



AUSTRALIAN  
AND  
NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE  
OF  
ANAESTHETISTS  
A.B.N. 82 055 042 852

20 May 2015

One Health System  
Department of Health and Human Services  
GPO Box 125  
Hobart TAS 7001

**Email:** [onehealthsystem@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:onehealthsystem@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: White Paper - Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tasmanian Government's White Paper on *Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services* which is part of the *One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes* (One Health System) reform program.

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 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, we believe in ongoing continuous improvement and strive to ensure our programs represent best practice and contribute to a high quality health system.

ANZCA had articulated a number of concerns in our previous submission to the Green Paper and we are pleased to see that many of these have been addressed in the updated White Paper. There are however two key areas where we wish to highlight.

**Theatre Utilisation**

ANZCA is pleased that the government is aiming to improve the efficiency of theatre utilisation as this will improve the quality of training future anaesthetists due to increased trainee exposure to elective surgical case mix.

However, it is important to acknowledge the effect of a chronic lack of hospital beds in addition to the increase in emergency theatre demand on the cancellation of elective surgery. The current chronic shortage of elective surgical beds particularly at the Royal Hobart Hospital which includes HDU and ICU presents a threat to the improvement of theatre utilisation and has to be addressed.

Similarly, by providing high quality consultant-led major trauma services and centralising it at the Royal Hobart Hospital trainees will receive the necessary exposure required to competently and safely manage trauma cases with high complexity.

**Pain Services**

The suggested changes to the delivery of state wide acute and chronic pain services does not utilise the current strengths of the health system optimally and therefore presents a risk to effective outcomes for patients with specific pain needs.

A restructuring of the pain management system is suggested where pain medicine should be closely aligned with anaesthesia departments state-wide.

ANZCA thanks the Tasmanian Government for its invitation to comment on the White Paper and wishes to formally state its ongoing willingness to be engaged in meaningful reform. Should you require any further information, please contact Jonathon Kruger, General Manager, Policy, via email [jkruger@anzca.edu.au](mailto:jkruger@anzca.edu.au) or telephone +61 3 8517 5341.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Associate Professor David A Scott  
Vice President  
MB, BS, PhD, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA