

Dr Rodney Mitchell BMBS, FANZCA, FAICD
President
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists

profdocs@anzca.edu.au

Dear Dr Mitchell,

Re: Draft PS43 Guidelines on Fatigue Risk Management in Anaesthesia Practice

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Draft PS43 Guidelines on Fatigue Risk Management in Anaesthesia Practice* (the guidelines); a review of the previous guidelines last reviewed in 2007. As the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession, ACN represents perioperative nurses who work closely with anaesthetists, and recognises the significant risks of anaesthetist fatigue.

ACN supports the draft guidelines, which are sensible and achievable. It is indeed vital to advocate for workplace cultures that support healthcare professionals in minimising and mitigating fatigue, and allowing for recovery following “on-call”, overtime or other taxing situations.

One factor that has not been fully addressed in the guidelines is how anaesthetists manage their commitments between multiple healthcare facilities, working different “lists” at different facilities, often within the same day. The guidelines do discuss the length and timing of shifts, yet it is implied that this is within one facility. While the majority of anaesthetists who currently practice at multiple facilities would already manage their schedules as appropriately as possible, addressing this definitively within the guidelines could provide strategies to manage this factor.

ACN commends ANZCA for taking a proactive and considered approach to the management of anaesthetist fatigue.

If you have further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Dr Carolyn Stapleton, Manager - Policy and Advocacy, at carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,



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