Statement by Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, 11 October 2023

Ahead of this year’s Aotearoa New Zealand general election, ACEM called on political parties contesting the election to commit to measures that could help restore the nation’s struggling EDs and staff, and ensure more patients can access safe, timely and effective care:

1. The delivery and appropriate staffing of all mental health facilities pledged in the 2019 mental health budget package, ensuring more acute mental health care beds are available for patients across Aotearoa.
2. The urgent delivery of 150 appropriately staffed high-level aged care residential beds.
3. The implementation of identified solutions that provide and retain the emergency care workforce needed to deliver safe care and protect the wellbeing of staff.
4. The implementation of a plan to collect accurate ethnicity data, audit health care outcomes for equity and address identified inequities in the ED.
5. 24/7 security staff posted at every ED, integrated, and appropriately trained to best support staff, patients, whanau and visitors.

ACEM has acknowledged and welcomed major health announcements from both major parties that align with its five solutions.