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Educational opportunities for
anaesthesia research co-ordinators
in Australia and New Zealand

August 2025

Purpose of document:

This document provides guidance to support research co-ordinators in anaesthesia, perioperative, and intensive care medicine across Australia and New Zealand by outlining current and emerging educational opportunities, professional development pathways, training resources, and scholarship support available in 2025.

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The development of the Anaesthesia Research Coordinator Network (ARCN) and ANZCA CTN toolkit is being led by the CTN office team, in collaboration with the ARCN sub-committee and the CTN executive. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the ANZCA CTN members, CTN office, ARCN sub-committee, and CTN executive in the creation, preparation, development, and review of this document.

Disclaimer:

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Educational opportunities for anaesthesia research co-ordinators in Australia and New Zealand

Developed for the ANZCA Clinical Trials Network based on a presentation by Dr Glenn Eastwood given during an ANZCA CTN educational session in June 2019.

Note: this list of resources is not exhaustive.

1. Why further education matters

High-quality clinical research requires advanced knowledge in regulatory compliance, ethics, trial management, data analysis, and participant care. Upskilling in these key skills improves trial efficiency, compliance, and research impact. As clinical trials become increasingly complex, a well-supported, knowledgeable co-ordinator workforce is essential. Local, national and international policies and guidelines are constantly changing; ongoing continuing professional development (CPD) and education ensures clinical research is conducted in compliance with these guidelines.

2. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD requirements are continually changing. It is advisable to check with your relevant professional body to confirm the current minimum requirements.

New Zealand:

- Multi-Employer Collective Agreement (MECA) Agreement ([New Zealand Nurses Organisation \(NZNO\)](#), check most current version on website): 32 hrs CPD leave per calendar year for full-time nurses/midwives.
- Mandatory CPD varies by role:
 - Nurses/Midwives: ≥ 20 hrs/year.
 - Allied Health: e.g., psychologists (30 hrs), physiotherapists (20 hrs).

Australia:

- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) [CPD standards](#): ≥ 20 hrs/calendar year for RNs.
- Allied Health and other health practitioners: Check Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (APHRA) requirements and enterprise agreements.
- Research Co-ordinators without registration: Check organisational CPD allowances and Human Resources (HR) policies.

3. Core training areas

Domain	Examples of learning
Good Clinical Practice (GCP)	GCP refresher, TransCelerate-accredited courses.
Research governance	Site activation, Site Specific Assessment (SSA) (Australia)/ Locality Application (New Zealand), audits.
Ethics and consent	Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Ara Tika, Health and Disabilities Ethics Committee (HDEC) (New Zealand) applications, Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) navigation (Australia).
Study coordination	Time and motion, budget tracking, site communication, trial master files, centralised clinical trials systems, use of text/email services.
Data and statistics	REDCap, SPSS, Rplus, biostatistics, EPIC, electronic medical records, other databases (Research Path/medidata), Excel.
Writing and communication	Plain language summaries, publication, social media.
Cultural competency	Indigenous health, health literacy, inclusive engagement, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) populations.
Technology and innovation	Decentralised trials, eConsent, Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) in trials, data analysis software.

4. Accredited courses and postgraduate pathways

New Zealand universities:

- University of Auckland – [Master of Health Sciences](#), clinical trials modules
- [Victoria University Wellington – HLTH501 Research for practice](#)
- Postgraduate Certificates, Diplomas, and Masters degrees in research, public health and nursing in the following institutes:
 - [AUT](#)
 - [University of Otago](#)
 - [Massey University](#)
 - [Eastern Institution of Technology \(EIT\)](#)
 - [Institute of Canterbury \(Ara\)](#)

Australian universities:

- Postgraduate courses in:
 - Clinical trials research
 - Epidemiology / Biostatistics
 - Public health
 - Research ethics and governance
- University of Melbourne:
 - [Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research](#)
 - [Diploma in Clinical Research](#)
 - [Masters of Clinical Research](#)
- Monash University
 - [Courses at Monash University Clinical Trials Centre](#)
 - [Master of Public Health](#)

- University of Sydney
 - [Clinical Trials Research](#)
 - [Master of Public Health](#)
- University of New South Wales (UNSW)
 - [Clinical Trials Training](#)
 - [Master of public health](#)
- University of Queensland
 - [Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology](#)
 - [Master of Epidemiology](#)
- Online and hybrid options available (see [Open Universities Australia](#))

5. In-house and regional training opportunities

New Zealand:

- [Ko Awatea LEARN](#): eLearning for District Health Boards (DHBs) (GCP, research ethics, consent)
- [Greenlane Coordinating Centre \(GCC\)](#): GCP (new and refresher) – TransCelerate accredited
- Research Office Training: Ethics, governance, Māori and Pacific approval processes, study design

Australia:

- [Melbourne Children's Trial Centre Launching Pad](#): Tools and templates for co-ordinators
- [National Health Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#)
- [Australian Clinical Trials Alliance \(ACTA\)](#)
- [Australian -Clinical Trials Education Centre \(A-CTEC\)](#): On-demand webinars, templates for budgeting, feasibility, site readiness
- Hospital Education Programs: Grand Rounds, Journal Clubs, monthly research sessions

6. Conferences and networking

Key events:

- [ANZCA CTN Strategic Research Workshop](#) (Annual – August)
- [New Zealand Association of Clinical Research \(NZACR\)](#) Conference (Biannual)
- [Health Services Research Association of Australia and NZ \(HSRAANZ\)](#)
- [ARCS Australia Annual Conference](#) (Industry-focused)
- [ACTA International Clinical Trials Symposium](#)
- [A-CTEC Conference](#)

Join networks:

- [NZACRes](#) – \$120/year, access to events and discounted courses
- [ARCS Australia](#) – Education and policy leadership in clinical trials
- [Victorian Association of Research Nurses \(VARN\)](#)
- [ANZCA ARCN](#) – Join the email list for updates and educational session invitations
- [Franklin Women](#) - A community supporting the careers of women in health and medical research

7. Short courses and micro-credentials

- [Macquarie University](#): Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research (online)
- [MCRI Launching Pad](#): GCP, research budget templates, checklists
- [A-CTEC](#): Short courses in clinical trial coordination

- REDCap training (often provided free through research offices)
- PRAXIS – Short courses in ethics and education in research. ([Australia](#), [New Zealand](#))

8. Scholarships and funding opportunities

New Zealand:

- [Health New Zealand Postgraduate Funding](#): Administered by DHBs
- [New Zealand Nurses Organisation \(NZNO\) Scholarships](#)
- [University of Auckland](#): Victoria League Award, Kilpatrick Research Award, Douglas Goodfellow Scholarship

Australia:

- State-based Health Services: Study leave and grants (e.g. [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) Allied Health Scholarships](#))
- [NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships](#)
- [ANZCA Foundation](#): Project and development grants
- [ACTA](#) and [CT:IQ](#) Bursaries: Offered periodically for CPD

9. Tips for co-ordinators seeking education support

- Discuss CPD/study leave with your line manager (and/or Human Resources) early in the year.
- Explore micro-credentials as cost-effective, flexible options.
- Track your CPD hours and keep certificates for your professional portfolio.
- Consider developing a 12–24-month personal learning plan and include this in your yearly professional review with managers.
- Pair training with your organisation's needs (e.g. implementation science, ethics committee changes).
- Identify resources in your local area (ethics drop in clinics, database education etc).

Appendices

Key websites and portals

- [Ko Awatea LEARN](#)
- [MCRI Launching Pad](#)
- [NZACRes](#)
- [ACTA Education Hub](#)
- [Open Universities Australia](#)