Anaesthetists – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained anaesthetists · November 2026

Overview

Overseas-trained anaesthetists have two routes to practise in Australia.

Pathway 1 – Expedited Specialist pathway. For anaesthetists with a UK FRCA and CCT, or an Irish FCAI and CSCST. You apply directly to Ahpra for specialist registration and complete a period of supervised practice. ANZCA Fellowship is optional, not required.

Pathway 2 – ANZCA assessment. For all other overseas-trained anaesthetists. ANZCA assesses your training and experience, and the outcome sets your supervised practice and path to FANZCA.

Our Due Diligence report tells you which pathway suits you.

Anaesthesia in Australia

Anaesthetists in Australia work well beyond the operating theatre. They lead perioperative care, acute and chronic pain management, resuscitation and, in many hospitals, intensive care and retrieval medicine.

What Australian anaesthetists do

- **Anaesthesia:** general, regional, local and sedation for surgery and procedures, with continuous patient monitoring
- **Perioperative care:** pre-anaesthesia assessment, anaesthetic planning, and post-operative pain and recovery
- **Pain medicine:** acute pain services and, for some, chronic pain (subspecialty training through ANZCA's Faculty of Pain Medicine)
- **Critical care and resuscitation:** emergencies, intensive care and retrieval
- **Other areas:** obstetric, paediatric, cardiac and neuro-anaesthesia; hyperbaric and disaster medicine

Where they work

Public and private hospitals, day surgery centres, pain clinics, and regional and rural hospitals. Many anaesthetists combine a public hospital appointment with private lists.

Training and qualifications

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) sets the standard for anaesthesia in Australia. Australian-trained anaesthetists complete a medical degree, internship and resident years, then ANZCA's specialist training program, leading to Fellowship (FANZCA).

ANZCA also assesses overseas-trained anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists. Its Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) awards the pain medicine Fellowship (FFPMANZCA).

An overseas-trained anaesthetist does not have to hold FANZCA to practise. Specialist registration with the Medical Board of Australia is what allows you to practise as a specialist, and it can be reached through either pathway below.

Your two pathways

Which pathway applies depends on where you trained and which qualifications you hold.

	Pathway 1: Expedited Specialist pathway	Pathway 2: ANZCA assessment
Who it is for	UK: FRCA (or FCAI) issued from August 2007, plus CCT. Ireland: FCAI issued from July 2012, plus CSCST	All other overseas-trained anaesthetists, and UK/Irish anaesthetists without a CCT or CSCST
Who assesses you	Ahpra and the Medical Board, against their accepted-qualifications list	ANZCA: paper review and interview
Possible outcomes	Eligible or not eligible	Substantially comparable, partially comparable, or not comparable
What follows	Supervised practice and orientation, then specialist registration without conditions	A clinical practice assessment period under supervision, with a workplace performance assessment near the end. Partially comparable also includes a structured exam
Extra requirement	Effective Management of Anaesthetic Crisis (EMAC) course	As set in your ANZCA individual program
Fellowship (FANZCA)	Optional. Ask ANZCA about its requirements if you want it	The pathway leads to FANZCA

Not comparable means ANZCA cannot recognise your training for specialist practice, and you would need to enter ANZCA training.

Medical licencing process

Both pathways start with Due Diligence and end with you practising and billing Medicare. The middle steps differ.

Pathway 1 – Expedited Specialist pathway

1. **Due Diligence.** We confirm your qualifications match the accepted-qualifications list, and map your registration and visa options.
2. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers and agree a supervised practice plan.
3. **Ahpra application.** Lodge for specialist registration with your supervised practice plan. Complete the EMAC course.
4. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa, depending on your circumstances.
5. **Medicare.** Provider number and any section 19AB exemption needed for your location.
6. **Commence practice.** Supervised practice, workplace-based assessments and orientation.
7. **Conditions removed.** Apply to Ahpra to remove supervision conditions.
8. **Optional:** apply to ANZCA if you want FANZCA.

Pathway 2 – ANZCA assessment

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on your most likely ANZCA outcome, registration pathway and visa options.
2. **ANZCA assessment.** Application, paper review and interview.
3. **Find your position.** ANZCA must approve the position for your clinical practice assessment period.
4. **Ahpra registration.** Lodge your application once ANZCA has approved your position.

5. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
6. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption.
7. **Commence practice.** Clinical practice assessment under supervision, with performance assessment near the end.
8. **Fellowship.** Complete ANZCA requirements and apply for FANZCA.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. The Medical Board of Australia reported 5,919 medical practitioners registered in anaesthesia at 30 June 2023.

Demand. Anaesthesia was among the first specialties chosen for the Expedited Specialist pathway, reflecting workforce need. Anaesthesia is not on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage status for your location.

Remuneration. Earnings depend on public or private practice, location, sessional versus fee-for-service work, and your supervision level before specialist registration. Anaesthetist earnings range widely, generally from around $200,000 to over $600,000 a year. We discuss remuneration for specific opportunities with you directly.

How Able Medico helps

Medical licencing and migration is our forte. We prepare your College or Ahpra application, guide you through supervision and assessment, and manage your visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to practices and hospitals looking for anaesthetists.

Next steps

- **Start with Due Diligence:** ablemedico.com.au/able-medico-for-doctors
- **Contact us:** ablemedico.com.au/contact-us

Sources

- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026
- Expedited Specialist pathway — Medical Board of Australia
- SIMG clinical practice assessment period — ANZCA