

27 June 2013

The National Committee
Perioperative Nurses College
New Zealand Nurses Organisation
PO Box 2128
Wellington 6140

By email: pnc.sec@xtra.co.nz

Proposal of formalising the role and education pathway of the Registered Nurse who is providing anaesthetic assistance to the Anaesthetist within the perioperative continuum

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above consultation document. The NZMA is the country's largest voluntary pan-professional medical organisation with over 5,000 members. Our members come from all disciplines within the medical profession and include specialists, general practitioners, doctors-in-training and medical students. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and promote professional unity and values, and the health of New Zealanders.

We note and share the concerns regarding this proposal that have been raised by the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists (NZSA) in their submission to the Perioperative Nurses College dated 17 June 2013. We agree with the NZSA that there is already a well-paved pathway in place for Registered Nurses to further their training as Anaesthesia Assistants; we too cannot see a reason for an alternative or less comprehensive pathway. Furthermore, we endorse the specific feedback provided by the NZSA in response to each question in the consultation document.

We also wish to draw the College's attention to the NZMA Position Statement 'Principles of Health Workforce Redesign'.¹ It is our view that the proposal being advanced is not aligned with several of the core principles articulated in this Position Statement, especially with those

¹ Available from <http://nzma.org.nz/sites/all/files/Principles%20of%20Health%20Workforce%20Redesign.pdf>

relating to maintaining or improving patient safety (principle 1) and clinical integration (principle 2), the requirement for any change to be based on the best available evidence (principle 11), the need to ensure ongoing education (principle 17) and to ensure appropriate accountability (principle 19).

Thank you for making this document available for comment. We hope our feedback is helpful and we look forward to working constructively with the Perioperative Nurses College to ensure that New Zealand continues to have world-class standards for patient safety under anaesthetic care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Peterson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Mark Peterson
NZMA Chair