

Via Email 5/10/2011

I am a Nuclear Medicine Technologist with over 15 years of experience working within the public and private sector and in rural areas.

I have read the consultation paper that has been released on the aphra site and have some comments I wish to submit.

In regards to Attachment 6 which is on Grandparenting and general registration I note that no reference is made to other qualifications that professionals across the three streams may have achieved.

For example the CT training for Nuclear Medicine Technologists to operate hybrid scanners. Up until the end of 2009 the only state and territory approved courses were those listed in the EPA guidelines of N.S.W. The Victorian VSNMT course was approved by the MRPB of Victoria in Nov 2009. The VSNMT course was restricted entry only and is still somewhat restrictive for interstate our older technologists. My question would be in relation to what will happen to those people who have done prior approved courses before National Registration takes effect. I think any course or line of study that was already approved within its state or territory and undertaken by a person should be grandfathered in until such a stage as new National Laws are finalized.

I am unsure if a similar situation arises for Radiographers or Radiation Therapists.

I would also like to put forth for discussion, as we are going into National Registration; is that of the merging of the professions in the clinical setting. With the advent more so in Nuclear Medicine of the hybrid scanners, whether PET/CT or SPECT/CT it raises the problem of appropriate training and for budgetary restraints for hospitals and private departments in how these hybrid scanners are staffed. Most larger hospitals do not have Diagnostic Radiography and Nuclear Medicine within the same department; so staffing with Radiographers and Nuclear Medicine Tech's is almost impossible. Cost wise this is prohibitive for both hospitals and private practices.

Surely as we go into National Registration this is now the time to start working as a group of professional people within the profession of Medical Radiations. We need to drop the classic attitude of each stream thinking we are more 'important' or 'better' than the other. We need to encourage and support our educational institutes to develop courses that allow one stream to study and cross over into another or to specialize in specific sections such as CT or MRI. Perhaps courses similar in style to the U/S courses whereby Medical Radiations 'qualified' professionals are trained within the clinical setting may be an appropriate way of crossing over into another stream. I think that these issues are paramount in ensuring that our profession of Medical Radiations moves with the times and provides high quality training and care to the patients we service.

I thank you for the opportunity in being able to submit my thoughts.

Yours sincerely

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