

Chairperson's Christmas Message

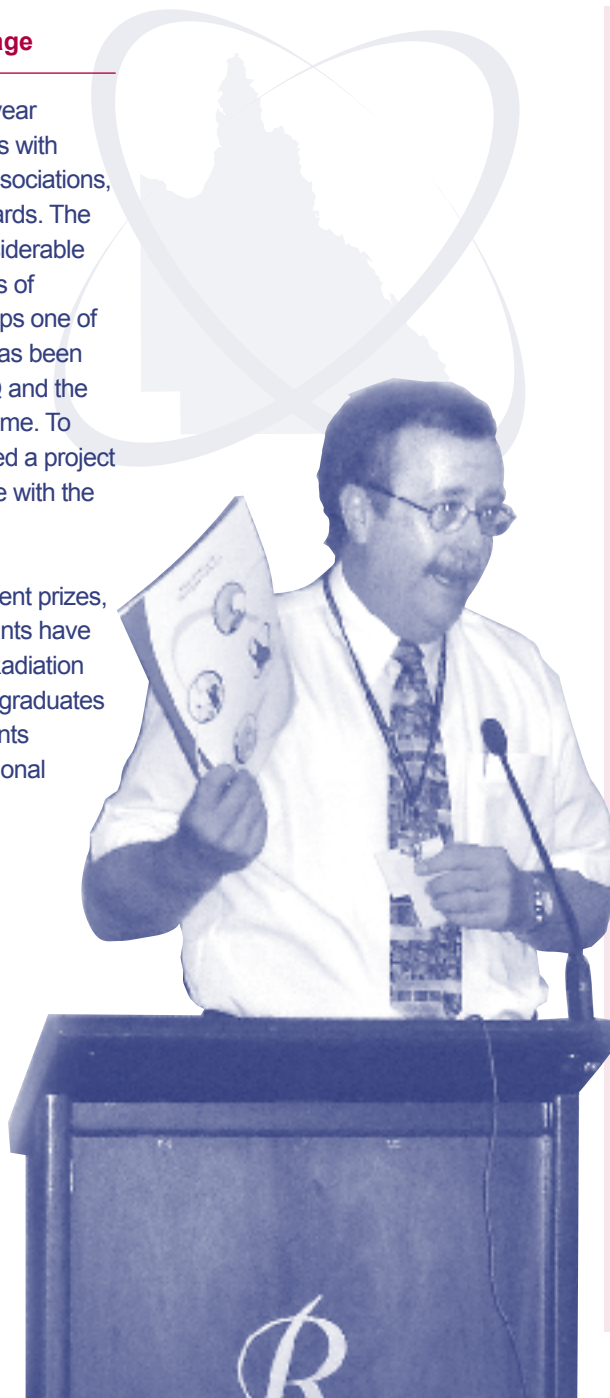
The MRTBQ has had a very active year which involved a number of meetings with representatives from professional associations, employers and other registration boards. The SPP committee has also had a considerable workload in the accreditation process of professional practice settings. Perhaps one of the more significant achievements has been the agreement between the MRTBQ and the AIR to run a joint SPP/PDY programme. To facilitate this, the Board has appointed a project officer and will form a joint committee with the AIR.

Some new initiatives regarding student prizes, publication awards and research grants have commenced. The Board, AIR and Radiation Health had a joint meeting with new graduates to inform them of the relevant elements of registration, licensing and professional development.

Phase 2 of the Recency of Practice legislative amendments consultation process will begin in the New Year.

Nominations are currently being called for the reconstitution of the MRTBQ to commence in April 2006. On behalf of the MRTBQ, the SPP Committee and the Office I would like to wish all registrants the compliments of the festive season.

Wayne Nuss



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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Wayne Nuss (Chairperson)

Pam Rowntree (Deputy Chairperson / Chairperson / Awards, prizes and grants committee)

John Andersen (Chairperson SPP Committee) *pictured above*

Martin Quinn (Chairperson Registrations Committee)

Myrtle Green (Chairperson Resource Pack Committee)

Jennie Baxter (Board and SPP Committee member)

Catherine McHenry (Board and SPP Committee member)

Darryl Cox (Board Solicitor / Disciplinary Committee member)

Isabelle Vallin –Thorpe (Awards, Prizes and Grants Committee / Disciplinary Committee member)

Amy O'Rourke (Board and Registration Committee member until 31 December 2005)

Carolyn Astill (on leave of absence until January 2006)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIR AND THE BOARD ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PDY AND SPP GRADUATE YEARS

On 6 October 2005 a meeting was held between representatives of the board, the Australian Institute of Radiography and the office of the board.

The outcome of this meeting was that a negotiated agreement was reached which allowed for the joint conduct of the professional development year (pdy) and the supervised practice program.

The agreement entailed:

1. The Board through its SPP Committee would accredit all Queensland professional practice settings for the conduct of the Supervised Practice Program (SPP) of the MRTBQ. The MRTBQ/SPP Committee will ensure that the professional practice settings meet the requirements of the Regulations of the MRT Act. The AIR would accept the accreditation of such centres as suitable for the conduct of the PDY in Queensland.
2. The AIR will be prescribed in the Regulations of the MRT Act as the entity to review and recommend approvals of progress reports (24 weeks) and final reports (48 weeks). Progress and Final Reports for both organisations will use the same documents. Such a prescribed entity under Section 95 is required to produce a written assessment within 30 days of receiving the final report (from the supervisor) on whether the probationary registrant has satisfactorily completed the SPP. This allows the probationary

conditions to be removed and would allow the AIR's Statement of Accreditation to be awarded simultaneously.

