



MEDIA RELEASE
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Accreditation of training of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and its Faculties have won endorsement of its training programs, following a review by the Australian Medical Council (AMC). The AMC has reviewed and accredited Australian medical schools since 1986. With the support of the specialist medical colleges, in 2002, the AMC introduced a new process for reviewing and accrediting specialist medical training programs. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists is the first college to undertake the accreditation process.

AMC President Dr Lloyd Toft said: 'AMC accreditation is mandatory for medical schools, if the graduates are to be eligible to register as medical practitioners in any state or territory of Australia. The new accreditation process for specialist medical training is a voluntary process. Because of the benefits of a process of regular external review, all the specialist medical colleges have agreed to participate in the process.'

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists provides specialist training and continuing professional development programs in Australia and New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. There are presently about 930 doctors registered for training in anaesthesia. The Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine has nearly 300 trainees in intensive care. Both training programs are five years in length. The College's new Faculty of Pain Medicine, established in 1998, is providing specialist training in pain medicine to 13 trainees.

To accredit the College's training programs, the AMC set up an expert team which reviewed written information provided by the College; submissions on the College's training programs from bodies such as health departments, medical schools and other colleges; and interviewed College committees, doctors who are completing College training programs, and College Fellows who supervise, assess and train doctors completing the training programs. In addition, the team visited large and small hospitals in urban and rural sites across Australia and New Zealand.

Chair of the AMC Team, Professor Richard Larkins AO who is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne, commented: 'The College has well-developed pathways for training and assessment. It has completed an impressive program of reviews and new initiatives in the last ten years, over a wide range of areas including education and training, examinations, professional development, communication and development of the College's role in the

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL

Postal Address
PO BOX 4810
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Street Address
Unit 3, 40 Macquarie Street
BARTON ACT 2600

Telephone No: (02) 6270 9777
Facsimile No: (02) 6270 9799
Email: amc@amc.org.au

Asia Pacific region. The College is in a strong position to build on its achievements, it enjoys the support of College Fellows, and its standards of training are highly regarded by a range of stakeholder groups. The Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, which is the outcome of collaboration between the College and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, provides the pathways to advanced training in intensive care, and the two Colleges are to be commended for developing this program. The multidisciplinary Faculty of Pain Medicine, which incorporates representation from this College, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, is another significant development.'

As well as identifying the strengths of the College's training and professional development programs, the Team's detailed accreditation report identifies areas where further work is required. The College has been asked to report annually to the AMC on issues which include: the College's review of the training program in intensive care, selection of trainees in anaesthesia, assessment of local trainees and overseas-trained specialists, and strategies for overcoming bottlenecks in access to sub-specialty training in anaesthesia. The College has also been asked to report on strategies for increasing participation by College Fellows in continuing professional development activities.

CONTACTS:	Mrs Joan Sheales	Ms Theanne Walters
	Chief Executive Officer	Deputy Executive Officer
	Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists	Australian Medical Council
	Phone: (03) 9510 6299	Phone: (02) 6270 9703

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