



AAAHP - Anaesthesia Technician National Scope of Practice (2025):

Purpose:

Anaesthesia Technicians (ATs) provide preoperative technical management and clinical patient care to support safe anaesthesia services in accredited Australian health facilities. According to the Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network (SWAPNET), the 'scope of practice depends on qualifications, experience, competence, and the ability to practise safely'. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) also defines that 'the practitioners' scope is determined by their education, training, experience, competence, and the capabilities of their workplace'.

This document aims to clearly define the national scope of practice for ATs.

Scope:

ATs who hold a nationally accredited qualification support the anaesthetic process along side the Anaesthetist, wherever general, regional, local and sedation anaesthesia is administered by an Anaesthetist. This includes ATs currently undertaking nationally recognised VET training programs.

Work as a member of the peri-operative anaesthesia team to prepare the environment for safe induction, maintenance, and emergence of anaesthesia while continually ensuring safe and quality patient care.

Who directly support anaesthetic processes and immediately work together with the Anaesthetist in the provision of all aspects of anaesthesia service and individualised care.

Who work alongside Anaesthetists and other accredited medical officers with direction, working lawfully, ethically, and morally in accordance with workplace policies, procedures, and legislative guidelines.

Those who operate within the scope of practice and standards of conduct specific to the medical/healthcare facility have met the requirement of the employing medical/healthcare facility, and have met the workplace education requirement as per [ANZCA PS08\(A\) Position statement on the assistant for the anaesthetist 2025](#).

Background:

The presence of qualified AT during the stages of anaesthesia is crucial to the delivery of safe, quality, and effective anaesthesia to patients. The practical, theoretical, and professional components of anaesthesia assistance are key responsibilities for ATs.



In the role of an AT, there are essential tasks to be conducted in the perioperative environment.

These tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Anaesthetic-related research and continuous professional development.
- Applied science and anaesthetic technology education.
- Advanced patient monitoring and mechanical ventilation assistance.
- Collection of samples for diagnostic investigation eg. ABGs, coagulation tests, PT/IND tests.
- Provision of assistance in accordance with individual state and federal variations and legislative, regulatory and governing levels.
- Professionally conducting work in direct alignment with the specific Anaesthetist requirements and the values, conduct, ethics and duty of care expected of the individual AT in a healthcare setting.
- Documentation – accurate recordings representing and reflecting tasks and actions taken.
- Therapeutics and Medications – safety, storage, and supply in accordance with [*The TGA Poisons Standards*](#).

Scope Requirements for Anaesthesia Technicians:

ATs advocate for the patient throughout the pre-/peri/post anaesthetic phases through completing tasks, the application of evidence-based practice and critical thinking.

They provide care under the direction of " Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field" throughout all phases of anaesthesia utilising the application of evidence-based practices and individual critical thinking.

ATs:

- Utilise technical and clinical judgement to assess peri-operative requirements and apply in practice.
- Anticipate and prepare equipment, monitoring, and other specific requirements for each anaesthetic procedure.
- Provide patient care and anaesthesia support during all aspects of anaesthetic administration and anaesthesia-related procedures in accordance with role requirements and Anaesthetist instruction.
- Whilst supporting the Anaesthetist, ATs should be wholly and exclusively responsible to that Anaesthetist.
- Can not independently prescribe or administer agents used for general anaesthesia and/or sedation. Administration of anaesthetic agents can only occur in a supporting role under the direction of a Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural



Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field.

- Provide support, assistance and collaboration with Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field, and work productively alongside other health professionals during peri-operative, interventional, and investigative procedures.
- Provide support for the Anaesthetists in operating departments, and other environments including medical imaging units (MRI, Radiology), intensive care, obstetric departments, emergency departments, endoscopy units, ECT units, and any other areas where anaesthesia is administered.
- Maintain and check all anaesthesia equipment in accordance with policy, company guidelines and in accordance with ANZCA college documents PG31(A), PS55(A), and PG28(A).
- Provide support for the safe transportation of patients, both within the hospital environment and/or between other hospitals or healthcare facilities.
- Undertake higher skill duties, if accredited. Within the scope of the training. Proof of successful completion of an accredited higher skill completion must be verified and retained.
- Maintain a safe environment by:
 - Adhering to all safety precautions, including electrical safety precautions.
 - Accurately preparing, setting up and checking anaesthetic and monitoring equipment.
 - Cleaning, preparing, and maintaining anaesthetic equipment.
 - Ensure that all required documentation is accurate and completed in a professional and timely manner.