A joint MRTB/AIR Committee will be set up to administer the process. Details of this Committee will be announced in future newsletters.

GRADUATES INFORMATION SESSION – SPP ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2006 YEAR.

An information session was held on 16 November 2005 which introduced the soon to graduate medical imaging technologists and radiation therapists to the profession.

Please see back page for photos of this function.

The Board provided the graduates with an information pack and guest speakers included:

- Mr W Nuss, the Board Chairperson.
- Mr J Andersen chairperson of the Board's SPP committee.
- Kim Osborne from Radiation Health.
- Tim Way from the Australian Institute of Radiography.

The information session provided these graduates with a welcome to the profession and advice and guidance on the year ahead.



PROJECT OFFICER COMMENCED WITH THE BOARD. MULTI SITE ACCREDITATION PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPERVISED PRACTICE PROGRAM

Ms Francesca Holloway commenced with the Board in the role of project officer on 24 October 2005 for a 4 month period.

To date Ms Holloway has primarily focused her attention on:

- Developing policy and procedures for the Supervised Practice with regards to an agreed program for Probationary Registrants.
- Individual meetings with major stakeholders in the public and private sectors regarding proposed multi site accreditation and regarding the development of an agreed program for probationary registrants.
- Individual meetings with public sector Medical Imaging Directors from sites accredited which no longer employ a graduate.

STUDENT PRIZES AND RESEARCH AWARDS

The Board has endorsed the following Awards:

Prizes For Qut Graduates

The Board and Queensland University of Technology have agreed on the award of the Medical Radiation Technologist Board Prizes for the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Student with the highest overall grade point average completing the course each year.

The MRTBQ Published Article Award

This will be granted to a Medical Radiation Technologist currently registered in Queensland for an article published in the Radiographer or the ANZ Nuclear Medicine Journal or



any other national or international medical radiation journal recognized by the Board. The award is granted in recognition of the continuing professional education of the Registrant and the promotion of a high standard of practice of the profession by the Registrant.

Details of this award will be posted on the MRT Website (www.mrt.qld.gov.au), in Spectrum, the Radiographer, the ANZ Nuclear Medicine Journal.

UPDATE ON RECENCY OF PRACTICE

The Board is supported by the Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards. This office is assisting in developing an agreed policy and process across each of the 13 Health Practitioner Registration Boards.

It is anticipated that in early 2006 a final policy position of each Board will be available which will be included in a second round of consultation.

The office of the Board has fielded a number of calls on this issue. It is important for registrants to be aware of the following:

- They should carefully consider the policy position when it is available and respond with any concerns to the Board in writing.
- Compulsory professional development will be a component of the Board's policy but will not be the sole requirement regarding recency of practice.
- It is unlikely that the Board would be able to mandate one CPD program. Existing programs being offered could be approved and recommended by the Board.
- It is likely that this requirement will be in place for the renewal of registration in 2007.

The Board is aware that this regulation may create a difficult situation for those sonographers in the public sector who work under the job title of radiographer and must be registered but do not perform radiography. The Board has

recently discussed this matter with representatives of Queensland Health and has written to the Director General of Queensland Health regarding the legislative dilemma the Board will need to resolve.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS AND BREACHES / POTENTIAL BREACHES OF THE LEGISLATION DEALT WITH BY THE BOARD IN 2005

During 2005 the Board has dealt with a number of matters that have resulted in investigation:

- A registrant has had conditions placed on their registration such that they will be unable to practice until their clinical competency has been verified.
- An employer has been investigated for having a number of registrants practicing the profession without registration.
- An employer is being investigated for encouraging an applicant for registration to provide false or misleading information to the Board.
- An investigation has currently been started into the competency for registration of radiographers in the public sector who perform sonography only.
- It should be noted that following the findings of the Davies Commission of Inquiry that pre-registration checks will be more stringent than may have been the case in previous years. Employers should not commence staff without evidence of current registration.

With regard to the supervised practice program the Board has:

- Reviewed 3 medical imaging technology practices for suitability as a professional practice setting.
- Reviewed 1 nuclear medicine technology practice for suitability as a professional practice setting.

Each case above has resulted in the

issuing of a "show cause" notice with responses either considered or currently being considered by the Board.

TRANS TASMAN CONFERENCE, OTHER BOARDS

The Board Chairperson and the Assistant Registrar attended a conference of regulatory authorities in Auckland on 29 August 2005. This conference was attended by the registration boards from New Zealand (host), Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria. The following points were noted:

- The varying periods of practice that qualified as recency of practice between some states and New Zealand was noted. Annual practising certificates are required in NZ which is in addition to registration.
- NZ have eight scopes of practice including MRI and Sonography which require an annual practising certificate.
- The NZ Board plays an active role in monitoring university courses.
- Australian registration boards were awaiting the AIR's competency based assessment model to be developed.
- A review of the Victorian legislation was underway.
- Because of the (Trans-tasman Mutual Recognition Act) changes in policies and regulations needed to be speedily communicated between the respective jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand.
- Further meetings between regulatory boards and professional associations are planned to consult on matters of mutual interest such as the pdy / spp process, continuing professional development and the accreditation of university courses. It was pleasing for the Boards to hear that the creation of registration boards in the Australian Capital Territory And Western Australia was imminent.



GRADUATES INFORMATION SESSION – SPP ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2006 YEAR

