11 September 2009

Professor Chris Baggoley  
Chief Executive  
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
GPO Box 5480  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Email: conversation@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Prof Baggoley

**Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Submission**

**National Safety and Quality Framework**

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2009 to Dr Leona Wilson, President of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), to participate in the *Quality Health Care Conversation*. The letter has been referred to me as Chair of the ANZCA Quality and Safety Committee for reply. I would also like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in a teleconference.

The National Safety and Quality Framework has been considered by members of the Quality and Safety Committee and is strongly endorsed by ANZCA. We congratulate the Commission on this important initiative that is in alignment with the mission of the College. We would like to offer some specific comments that are detailed below.

**Strategy 1.9**

We believe that the health care rights of consumers should not be seen in isolation. They need to be balanced with a reasonable requirement for full disclosure of health information from patients. There also needs to be some recognition of a patient’s responsibility to comply with advice that is given, medications prescribed etc. To an extent, these points also need to be a part of improved health literacy.
Strategy 2.1
There is little comment on the use of existing resources on standards of care. While it is suggested that colleges advise on standards and guidelines it does not reflect on the fact that much of the information already exists as with the ANZCA guidelines, see: http://www.anzca.edu.au/resources/professional-documents/.

Strategy 2.2, 2.3
Whilst we agree with the drive for better collection and use of data, there is no mention of the need for the protection of the data under strict quality assurance provisions, to ensure accurate data recording. We would urge that this be given greater consideration.

Strategy 3.3
ANZCA agrees with the need for governments to accept their responsibilities for safety and quality and would urge that this be considered as part of the implementation of the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme being introduced.

The document is rather long and we recommend further editing. It is a bit repetitive in parts, and somewhat inaccessible for many readers. It would also benefit from an executive summary, the addition of methods of implementation and associated timelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. For further information please contact Pauline Berryman, Quality and Safety Officer, pberryman@anzca.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Alan Merry ONZM FANZCA FFPMANZCA FRCA
Chair
Quality & Safety Committee
ANZCA