With direct reference to [ANZCA PS08: Position statement on the assistant of the anaesthetist 2025](#), ATs should be able to demonstrate performance of the following:

(7.1) Standards:

- Explain and adhere to anaesthesia standards and protocols.
- Apply workplace and occupational health & safety regulations.
- Work as a team member with other health professionals and healthcare workers, including communication skills with graded assertiveness.
- Discuss legal responsibilities including consent, privacy and confidentiality.
- Understand and apply the principles of patient centred care, cultural safety and trauma informed care.

(7.2) Anaesthesia Equipment:

- Describe the care, use and servicing of all equipment related to the provision of anaesthesia services, particularly those used in their workplace, including:
 - Anaesthesia delivery systems and ventilators.
 - Monitoring equipment and ultrasound devices.
 - Airway devices including video-laryngoscopes and fibre-optic instruments.
 - Vascular access device placement and management.
 - Infusion pumps and warming devices



- Point-of-care testing eg blood gas analysis, viscoelastography (TEG/Rotem)
- Describe the cleaning and sterilisation of equipment related to the provision of anaesthesia services (consistent with local policies and PG28 Infection prevention and control).
- Describe the various infection prevention and control responsibilities related to staff, patients, and equipment (consistent with local policies and PG28 Infection prevention and control).
- Apply measures to prevent anaesthetic gases and volatile agents entering the environment.
- Apply and support measures to aid economically and environmentally responsible practices.
- Ensure that necessary drugs and equipment (including disposable items) are readily available and sufficiently stocked.

(7.3) Safety:

- Apply in practice the national safety standards, regulations and legislations for the following to reduce hazard potential to staff and patients:
 - Electricity.
 - Radiation.
 - Lasers.
 - Gas cylinders and pipelines.
 - Volatile agents.
 - Transmittable infectious diseases including biological fluid exposure.
 - Ensure staff and patient safety when utilising equipment in anaesthetising locations.

(7.4) Anaesthesia Techniques:

- Discuss anaesthesia techniques involving all areas of perioperative practice in order to support the anaesthetist including:
 - Preparation and participation in surgical safety checklists.
 - Patient preparation and vascular access
 - Placement of regional blocks
 - Monitoring
 - Patient transfer and positioning
 - Induction
 - Maintaining and/or securing the airway
 - Maintenance
 - Emergence
 - Transfer and handover to PACU or ICU

(7.4.1) Regional and local anaesthesia:

- Describe regional and local anaesthesia, including all commonly used techniques for regional and local blockade, to be able to assist the anaesthetist.
- The assistant should be able to recognise complications of regional and local anaesthesia and know the management principles.
- Discuss the guideline for the management of major regional analgesia as articulated in ANZCA professional document PG03(A) Major regional anaesthesia.



(7.4.2) Sedation:

- Describe the principles of sedation and/or analgesia for diagnostic and interventional medical, dental or surgical treatment as articulated in ANZCA professional document PG09(G) Procedural sedation, including the specific requirements for staffing and patient safety.

(7.5) Regional and Local Anaesthesia:

- Describe regional and local anaesthesia, including all commonly used techniques for regional and local blockade, and be able to support the Anaesthetist.
- Discuss the guideline for the management of major regional analgesia as articulated in ANZCA professional document PG03(A) Major regional anaesthesia.

(7.6) Invasive Techniques and Ultrasound:

- Sufficient knowledge to be able to support the Anaesthetist with invasive techniques including insertion of peripheral venous, central venous, and pulmonary artery catheters, and arterial lines and the ongoing management of these.
- Support the Anaesthetist with ultrasound techniques for nerve and vascular location.
- An understanding of the following to help support in the safe patient care:
 - Intercostal tube drainage.
 - Endoscopy of the airways.
 - Rapid infusion devices.

(7.7) Therapeutics:

- Describe the safe storage, preparation and use of all drugs, fluids and other therapeutic substances administered during anaesthesia.
- Support with preparing drugs, fluids and therapeutic substances as directed by the anaesthetist.
- Support the anaesthetist with the safe handling of controlled/restricted drugs, including complying with jurisdictional responsibilities.

