

## Position Statement: Clinical Perfusion Training Pathway and Recognition of Training

### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PERFUSIONISTS

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### **Purpose**

This position statement sets out the position of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusion (ANZCP) and the Australian and New Zealand Board of Perfusion (ANZBP) on the requirements for recognition of clinical perfusion training toward certification.

It clarifies that recognised training must occur within the approved ANZCP and ANZBP training pathway and must meet the required standards for academic study, work-integrated learning, supervision, governance, and training site accreditation.

### **Position**

The ANZCP recognises clinical perfusion training only where training occurs within an approved ANZCP and ANZBP training pathway and meets the full requirements for academic study, work-integrated learning, accredited supervision, and accredited training site governance. Training undertaken outside this framework is not recognised toward ANZCP certification.

This position reflects the safety-critical nature of clinical perfusion practice and the need to ensure that all recognised training occurs within a structured, governed, and accountable framework that protects public safety and preserves the integrity of certification.

### **Rationale: Why Accreditation Is Mandatory**

Clinical perfusion practice is a safety-critical profession with inherent and significant patient safety risks. Training must therefore occur within a structured and governed environment in which supervision, clinical exposure, competency progression, assessment, and escalation pathways are assured.

Training site accreditation is mandatory because it provides the ANZCP, the profession, employers, and the community with assurance that:

- trainees are educated and trained within a safe, current, and accountable clinical framework
- supervision capacity is sufficient and appropriate

- patient safety governance systems are in place, including protocols, escalation pathways, incident review, and quality systems
- trainees have sufficient case volume and case mix to develop competence safely
- the clinical environment can support structured work-integrated learning and milestone-based competency assessment
- the service has the workforce, governance, and supervisory capability necessary to support safe professional formation.

Without accreditation, the ANZCP cannot verify that these safeguards and standards are consistently met and therefore cannot recognise such training toward certification.

### **What Constitutes ANZCP-Recognised Training**

ANZCP-recognised training is a structured pathway comprising the following mandatory components.

#### **1. Academic component**

Applicants must meet the academic entry requirements for the approved training pathway, including the required biomedical science foundations and minimum academic performance requirements. Trainees must then successfully complete the approved Master's-level academic program that underpins the scientific, clinical, and professional knowledge required for safe perfusion practice.

#### **2. Work-integrated learning through employment**

Clinical perfusion training requires concurrent work-integrated learning (WIL) through formal employment in a trainee clinical perfusionist role. It is not an observational, ad hoc, or intermittent training model.

Trainees must meet the minimum employment requirements of the pathway, including the required minimum days of employment per week while undertaking the Master's program. These requirements exist to ensure continuity of clinical exposure, progressive development of skill and judgement, and completion of required clinical milestones across the duration of training.

The ANZBP oversees this structured work-integrated learning through defined competency assessments and milestone progression to support safe and progressive development toward independent practice.

#### **3. Accredited supervision**

Clinical milestones must be completed under Board-approved supervision, including 200 supervised cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) cases under a Board-approved supervisor, in accordance with applicable guidelines and ANZCP requirements. Board-approved supervisors are accredited perfusionists who have completed the ANZCP training pathway and who maintain recertification, currency of practice, and ongoing practice requirements (including applicable annual case volume requirements). These requirements ensure trainee supervision occurs within a safe, current, and accountable framework.

#### 4. Accredited training site

Training must occur within an ANZCP-accredited training site. Accreditation is a critical safeguard and considers multiple factors, including (but not limited to):

- case volume and case mix
- governance and accountability structures
- supervision capacity and supervisor availability
- multidisciplinary support for training (including surgeon engagement/buy-in)
- protocols and clinical practice frameworks
- equipment/platform exposure
- capacity to support structured WIL, competency assessment, and required documentation.

#### Recognition of Training and Non-Accredited Arrangements

Only training undertaken within an ANZCP-accredited training site, under ANZBP-approved supervision, and within the approved pathway will be recognised toward ANZCP certification. This position reflects credentialling and public safety requirements and is not varied on an individual basis outside approved governance processes.

#### Local Service Development and Upskilling

Hospitals and health services may undertake local service development, local orientation, or role-specific upskilling, including preparation for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation services or other extracorporeal support activities. However, these activities do not constitute ANZCP-recognised clinical perfusion training unless they are undertaken within the approved ANZCP and ANZBP training and accreditation framework. Local exposure to devices, service activity, or limited supervised practice does not in itself amount to recognised perfusion training for the purpose of certification.

#### Future Training Capacity and Service Readiness

The ANZCP supports workforce development and growth in future perfusion training capacity across jurisdictions. Hospitals and health services considering future involvement in perfusion training are encouraged to engage early with the ANZCP to discuss training site accreditation requirements, supervision arrangements, governance expectations, and service readiness. Expansion of training capacity is encouraged, but it must occur in a way that maintains the standards, safeguards, and accountability required for safe clinical perfusion training.

#### Conclusion

In summary, the position of the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusion and the Australian and New Zealand Board of Perfusion is that, given the safety-critical nature of clinical perfusion practice, recognised training must occur within a structured, accredited, and appropriately supervised framework that enables safe progression through defined milestones and competency assessment.

Accordingly, only training undertaken within the approved ANZCP and ANZBP pathway, at an accredited training site, and under ANZBP-approved supervision, will be recognised toward certification. Alternative, informal, or non-accredited arrangements will not be recognised. While the ANZCP supports growth in training capacity across jurisdictions, this must occur without compromising the standards, governance, and safeguards necessary to protect public safety and maintain the integrity of the Certified Clinical Perfusionist credential.