the ANZCA *Indigenous Health Strategy* and its framework of four areas of focus – governance, partnerships, workforce and advocacy.

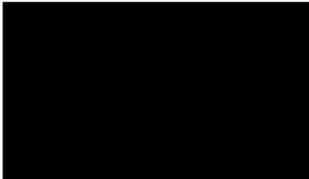
With funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, ANZCA has developed a series of [podcasts](#) to provide fellows and trainees with an introduction to working with Indigenous patients.

With regards to doctors' health and wellbeing, Section 11.2.7 includes an updated reference to doctors' health services but does so in a way that infers there is a singular program in each jurisdiction. Consideration should be given to rewording this section to reflect that other programs may be available through specialist medical colleges and by organisations such as beyondblue.

For example, ANZCA has developed an interim draft [Doctors' Health and Wellbeing Framework](#) based on beyondblue's *First responders' good practice model for mental health and wellbeing* and offers the [ANZCA Doctors' Support Program](#) for free for all ANZCA fellows, trainees, SIMGs and immediate family members.

Should you require any further information in relation to this response, please contact [REDACTED], Acting General Manager Policy, Safety and Quality via email [REDACTED] or telephone [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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Dr Rodney Mitchell
President