* ANZCA outlines its support for all anaesthetic assistants to practice safe handling of controlled/restricted drugs as a core competency in document PS08(A)BP. However, this issue falls outside the scope of PS08(A). Therefore, the relevant regulations of each working state or territory regarding drug administration, possession, and disposal should be individually consulted and applied.

Please see the following links to each state and territory's legislation:

- [Queensland – Medicines and Poisons \(Medicines\) Regulation 2021](#) as outlined in the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Act 2019 and its associated regulations.
- [New South Wales - Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2022 and its associated regulations.
- [Victoria – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulation 2017](#) as outlined in the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 and the associated regulations.
- [Western Australia – Medicines and Poisons Regulation 2016](#) as outlined in the Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 and the associated regulations.



- [Australian Capital Territory- Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 and associated regulations.
- [Northern Territory – Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2014](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012, and associated regulations.
- [South Australia – Controlled Substance \(Poisons\) Regulations 2011](#), and as outlined in the Controlled Substances Act 1984, and associated regulations.
- [Tasmania – Poisons Regulation 2018](#), as outlined in the Poisons Act 1981, and associated regulations.

(7.8) Emergency Care:

- For the following emergencies:
 - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - Management of the difficult airway, failed intubation and "can't intubate, can't oxygenate" scenarios
 - Cardiac defibrillation and cardioversion
 - Peri-operative blood management (Massive Blood Transfusion) strategies
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Malignant hyperthermia
 - Local Anaesthetic Toxicity
 - Recall the appropriate algorithms for crisis management, and where to find specific resources and cognitive aids where available.
 - Describe the role of the anaesthetic assistant.
 - Know the locations of and be able to provide the necessary equipment.
 - Provide proactive support to the anaesthetist as required and requested.
 - Maintain competency in Basic Life Support as a minimum requirement.

(7.9) Post-operative Plan:

- Outline post-operative analgesic alternatives and list the equipment that may be required in the operating room and PACU.
- Be aware of local acute pain management policies and where to locate them.

(7.10) Work Environment:

- Discuss and demonstrate non-technical skills including:
 - Communication
 - Cultural competence
 - Working in a team environment
 - Situational awareness
 - Clinical advocacy.
 - Reflective practice.
 - Adaptability

(7.11) Cell Salvage:

- Depending on institutional requirements, individual scope of practice, and having completed additional education and training, the assistant to the



anaesthetist may undertake cell salvage.

- Maintain and upgrade knowledge and skills with regular continuous professional development (CPD) activities, in line with standards from regulatory authorities, relevant to their practice in accordance with ANZCA PS08(A)(8) and the AAAHP requirements. Record Continuous Professional Development. (Appendix 1. Available on the AAAHP website). The minimum required CPD is 30 hours per registration period, as outlined in AAAHP policy.
- Acquire, maintain, and utilise knowledge and skills in accordance with the policies of the employing healthcare facility and the AAAHP's scope of practice, and professional code of standards.
- The recognition of advanced upskilling for ATs is acknowledged and may be considered for utilisation at the discretion of the individual healthcare organisations. Skills classified in this category are demonstrated by NZ Anaesthetic Technicians, Operating Department Practitioners, and ATs who have completed specialised training courses, HLS, or programs. This can include, but are not limited to:
 - Cardiac specialisation
 - Orthopaedic specialisation
 - Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation
 - Cell Salvage
 - Active clotting time (ACT) analysis
 - Processing, Preparation and Assistance with Transoesophageal Echocardiograms
 - Plegia Services for Perioperative Organ Donation and Transplantation
 - Perioperative Organ Donation Care
 - Trauma Specialisation
 - Neurosurgery & Neurointerventional (NIIS) Specialisation
 - Cardiology Interventional Specialisation (TAVI)
 - Radiology & Radiological Interventional Specialisation
 - Co-ordination, Educational, and Managerial Roles
 - Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
 - Peripherally Inserted Central Catherisation (PICC) specialisation
 - Advanced Ultrasound Specialisation for Cannulation
 - Simulation Specialisation
 - Pre-Anaesthetic Assessment Clinic Health Assessment and Screening
 - Patient Blood Management Services
 - 12-Lead ECG Health Assessments
 - Pre-Operative / Holding Bay Specialisation
 - Respiratory and Ventilation / ICU Technical Support Specialisation
 - IDC Insertion
 - Regional and Pain Management Specialisation
- ATs can provide educational support and mentoring to students, trainee and junior ATs which is a critical component of their tertiary studies and learning experience. Mentor support should be aimed at focusing on linking theoretical knowledge to practical application in line with the requirements of their training program. Student,



trainee and junior ATs must adhere to the direction of the scope of practice, their workplace policies & procedures and their training facility's guidelines & requirements.

