



## Introduction from Wayne Nuss, Board Chair

The Board and the Supervised Practice Programme (SPP) Committee have made considerable progress in the accreditation of sites throughout Queensland to conduct the SPP for the three professions. Meetings have been held with Qld Health on the radiographer/sonographer situation and pending recency of practice legislation. A draft policy paper will be released for further comment following a workshop of stakeholder representatives.

The Board has released details on its awards for peer reviewed published articles. It has recently awarded prizes to QUT graduates in both medical imaging and radiation therapy.

The initial Board's term expired on 10th April. Mr Martin Quinn and Mr Daryl Cox did not seek re-nomination. The Minister sought applications for all positions on the Board for a further four-year term. The following new members have joined the Board - Ms Amy O'Rourke, radiation therapist; Mr Dominic Kennedy, medical imaging technologist; and Ms Clare Endicott, solicitor.

## Report from John Andersen, Supervised Practice Program Committee Chair

The SPP Committee has been very busy since the last newsletter and has made significant progress in the management of the SPP registrant program, due mainly to the appointment of Francesca Holloway as Project Officer.

Telephone and site inspection audits have been conducted at most of the practices accredited for the SPP program. At the same time, the Committee has reduced the compliance workload on the larger practices by introducing a multi-site accreditation process with a single primary supervisor responsible for the SPP registrants.

Through the Board, the Committee

has established a joint committee, with representatives of the Australian Institute of Radiography, to run the SPP / PDY reporting process so registrants do not have to submit progress and final reports to both the Board and the AIR. The SPP Committee will be responsible for all SPP / PDY site accreditation in Queensland.

The Committee introduced these changes to address the primary concerns expressed by industry at joint committee / industry meetings.

## Report from Francesca Holloway Project Officer

I have visited many sites now and caught up with radiographers, radiation therapists and nuclear medicine technologists - a lot of familiar faces!

My priority is the Supervised Practice Program and probationary registrants. However, I have enjoyed the opportunity to discuss other relevant topics like continuing professional development. I would like registrants to encourage the probationary registrants to participate in in-service programs seminars, discussions, presentations etc. This is an integral part of their program but also essential for all of us, particular with the release of the Recency of Practice Policy.

The progress reports for probationary registrants will be sent out in May. You will note the new format, which reflects the combined AIR/MRTB process. Please contact me at the Board on 07 32222808 if you have any enquiries at all regarding the Supervised Practice Program and feedback on new progress report forms.

## Registration Renewal Process

**At the end of this month the Board will issue applications for renewal of registration. Please ensure you attend to this important matter in a timely fashion to avoid being unregistered.**

**Registrants will notice that, despite being offered the opportunity each year for the past four years of increasing registration fees to match inflation, the Board has again declined this opportunity.**

**To renew your registration, please respond by the preferred payment date of 19 June 2006 and ensure that the following are correctly done:**

- **Complete and sign the mandatory disclosure.**
- **Complete and sign all credit card details.**
- **Lodge payment and forms together. Payments and forms will not be accepted separately.**

## Recency of Practice

Registrants will remember the Board released a discussion paper on recency of practice in February 2005. The Board was both pleased and impressed with the feedback it received to the initial document. Similar discussion papers were also released for the other 12 health practitioner registration Boards. The Board is currently finalising this matter and a second consultation document will be released in May 2006. To help in this process the Board conducted a workshop with a range of stakeholders on 30 March 2006. A draft policy paper will be sent to all those individuals and organizations that responded to the first discussion paper. Registrants should look on the Boards website at [www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au) for the second consultation document.

## Sonography practice in the public sector

The Board has noted that there are moves currently being undertaken to have sonography recognised in job descriptions in the public sector. It appears that registrants in the public sector may have the opportunity to

choose to work under a job description that is sonographer-only, rather than the current position of working under the title of radiographer.

Registrants who select this path and do not maintain registration will not be able to work as a radiographer, even in emergency or on call situations within the public sector.

The Board would like registrants to note that whilst the term 'Medical Imaging Technologist' is a protected title under the Act, the title of 'Sonographer' is not recognised by the Board for registration or, in the future, for renewal of registration once recency of practice requirements are introduced.

Those registrants that opt to be a Sonographer only may have difficulty returning to the profession of radiography if they wished to do so after a five year absence from practicing radiography.

### **Board disciplinary matters**

Since the last newsletter the Board has disciplined one registrant by correspondence for unprofessional conduct and held a disciplinary hearing with another registrant on the same grounds.

Registrants should be aware that the Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001 binds registrants to be honest and accurate with information they supply to the Board.

Employers may not represent an individual to the Board as a "Technical Assistant" to avoid potential prosecution for having practiced without registration and represent the same

person to another organisation for the same period as a "Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Radiographer, Medical Imaging Technologist or Radiation Therapist".

The Board wishes to caution employers and employees about this type of misrepresentation and remind them of their obligation to comply with the legislation. Any breaches with regard to persons practicing the professions without appropriate registration may be liable to prosecution.

### **Awards prizes and grants**

The Board recently sponsored two prizes at the QUT Medical Radiation Sciences graduation.

The Board congratulates the recipients:

- Adam Westerink (Medical Imaging Technology)
- Nicolette Anderson (Radiotherapy)

Registrants would have noticed that information on the Board's awards for published articles have been circulated through Spectrum and on the Board's Internet site.

Any queries on this matter can be directed to the Office on 3225 2517.

### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BOARD and SPP COMMITTEE**

**Phone:** (07) 3234 0102

**Fax:** (07) 3225 2527

**Postal Address:**  
PO Box 2438  
Brisbane Qld 4001

**Street Address:**  
19th Floor  
Forestry House  
160 Mary Street  
Brisbane QLD 4001

**Board Email:**  
mrt@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

**SPP Committee Email:**  
hollowayf@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

**Website:** www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au



*Medical Radiation Technologists Board Chair, Wayne Nuss who presented Adam Westerink and Nicolette Anderson with the Board Prizes at the QUT Awards evening.*

