

Introduction

The Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001 and its Regulation came into effect on 12 May 2002. Since that time the Office of Health Practitioners Boards has responded to many inquiries relating to the administration processes of registration. This newsletter will attempt to answer some of the more frequently asked questions.

This newsletter will also provide registrants with a brief resume of current issues and an insight into the issues identified through consultation in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Board and Office.

Review of the operation and implementation of the Act

After one year of operation the Board intends to review its implementation of the Act and Regulation to determine future directions. One of those directions may be to propose amendments to the Minister for consideration.

One amendment that has already been approved by the Minister and included in the Act is that any technologist who has dual qualifications and wishes to register in more than one discipline, covered under the Act will only need to pay the one registration fee.

All registrants and interested parties are invited **to make submissions to the Board by the 1st June 2003** for consideration of any requests in relation to this review.

Strategic Plan Development

All Boards are to develop a Strategic Plan to cover the period 2003-2007. The Boards will have a role to build bridges between the community and the professions to enhance

awareness and understanding, build stronger links and address image and expectations.

Priorities common to all Boards include Mutual Recognition, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), the Development of Competency Standards, Codes of Practice and the definition of Professional Ethical Behaviour.

CPD as a requirement for registration is a priority of all Boards and this will include recency of practice policies and guidelines. To achieve this priority strategic alliances with professional associations will be paramount.

Key issues for the MRTB(Q) to address include

- access to suitable programs for professionals returning to the workforce after periods in excess of five years;
- the impact of the Act and any proposed changes for Sonographers and Magnetic Resonance Operators;
- Recognition of the increasing trend towards specialisation and the evolution of role extensions;
- to confer and cooperate with interstate regulatory authorities;
- to streamline registration processes; and
- to ensure that the supervised practice program meets the needs of both the professions and the employers.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I Change my Name on the Board's register?

Post or bring to the Office a certified copy of your Marriage Certificate, Deed Poll or other official document recording your change of name.

How do I Change my Address on the Register?

You must inform the Board any change of address in writing. This can be by mail, email or facsimile.

What do I do if I Have Lost my Certificate?

As your Registration Certificate is a legal document, you must complete a statutory declaration informing the Board that you have lost your certificate; and submit it with a payment of \$25 for a replacement.

What do I do if I Have Lost my Receipt?

Inform the Board in writing that you have lost your registration payment receipt and a new one will be issued.

Annual Registration Renewal Process

An annual renewal of registration must be completed before 30 June each year for your name to remain on the Queensland Register. A Registration Renewal Notice will be sent to you, however, it should be noted that it is your responsibility to ensure the annual registration fee payment is received in this office during the prescribed payment period, whether a Notice is received or not.

It is a requirement under the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001* that if this Office does not receive the annual renewal of registration notice fully completed during the prescribed payment period, your Registration will expire on 1 July. It is an offence under the Act to practice unregistered as a Medical Imaging Technologist, Nuclear Medicine Technologist or Radiation Therapist in Queensland.

Please ensure that you complete and sign the mandatory disclosure on the notice. The notice and associated payment cannot be processed unless this disclosure is completed. Registrants who do not pay the fee will not have their registration renewed.

Restoration to the register is possible by paying the restoration fee of \$295 by 30 September. After 30 September you would need to reapply and be faced with satisfying the prescribed qualifications and core competencies restrictions.

In addition, as mentioned earlier, it is unlawful to practice while unregistered, and the Act provides for fines of up to \$75,000 for any person found to be practising when not registered.

It is important to note that registration renewal notices will always be sent to the address on the Register (as nominated by the registrant). If you change address you must advise the Board in writing so that notices and other correspondence can be sent to the correct address. Failure to do so may result in the registrant not receiving the registration renewal notice and subsequently being removed from the Register.

The Board suggests that you obtain copies of the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001* and *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Regulation 2002* which may be purchased from:

Queensland Government Printing Office
PO Box 364
Woolloongabba Qld 4102
Telephone: (07) 3246 3399
Internet: www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Will Graduates Undergoing Their Professional Development Year be able to do Sole Shifts Without Supervision?

