

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

Composition of the Accreditation Committee

September 2012

Background

In June 2011 Australian Health Ministers agreed that the National Boards for the 2012 professions should assign accreditation arrangements for their professions. Under section 43 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law), accreditation functions can be performed by either an external accreditation entity or a committee established by the Board.

The Board has previously determined to assign accreditation functions for the profession to an external body, however, arrangements have not been successfully finalised. In approaching this matter again the Board has considered its options in relation to appointing:

- an external accreditation entity, or
- establishing a Committee of the Board.

After considering various options for providing timely accreditation functions for the medical radiation profession, the Board has decided to establish an Accreditation Committee of the Board to undertake the accreditation functions.

Role of the Accreditation Committee

The priorities for the Accreditation Committee will be to

1. develop accreditation standards, for approval by the Board
2. establish processes for the assessment of domestic programs of study
3. monitor programs of study and education providers to ensure they continue to meet accreditation standards, and
4. advise the Board on issues in education and practice which may impact on medical radiation practice and the conduct of programs of study

Proposed composition of the Accreditation Committee

In August, the National Board agreed to undertake broad consultation on the composition of the Accreditation Committee. The Board's proposed composition included at least one educationalist, at least one medical radiation academic, at least one medical radiation practitioner and at least one allied health sciences academic. The possible inclusion of a Board member and/or a community representative was also discussed. The Board also agreed that the Accreditation Committee be able to appoint further members (in consultation with the Board) as required, to assist with increased workloads or to provide alternative members if conflicts of interests arise.

The Board is now seeking your submissions on the following:

- a) Do you agree with the proposed inclusion of at least one educationalist, at least one medical radiation academic, at least one medical radiation practitioner and at least one allied health sciences academic to the Committee?
- b) Do you think there should be additional sub-criteria for the selection of the above persons and if so what should they be?
- c) Do you think a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?
- d) Do you think a community representative should be on the Accreditation Committee?
- e) How many members do you think the Committee should have?

In considering the proposed membership, it should be noted that although including a Board member on the Accreditation Committee would facilitate communication between the Board and the Committee:

- f) the National Law makes a clear intention to separate the regulatory and accreditation functions, and
- g) Board members can be regarded as holding fiduciary positions *vis a vis* their Board, i.e. membership of a National Board requires primary allegiance to the Board. There may, therefore, be a conflict of interest if a Board member is also a member of the Accreditation Committee.

Submissions

The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia is now seeking feedback on the composition of the Accreditation Committee.

Submissions must be sent prior to close of business on 1 October 2012.

Submissions by email should have the subject - "Composition of the MRPBA Accreditation Committee" and be sent to medicalradiationconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Submissions by post should be addressed to:
Executive Officer, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the Board.

The Board publishes submissions on its website www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

Submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments, or which are outside the scope of the discussion will not be placed on the Board website, nor made available to the public. Before publication, any personally identifying information will be removed from submissions.

The Board also accepts submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Commonwealth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence.

Please tell us if you do not want your submission published, or want us to treat any part of it as confidential. A link to the National Law is available at www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications.aspx