February 10, 2012

Dr Nicola Dunbar  
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
GPO Box 5480  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: goals@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Dr Dunbar

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Submission

Consultation paper on Australian Safety and Quality Goals for Health Care

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), is pleased to provide a submission in relation to the above consultation paper. The document is a welcome development in supporting safe patient care and promoting continuous quality improvement of health services. We are supportive of the goals as outlined in the document.

ANZCA’s mission is “to serve the community by fostering safety and quality patient care in anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine”. Accordingly, ANZCA supports measures that seek to improve health outcomes in the three target areas: safety of care, appropriateness of care and partnering with patients and consumers.

ANZCA addresses issues such as reduction of harm from adverse medicines and healthcare associated infections through the College’s professional documents such as PS51 Guidelines for the Safe Administration of Injectable Drugs in Anaesthesia. ANZCA’s professional documents are crucial for promoting the quality and safety of patient care for those undergoing anaesthesia. The professional documents define the College’s requirements for training and for hospitals providing such training, provide guidance to the College’s Fellows on standards of anaesthetic practice, define the College’s policies and serve other purposes that the College deems appropriate.

PS28 Guidelines on Infection Control in Anaesthesia is particularly relevant and will be reviewed this year. ANZCA’s professional documents are subject to regular review and frequently amended with changes in knowledge, practice and technology. ANZCA’s professional documents can be found at: http://www.anzca.edu.au/resources-professional-documents.
As you may be aware, ANZCA Curriculum Revision 2013 is underway (see: http://www.anzca.edu.au/trainees/curriculum-revision-2013/). This seeks to ensure that patients are provided with the most up-to-date evidence-based care. The revised curriculum is underpinned by the ANZCA roles which are based on the CanMeds framework. It incorporates a quality and safety fundamental, emphasising the College’s commitment to quality and safety in healthcare.

In recognition that the disease burden of groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is disproportionately greater than other Australians the College identified provision of support for indigenous health in its 2010–2012 strategic plan. As a result, cultural competency learning outcomes and case studies are being incorporated in ANZCA Curriculum Revision 2013. The College is developing additional continuing professional development opportunities for Fellows involved in providing care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. These resources will be provided in conjunction with the Network for Indigenous Culture and Health Education, a joint project between a number of the medical colleges, soon to be launched.

The engagement of community representatives is a valued means of supporting transparency and consistency in College decision-making. The ANZCA community representation policy (Australia) outlines the College’s commitment and expectations in this regard (see: http://www.anzca.edu.au/resources/corporate-policies).

In 2011 ANZCA redesigned its website with emphasis on informing prospective patients and members of the public about various forms of anaesthesia and related topics, such as preparing for anaesthesia and what to expect afterwards (see: http://www.anzca.edu.au/patients).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you require any further information, please contact John Biviano, Director, Policy Unit, via email jbibiano@anzca.edu.au or telephone +61 3 8517 5341. We look forward to the outcomes of the current consultation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Associate Professor David A. Scott
Chair - Quality and Safety Committee