

Medical Radiations Australia
Council of Medical Radiations Discipline Heads

24 September 2012

Mr Adam Reinhard
Executive Officer
Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Heads of Medical Radiation Science of:

Central Queensland University
Charles Sturt University
Curtin University of Technology
Monash University
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
The University of Newcastle
The University of South Australia
The University of Sydney

Dear Mr Reinhard

Re: Response to MRPBA request for submission on the Composition of the Accreditation Committee

The Medical Radiations Australia Council of Medical Radiations Discipline Heads (MRA) would like to thank the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA) for the opportunity to be able to comment and submit a response on the composition of the Accreditation Committee.

The accreditation of medical radiations' programs / courses and hence the ability for graduates to enter the medical radiations' professions and obtain registration to practice is a very important function of the MRPBA. Whilst professional and current practice knowledge are requirements of the committee's membership, the committee must also have knowledge of and take into consideration the regulatory and quality environment that universities are required to operate within.

Please find attached the MRA's submission the composition of the Accreditation Committee.

Regards



Professor Rob Davidson, PhD
Chair, MRA

Composition of the MPRBA Accreditation Committee

Submission from Medical Radiations Australia – Council of Medical Radiations Discipline Heads

Question (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?

MRA's Response

The lack of clarity in regards to the kind of educationalist the Board envisages as being a member of this committee makes it a little challenging to respond to the appropriateness or otherwise of such a person. Nevertheless we agree in principle with the premise. An accreditation committee such as the one being proposed requires an educational expert who has sound knowledge of the higher education regulatory and quality environment.

We agree there should be at least one medical radiation academic and at least one medical radiation practitioner.

We do not agree with the proposal that the Committee should include an allied health sciences' academic. This is not the case with other accreditation councils/committees. There are sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified and experienced medical radiation academics in Australia without the need to resort to other allied health academics for expert advice. Indeed as we will argue later in the submission, given the fact that medical radiation comprises three professions each should be represented on the Committee.

Question (b)

Do you think there should be additional sub-criteria for the selection of the above persons and if so what should they be?

MRA's Response

Unquestionably there must be additional sub-criteria applied to the selection process. Given the functions established for the Committee is imperative that only those with an appropriate level of clinical standing in the profession in the case of practitioner appointments, and knowledge and experience of accreditation processes in the case of academic appointments, be selected. Neither do we believe that geographic consideration should play any role in the selection process. We are of the view that the following criteria should be used in determining the most appropriate persons to achieve the outcomes expected from such a Committee.

General criteria

Essential

- High standard of written and verbal communication skills;
- Demonstrated experience in effectively working within a committee environment;
- Leadership skills with ability to initiate and manage change;
- High level problem solving and decision making skills and innovative conceptual skills;
- Superior interpersonal skills, including negotiation and conflict resolution skills and an ability to function at a high level of professionalism; and
- Experience in accreditation committees or in government or non-government organisations.

Criteria for the Educationalist

Essential

- Must have appropriate qualifications in education;
- Significant experience in the Australian university sector;
- Demonstrated expertise in academic program evaluation;
- Experience in assessment methodology;
- Experience in the development of professional accreditation standards; and
- Experience in projects relating to skills recognition and professional standards in collaboration with other professions.

Desirable

- International perspective or experience in relation to recognition and accreditation issues; and
- An awareness of contemporary issues relevant to recognition of health professionals and professional education standards in Australia

Criteria for Medical Radiation Academic Member

Essential

- Must be registered or eligible for registration in one of the MRP professions with the National Board;
- Significant experience in the university sector in one of the MRP disciplines;
- Demonstrated experience in professional accreditation and recognition of issues in medical radiation science education;
- Demonstrated experience in educational design, development and implementation; and
- Development of competency assessment in an educational context.

Desirable

- Holds a current or recent fixed term or continuing academic university appointment, with qualifications in the named discipline and education, and who has a higher (post-graduate) award;
- Has a broad professional education perspective with an understanding of undergraduate course work, post graduate, and research post graduate education; and
- Has knowledge of contemporary issues relating to university education, including educating students in professional skills and professional research training.

Criteria for the Medical Radiation Practitioner Member

Essential

- Must be registered in one of the MRP disciplines with the National Board;
- Must have evidence of further academic study in the particular MRP discipline or education more generally;
- Significant experience in the practise of the nominated discipline.
- Demonstrated senior/advanced clinical experience; and
- Knowledge of professional accreditation and recognition issues in contemporary practice.

Desirable

- Knowledge of scope of practice standards and competency based standards;
- Demonstrated experience in implementing assessment strategies of medical radiation practitioners at entry level and higher.

Question (c)

Do you think a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?

MRA's Response

No. There must be a separation between regulatory and accreditation functions.

Question (d)

Do you think a community representative should be on the Accreditation Committee?

MRA's Response

No.

Question (e)

How many members do think the Committee should have?

MRA's Response

In acknowledgment of the reality that MRP comprises radiographers, radiation therapists and nuclear medicine practitioners, consideration should be given to the need for representation across the three disciplines on the accreditation Committee. In the previous Accreditation Council this was achieved. However, the application of the principle of equal representation creates the conditions for disunity of purpose and dissent. Thus we believe that this principle needs to be tempered through the application of the principle of proportional representation. This should lead to the formation of a Committee that will be in the best position to achieve the expectations of the Board.

Therefore we suggest that the Committee is comprised of three medical radiation academics with one from each of the MRP disciplines. There should be only one medical radiation practitioner Committee member and this person should be a radiographer. The capacity for the Committee to co-opt other members in consultation with the Board provides a mechanism to include other practitioner members when required.