



New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists

(Incorporated)

Press Release 16 August 2011

Dr Rob Carpenter President New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists says an article in the Sunday Star Times on 14 August quoting the Anaesthesia Resource Review Group Report has taken points out of context and gives an unbalanced account of the report's findings.

“NZSA has written to the newspaper responding to the suggestion that ‘anaesthetists might quit the country in the face of lesser trained assistants administering potentially lethal drugs’. The Anaesthesia Resource Review Group Report was comprehensive and supported by the NZ wide anaesthetic community including the recommendation to make better use of the personnel we already have rather than introduce a whole new work force of non-doctor anaesthetists. There is no recommendation that non-doctor anaesthetic assistants should give Anaesthetic drugs.”

Dr Carpenter stated, “The registration of our Anaesthetic Technician colleagues which comes effective 1 April 2012 will actually enhance patient safety and contribute to service developments both in the operating theatre and outside theatre. We need to look to ways of improving productivity while investing in patient safety.”

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President
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