No. Graduates undergoing the PDY (supervised practice program) will require the appropriate number of registered practitioners within the practice setting. The Board's current position, with respect to Medical Imaging Technologists, is that at least one other practitioner who would be eligible to be a supervisor must be on site whilst a PDY graduate is working.

Current Registrants under Supervised Practice Program.

At the end of your 48 weeks of supervised practice and the successful completion the six month and 12 month report by your probationary supervisor the AIR and ANZSNM will provide recommendations to the Board for review of the probationary conditions.

Once the Board has removed the probationary conditions, supervision will no longer be required.

The 12-month registration fee you are currently required to pay will provide the capacity for you to continue to practice during the period in which the Board reviews the probationary conditions until 30 June 2004. A new certificate will be issued when these conditions are removed.

The Register

Under section 11(d) of the Act, the Board is required to keep a Register of, and records pertaining to, registrants.

Separate registration applies to each of the three Medical Radiation Technology professions, namely Medical Imaging Technology (Radiography), Nuclear Medicine Technology and Radiation Therapy.

By the end of May 2003 this information will be available on the Board's website www.mrt.qld.gov.au.

Special Purpose Registration

There is provision in the legislation for the granting of Special Purpose registration for periods of up to one year. Such registration applies to persons seeking to undertake one or more of the following special activities:

- Clinical demonstrations
- Research
- Teaching
- Postgraduate study or training

Practitioners visiting the state for the above purposes can register for short periods and pay the relevant fees on a pro rata basis for 3 or 6 months. A period of special activity in excess of six months (but less than 12) requires payment of the full annual registration fee.

If special purpose registration is granted, it remains in force for the period (not more than 1 year) decided by the Board.

The Board may register an applicant as a special purpose registrant on conditions (other than probationary conditions) that the Board considers necessary for the applicant to undertake the special activity. If the Board decides to register the applicant as a special purpose registrant on conditions, it must as soon as practicable thereafter give the applicant an information notice about the decision.

Mutual Recognition

Registrants who have registration in a State or Territory of Australia can register in another Australian jurisdiction by virtue of the *Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 1992*. Within Australia there are registration Boards for medical radiation technologists in Victoria, the Northern Territory and Tasmania. (In the Northern Territory, only radiographers are registered.) Mutual recognition will be available between Queensland and these jurisdictions **but not with the other Australian States that only have radiation licensing councils or bodies.**

This ease of movement under mutual recognition between the States and Territory can be seen as a very positive benefit of registering with the Board.

Similar provisions exist for movement between New Zealand and Australia under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition arrangements.

Who are the Board Members?

From the professions:

- Wayne Nuss (Chairperson)
- Pamela Rowntree (Deputy Chairperson)
- John Andersen
- Carolyn Astill
- Jennie Baxter
- Catherine McHenry

Two public members:

- Myrtle Green
- Isabelle Vallin

One lawyer:

- Darryl Cox

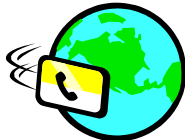
The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards provides administrative and operational support for the Board.

You, as a registrant, will deal primarily with staff of the Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards in regard to matters pertaining to registration, practitioner impairment and complaints. However, final actions and approvals for processes involving registrants require the approval of the Board.

Please note that the quickest and most direct approach to obtaining a decision on your eligibility for registration is to complete the application form and include the prescribed fees and send these items direct to the Office for processing and presentation to the Board meetings generally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

If you have questions of the Board they are more than happy to consider your correspondence at these monthly meetings.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE AIR



Telephone: (03) 9419 3336
Fax: (03) 9416 0783

Postal Address: PO Box 1169
Collingwood Vic 3066

Email: info@a-i-r.com.au

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE ANZSNM

Telephone: (03) 9756 0128
Fax: (03) 9753 6372

Postal Address: PO Box 7108
Upper Ferntree Gully Vic 3156

Email: anzsnm@21century.com.au

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BOARD

Telephone: (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

Email: mrt@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Website: www.mrt.qld.gov.au
(this should be available by end of May 2003)