



28 June 2019

Dr Rodney Mitchell
ANZCA
ANZCA House
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Melbourne VIC 3004
AUSTRALIA
Email: profdocs@anzca.edu.au

Dear Dr Mitchell

Re: PS43 Guidelines on fatigue management

The New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists (NZSA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the above revised position statement and background paper.

This position statement is timely, as the last MECA in New Zealand had provisions to ensure all DHBs have policies in place for adequate rest and recovery, particularly post call. However, we were hoping that this statement would contain more specific guidance on how we could implement post call policies in our hospitals.

As you state in your letter regarding this consultation, a growing body of evidence has emerged which highlights the harmful effects of fatigue on clinical performance, patient safety and the individual health of the medical practitioner. We are supportive of the extensive review undertaken of PS43, especially in light of this evidence, and we commend ANZCA for circulating this statement to such a wide range of stakeholders for comment. This reflects that solutions to address fatigue require a whole-of-health sector approach to be effective.

We fully support that the position statement clearly sets out the two-fold responsibility of managing fatigue: both of the individual anaesthetist to manage their own fatigue and that of the healthcare facility to have policies and measures in place to mitigate fatigue, including upholding occupational health and safety legislation.

We recommend added an acknowledgement under 4.1.1.1 in regard to anaesthetists who work in both the public and private practice sectors. It would be the personal responsibility of the anaesthetist to ensure they are not fatigued when they undertake their shift. Both public and private health sectors also need flexible, robust systems to facilitate 4.1.1.2.

Some of the guidelines cover areas which are not consistently available at all healthcare facilities e.g. Provision of appropriate rest and sleeping facilities, but it is hoped that by outlining these in the position statement it is what healthcare providers will aspire towards.



Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact me at president@anaesthesia.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Hagen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Hagen
President