



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

Introduction from the Chairperson

There have been a number of significant events since the publication of the last newsletter. These are dealt with in detail under their respective headings. Two of the more significant is the accreditation and audit processes of professional practices that is being undertaken by the Supervised Practice Committee (SPPC) and I would like to express the Board's appreciation for all the hard work undertaken by the SPP Committee. The other is the intended New Year release of the Discussion Paper on Recency of Practice and the implications for Continuing Professional Development.

Changes in Board Membership

In July 2004 2 Board members Ms Carolyn Astill and Ms Isabelle Vallin Thorpe sought and were approved 12 months leave of absence from the Board. Ms Carolyn Astill (Radiation Therapy member) was temporarily replaced on the Board by Ms Amy O'Rourke. Ms Isabelle Vallin Thorpe (public member) position was left vacant.

In June 2004 the Board sought an additional member for the Medical Imaging profession on the Board and Mr Martin Quinn was appointed in September 2004.

The Board welcomes both Martin and Amy to their positions.

Annual Report 03-04

The Board's 2003-2004 Annual Report was presented to Parliament in November 2004. A copy of the Report can be accessed via the Board's website or by requesting a copy from the Board's office.

Supervised Practice Program

As registrants and practices are aware the Board operates a Supervised Practice Program pursuant to Section 61 of the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001* and Part 3 of the Regulation. The aim of the Program is to provide probationary registrants with the experience, knowledge and

conduct standards required for the practice of the professions. The Board requires all new graduates of prescribed tertiary courses in the professions to undertake the Program. Upon commencement, such persons are granted general registration with probationary conditions. They must then complete the equivalent of 48 continuous weeks under the program before becoming eligible for general registration without probationary conditions.

As at 30 June 2004 there were 97 persons undertaking the Program. They comprised 68 Medical Imaging Technologists, 15 Nuclear Medicine Technologists and 14 Radiation Therapists.

The Board made a determination at its meeting of 30 June 2004 that New Zealand graduates arriving in Queensland will do 12 months of supervised practice prior to the Board granting general registration.

The Supervised Practice Program Committee membership is made up of the following Board members:

John Andersen (Chair)
Wayne Nuss
Jennie Baxter
Catherine Mc Henry

And the following paid representatives from Industry:

Gilda Brieffies
Francesca Holloway
Tim Way
Dominic Kennedy
Melinda Wilson

This Committee met 5 times in 2004 and is currently implementing an Audit of the Supervised Practice Program on behalf of the Board. The Committee has set the earliest commencement date for next years Supervised Practice Program as the 10 January 2005. Full and accurate applications can be sent to the Office after:

1. An academic transcript is available.

2. After the transcript is available but prior to 5 January 2005 to enable graduates to commence on 10 January 2005.

Accreditation of Practices - SPP

In 2003 the Board adopted the accreditations which had been issued by the AIR and ANZSNM. Therefore centres whose accreditation expires in 2004 have been sent forms to apply for the approval of the Professional Practice Setting. The SPP Committee also realised it did not have adequate information on currently approved practices and has also sent out forms to be completed by the other practices.

Some of the practices seeking Board approval will be audited as part of the approval process. The centres requiring approval will receive this in due course. The Assistant Registrar Mr David Watson can be contacted on 3234 0102 if there are any questions on this matter.

General Registration on Conditions

In addition to the 97 registrants holding General Registration with Probationary Conditions (under the Supervised Practice Program), there were 15 registrants for whom the Board had granted General Registration on Conditions.

- Of these 14 conditional registrants:
- 11 had supervisory conditions. These are persons who had been out of the workforce in excess of 5 years and as a consequence were required by the Board to undertake a 4 week resumption of professional practice program followed by 6 months of supervised practice.
- 2 had practice restricted to the place of practice.
- 2 had practice restricted to the practise of mammography in the mammography retraining program conducted by Queensland Health. This 12 month program is for radiographers being retrained in mammography after an absence from the profession.

Strategic Plan

In mid July 2003 the Board approved its *Strategic Plan 2003-2007* which had been developed in the preceding year in consultation with the community, the profession, health policy makers and professional associations.

The Plan provides the blueprint for the Board's operations. It sets out the Board's goals, strategic

direction, priorities and performance indicators for the four year period; and identifies key issues that influence future directions. The Plan is outcome-oriented, detailing the measures the Board will take to achieve desired outcomes. A copy of the Board's Strategic Plan can be accessed on the Board's website.

Fees

The Board's activities are funded mostly through fees payable by registrants in relation to registration. Such fees are exempt from the Goods and Services Tax.

These fees have remained unchanged since the introduction of the Board in May 2002.

Refunds

As per Section 60 and 61 of the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Regulation 2002* refunds are only permitted to be granted by the Board where the registrant surrenders their registration within three months of being granted or renewed their general registration.

Recency of Practice

The Board has approved a draft discussion paper on the issues of Recency of Practice. The discussion paper will be distributed to stakeholders for comment in early 2005 after it has been approved by the Minister. The Board will distribute to all registrants an update on this matter when it is advised by the Minister in 2005.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BOARD

Telephone: (07) 3225 2517
Fax: (07) 3225 2527

Postal Address: GPO Box 2438
Brisbane Qld 4001

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

Email: mrt@healthregboards.qld.gov.au
Website www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au

NB: The Office of the Board will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 24 December 2004 and reopen at 9.00 am on Tuesday 4 January 2005.