MEDIA RELEASE

25 August 2020

ASA Welcomes Victorian Moves to Protect Healthcare Workers

The Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) has welcomed news of the efforts now being made by the Victorian Government to address issues around COVID-19 infections of healthcare workers in the workplaces.

The ASA has been a vocal advocate for anaesthetists and other frontline healthcare workers as infection rates have grown at an alarming rate in recent weeks and months.

“We wrote to the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, calling for further action around health and safety and have for many months been calling for fit-testing of PPE,” said ASA President Dr Suzi Nou.

“Today’s release of detailed analysis of COVID infection in Victorian healthcare workers revealed some 70 to 80% of infections were contracted in workplaces.

“We are delighted to see the ASA advocacy result in moves to introduce PPE spotters, fit-testing trials and to fast track work cover claims.

“We will still be campaigning for automatic lodgement of workcover claims for health workers and to remove the onus that COVID-19 has been acquired in the workplace.

“The ASA would also like to see support for the implementation of reusable respiratory protection and strengthening of occupational health and safety systems in health centres and anywhere health workers are getting infected.

“I have been proud to represent anaesthetists on the Victorian Healthcare Worker Infection Prevention and Wellbeing Taskforce and to work closely with other specialties to advocate for our healthcare workers on the frontline.

“We look forward to seeing other states around Australia follow this lead,” Dr Nou said.

Media Contact:
Cindy Jones T: 0408168791
cjones@asa.org.au

The ASA, with more than 3,700 members, is the peak body and leading representative of anaesthetists in Australia. Since 1934 the ASA has been supporting, representing and educating anaesthetists to ensure the safest high-quality patient care.