

Via Email 29/09/2011

To the relevant members of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia,

I wish to contribute some of my thoughts and suggestions with regards to the C.P.D. component of the proposed mandatory registration standards.

First and foremost I would like to note that I am somewhat unconvinced of the benefits of the particular proposal and feel that it will create a huge burden on practicing Radiographers and Radiation Therapists with minimal increase in actual practice standards. I am personally of the view that it is targeted at public perception and perhaps more a public relations exercise than anything else. However, if the board is insistent upon such a proposal I would like to provide my suggestions for proposed amendments in order to simplify the program and make the standards more practically achievable.

Before I go on to provide my suggestion of proposed amendments I would like to note some of the following points with regards to the C.P.D. program as it is instituted and practiced within the A.I.R.

1. From personal experience many participants merely show up to lectures and conferences to earn points and are not really interested in improving practice standards or furthering professional development.
2. Again from personal experience active participants in the C.P.D. program do not necessarily show higher standards of practice nor demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge in their respective areas of expertise.
3. The A.I.R. has a booklet with guidelines on how, when and how many points can be achieved, all aimed at ensuring that participants achieve their points through various different educational formats. People are individuals and vary in their preferences and learning styles. Why is it necessary to impose such stringent guidelines on how many points can be achieved in any given format?
4. The guidelines stipulated by the A.I.R. result in participants often having to attend expensive conferences often held interstate in order to fully comply. This not only dramatically increases the costs for registrants but also requires sacrificing valuable family time. Part time employees and those living in remote areas in particular face great hardships in having to attend these conferences and seminars

In order to make the program simpler and less burdensome upon registrants I provide the following suggestions that the Board would do well to consider:

1. Reduce and simplify C.P.D. guidelines making them easier to achieve and simpler to implement.
2. Reduce the number of hours required tri-annually. 60 hours is excessive.
3. Ensure participants can gain a significant portion of their C.P.D. points through personal learning and in-house seminars and lectures in order to reduce costs associated with travel, attending conferences etc.

4. The board would do well to provide easily accessible, low or no cost alternatives to attending seminars and conferences such as web based tutorials/lectures/learning modules etc

I certainly hope the board will consider the matter adequately and at the very least amend its proposals to include some of the suggestions put forward by practicing Medical radiation professionals like myself.

Yours faithfully,
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