

Communiqué

The May meeting of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the National Board) was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 26 May 2014. The June meeting was held in Melbourne on 23 June 2014. This communiqué highlights news from those meetings.

The National Board publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to colleagues and employees who may be interested in our work.

Meeting with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of New Zealand

The National Board met with its regulatory counterpart the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of New Zealand in Wellington on 27 May. Discussions addressed a number of common interests including investigating the assessment of overseas-qualified practitioners, competency and practice standards, and expanded areas of practice and advanced practice. The two Boards agreed that the meeting was a helpful starting point for future discussions and collaboration.

Regulatory Authorities of New Zealand Inaugural Conference

While in New Zealand a number of representatives from the National Board attended the inaugural conference of New Zealand health regulators. Harry Cayton, CEO of the Professional Standards Authority (Health Regulators UK) spoke on how health regulators might be better regulators. His main points included:

- the role of regulation in supporting and raising the standard of practice
- that regulators are responsible for representing the public interest as distinct from professional interest
- the responsibility of regulators to ensure that regulation supports changes in technology, changes in education and practice, and changes in community expectations
- that professionals and employers play a significant part in ensuring compliance with good practice and reporting poor practice, and
- health consumers should be educated and empowered in the receipt of health services.

These points will be considered in our efforts to improve health regulation in Australia.

New supervised practice registration standard and guidelines for medical radiation practitioners

The Board has developed the [Supervised practice registration standard](#) and [Supervised practice guidelines](#) to ensure practitioners meet the requirements of registration and are capable of safe, independent practice. In developing the documents the Board undertook significant consultation over three years with stakeholders including practitioners, employers, professional associations and governments.

Current final-year students who are required to undertake a program of supervised practice in 2015 will enroll in the Board /AHPRA-managed program from November 2014. Most of those supervised practitioners currently enrolled in the programs run on behalf of the Board by AIR or ANZSNM will complete their supervised practice in those programs.

This is the first phase of information on supervised practice arrangements for 2015. There will be further releases of information in the next few months. The Board will make announcements through its website and will provide information directly to education providers and the professional associations. Students and supervisors should stay informed by regularly visiting the [Registration > Supervised practice page](#) on the Board's website.

Radiation safety legislation in each state may also mandate supervision requirements.

International Society of Radiographers and Radiologic Technologists

National Board Chair Mr Neil Hicks attended the ISRRT World Congress in Helsinki on 12-15 June 2014. Mr Hicks presented a paper on the introduction of the national registration and accreditation scheme for medical radiation practitioners in Australia. The presentation covered the significant benefits of the national scheme and noted some of the substantial challenges in achieving a world first in health professional regulation.

The Congress also provided international perspectives on standards of practice and, in particular, some of the advances and innovations in practice. These perspectives will inform the work of the Board and its Workforce Innovation and Reform Working Group.

It was also pleasing to see so many practitioners from Australia presenting at the Congress.

Appointments to the National Board

On 19 June 2014 health ministers announced that they had reappointed the Chair and a number of Board members and had appointed a number of new members to the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia.

The Board extends sincere thanks to outgoing Board members Susan Baldwin, Liz Benson, Kar Giam and Christopher Pilkington for their dedication to and work on the National Scheme, and for contributing to the safety of the public by ensuring access to health practitioners who are safe and adequately trained and qualified.

The Chair also welcomed new Board members Travis Pearson, Belinda Evans, Prof. Stephan Millet, Roger Weckert and Mary Edwards.

For further information, visit the [News page](#) on our website.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme review

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) has published the terms of reference for the three-year review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme). The review will examine:

- the extent to which we are meeting the objectives and guiding principles of the National Scheme
- the operational performance of the National Scheme
- the National Law, including mandatory reporting, the Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council and new professions entering the scheme
- governance effectiveness, including within the National Scheme and with our stakeholders, and
- the sustainability of the National Scheme, with a specific focus on new professions in the scheme and funding for smaller professions.

For more information, visit the [News](#) section on the AHPRA website.

Consultation update

The Board has just concluded a public consultation on a review of the following registration standards:

- Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements registration standard
- Continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard, and
- Recency of practice registration standard.

The Board thanks those stakeholders who took the time to provide feedback on the operation of the current standards. The Board will now review the feedback and consider the future operation of the standards. For further information and consultation documents, visit the [News>Consultations](#) page on the Board's website.

Neil Hicks
Chair

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

For more information:

- For all media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200
- Visit www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/
- Practitioners with registration enquiries can call 1300 419 495 (from within Australia), or +61 3 8708 9001 (from overseas)