- Nationally Accredited Qualifications: The Australian Government - Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is the current national body in place to oversee nationally recognised qualifications. The national register of VET contains a list of current nationally accredited qualifications that meet the required standards for VET-accredited courses, in line with the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011*. The registry currently lists the following qualifications as nationally accredited qualifications for ATs:
 - Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice – HLT57921
 - Certificate IV in Anaesthetic Technology – HLT42607
 - Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology – HLT57915, HLT50602
 - Diploma of Paramedical Science (Anaesthesia) – HLT50607, HLT50612

For international qualifications: engagement with the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs - Overseas Qualifications Units (OQU) may be required for a referral of a qualification assessment through the Australian Government's Department of Education – International Education department. Each state and territory have its individual Overseas Qualifications Units so refer to the attached link for further guidance on Qualification recognition:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/services-and-resources/pages/qualifications-recognition.aspx>

- ATs must demonstrate and maintain essential knowledge and understanding of the required legal and ethical practice. This includes:
 - Legal and ethical considerations (national, state/territory) for ATs working in health
 - How are they applied in organisations
 - How do these impact individual workers
 - The consequences of breaches
 - Children in the workplace
 - Codes of conduct
 - Codes of practice
 - Complaints management
 - Continuing professional education
 - Discrimination
 - Dignity of risk
 - Duty of care
 - Human rights (universal declaration of human rights, relationship between human needs and human rights, frameworks, approaches and instruments used in the workplace)
 - Informed consent
 - Mandatory reporting
 - Practice standards
 - Practitioner/client boundaries
 - Privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - Policy frameworks



- Records management
 - Rights and responsibilities of workers, employers and clients
 - Industrial relations legislation relevant to the employment conditions of the role
 - Specific legislation in the area of work – objectives and key components
 - Work role boundaries – responsibilities and limitations
 - Work health and safety
 - Interrelationships, similarities and differences that may exist between legal and ethical frameworks
 - Legal issues in the context of the work role (type of legal issues that arise, ways to respond etc.)
 - Ethical practice in the context of the work role (type of ethical issues that arise, ways to respond etc.)
 - Workplace policies, procedures and protocols (how they are/should be developed, processes for review, including consultation and mechanisms for input)
-
- Keeping up to date on state, territory, and federal legislation, regulatory and codes of practice amendments, as well as, organisation policies, procedures and protocol changes, is also essential to the role of ATs to ensure best and safe practice is being adhered to.



Relevant documents:

[ANZCA PS08\(A\) – position statement on the assistant of the anaesthetist 2025](#)

[PS08BP Position statement on the assistant for the anaesthetist Background Paper 2025](#)

[ANZCA PG31\(A\) – Guideline on checking anaesthesia delivery systems](#)

[ANZCA PG03\(A\) – Guidelines for the management of major regional anaesthesia](#)

[ANZCA PS04\(A\) – Position statement on the post-anaesthesia care unit](#)

[ANZCA PS59 \(A\) Position statement on roles in anaesthesia and perioperative care](#)

[ANZCA PS55\(A\) – position statement on minimum facilities for safe administration of anaesthesia in operating suites and other anaesthetising locations](#)

[ANZCA PG09\(G\) – Guideline on procedural sedation](#)

[ANZCA PG28\(A\) – Guideline in infection control in anaesthesia](#)

[Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network \(SWAPNET\) – Position on Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice and Delegation](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -*Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -*Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 - National*](#)

[AHPRA - National Scheme for each state and territory Health Practitioner National Law](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -*Electrical Safety Act 2002*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -*Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Bill 1998*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4173:2004 – Guide to the safe use of lasers in healthcare](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011*](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - *Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021*](#)

[Australian Government - Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\) – National Register of VET](#)

