

ANZICS Statement on the Christchurch Tragedy

The ANZICS community has been deeply saddened by the appalling attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand during Friday prayers on 15 March 2019. We collectively mourn the loss of 50 innocent victims, and hope for the recovery of those who are injured (many of whom remain in critical care). We are shocked by what has occurred and recognise that the Christchurch community and many others will be profoundly affected. The events of last Friday embody the very antithesis of civilised values and attempt to deny our common humanity. Through their subsequent response, the people of New Zealand have courageously demonstrated that love, respect and compassion will always win out.

We applaud the response of Christchurch citizens and their leaders. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, has provided a worthy example of the values that are essential to the character of New Zealanders. The ANZICS community pledges to support all New Zealanders irrespective of their background as they seek to find peace and healing during their recovery from this horrific incident. We are in awe of our colleagues from Christchurch and Auckland hospitals who have been involved in the care of the injured with absolute professionalism and expertise. The emotional impact on these staff has been clearly significant and we acknowledge their service with deep admiration. Our support and thoughts are with you during this time.

ANZICS strongly supports the public health initiatives of the New Zealand government to ban military style semi-automatics and assault rifles under proposed stronger new gun laws.

For those who would like to support the victims, we encourage you to donate via the official support page <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/christchurch-shooting-victims-fund>

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Warrillow".

Dr Stephen Warrillow

President
The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society