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Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine
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Ms Bronwyn Nardi
Chair
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee
Health Workforce Principal Committee
HWPC Secretariat
Level 12/120 Spencer St
Melbourne VIC 3000
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Dear Ms Nardi

**Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Submission
National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professionals**

Proposed arrangements for accreditation

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is pleased to provide a fifth submission in relation to the consultation paper on the proposed arrangements for accreditation for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professionals ("the Scheme"). This paper follows four previous submissions by ANZCA in relation to the proposed first Bill and other related components.

As highlighted in our previous submissions, ANZCA welcomes the introduction of a national registration scheme for the health professions and the benefits it will bring to the Australian public. We have, however, major concerns regarding proposed accreditation processes which need to be independent of government to ensure patient safety and equity of access, as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).


We echo the comments provided by the College of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) in relation to the consultation paper on accreditation and make the following points:

- WHO/WFME guidelines make it clear that accreditation processes must be independent of government. It is of concern that the new specialist categories/groups, specialist recognition processes and CPD arrangements will all have to be formally endorsed by Ministers.
- We **oppose** any changes which could potentially lead to an undermining of independent accreditation and standards. **We therefore strongly oppose the Ministerial Council role in specialist endorsement.** (The draft Bill includes broad ranging powers of boards for formally recognizing specialist qualifications and those Boards have responsibility for seeking Ministerial approval for any new category of specialist)
- We support the *Australian Medical Council* that advises on specialist registration as the independent accreditation body for medical practitioners, with the authority to make decisions on accreditation and standards.

ANZCA is committed to working with Government to ensure the new Scheme maintains the high standards of clinical practice and protects patient safety.

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide comments on this latest (fifth) consultation paper on the proposed arrangements for accreditation. As always, we welcome further ongoing consultation and would be happy to discuss any of the issues outlined in this submission.

Yours sincerely



Dr Leona Wilson
President