



REGISTRANTS UPDATE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following on from my last report in June a Medical Radiation Practitioners National Steering Committee was formed and a submission developed to the Australian Health Workforce Principles Committee for inclusion of medical radiation practitioners in the national registration and accreditation scheme. This submission was a joint effort with all registration authorities and the two professional associations. This was forwarded in October and a copy of the report is available on the MRTBQ website.

An outcome is expected in April next year. In the meantime representatives of the Board have attended the consultation forums in Brisbane on the various elements of the proposed national registration and accreditation scheme.

The Health Minister has recently signed off on the regulation amendment for the introduction of Recency of Practice Legislation. All registrants should receive an individual letter during January to elaborate on the implications of the legislation and the provision of answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Recency of Practice including mandatory continuing professional development, will be implemented across all health practitioner registration boards.

Other regulation amendments primarily dealing with modernizing the Supervised Practice Program (SPP) have also been sent to the Minister for sign off. The Board is currently reviewing the accreditation processes of suitable sites for the conduct of the SPP. Consistent with the national accreditation principle of cost recovery for services provided, the Board will have to consider whether registrant fees alone should subsidise the cost of the SPP or whether employers should bear a portion of the accreditation and probationary registrant monitoring costs.

The Board recently conducted an Industry Liaison Committee meeting with relevant stakeholders and employer representatives to ensure communication on policy developments remains current.

The Board's registration application policy in regards to the command of the English language question on the application form was discussed. In November 2007 the Board introduced its International English Language Testing Policy. The details of this can be found on the Board's website.

During the current year the Board has imposed conditions against two registrants, one under the registration legislation,

the other under *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*. The Board also suspended the registration of one registrant.

In November the Board conducted its annual third year students breakfast and welcomed new graduates to the profession. The annual publication Award was also presented to nuclear medicine technologist Nikki Louise Scott on this occasion.

In September the Board welcomed a new consumer representative Mr. Abramo Papp. Mr. Papp is a retired architect who has had considerable experience working within his profession and with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

The Board has recently introduced its inaugural Research Award and looks forward to suitable applications from interested registrants. The Board in association with Queensland Health also supported a probationary registrant's paper presentation day at the Skills Development Centre during November.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Board members and office staff for their considerable efforts during 2008 and wish them and their families and indeed all registrants a safe and happy festive season.

Wayne Nuss
Chairman

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The following members of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTBQ) were appointed on 11 April 2006 for a term of four years.

Mr Wayne Nuss (Chairperson)

Associate Professor Pamela Rowntree (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr John Andersen

Ms Jennie Baxter

Ms Amy Illidge

Mr Dominic Kennedy

Ms Catherine McHenry

Ms Clare Endicott (lawyer)

Ms Myrtle Green (public member)

Mr Abramo Papp (public member)
(appointed on 7 August 2008)

RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Registrants should have received a letter announcing the research grants policy. Grants are awarded for research that is consistent with the current functions and objectives of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland and to enhance the practice of medical radiation technology in Queensland. Research grants will be awarded in the following categories:

- Research Grant ;
- Research Implementation grant;
- Bursaries and Scholarships

The policy, guidelines and application forms are on the Board's website. Applications for the current round close at the end of February 2009.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEME

On 26 March 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the implementation of the national registration and accreditation scheme and approved the Health Workforce Inter Governmental Agreement to progress the implementation of the scheme. The scheme relates to the ten professions that are regulated in each State/Territory of Australia.

As medical radiation technologists are not regulated in each State/Territory, the profession is not included in the scheme. At the Australian Conference of Regulating Boards in Melbourne on 21 April 2008, there was in-principle agreement for the Boards to support national registration for medical radiation technologists and a steering committee was established to progress the matter.

The National Steering Committee for Medical Radiation Practitioners was established comprising the following stakeholders:

- Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland, (Mr Wayne Nuss, Chair)
- Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Board of Western Australia,
- Medical Radiation Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria
- Medical Radiation Scientists Board of Australian Capital Territory,
- Radiographers Board of Northern Territory,

- Medical Radiation Science Professionals Registration Board of Tasmania,
- Australian Institute of Radiography and
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine

On 28 July 2008 organisations and individuals with an interest in the regulation of the health occupations were invited to provide a written submission. The National Steering Committee for Medical Radiation Practitioners submission was provided to the Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee for advice to Health Ministers by 3 October 2008.

The Boards have appointed representatives who have subsequently provided additions to the submissions.

A decision about the submissions on partially-regulated professions is expected by mid 2009.

All submissions and further up to date information can be viewed on the website: www.nhwt.gov.au/natreg.asp

BOARD PRIZE FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTATION BY A PROBATIONARY REGISTRANT

The prize is awarded annually to a participant in the Supervised Practice Program for a presentation at a Board recognised seminar or conference.

The prize is a traveling award to enable the recipient to attend a national/international medical radiation conference.

As part of the requirements for the supervised practice program each probationary registrant has to give a presentation to their practice.

The presentation evening for a selection of the probationary registrants in 2008 was held this year on November 25 at the Skills Development Centre. There were papers from five medical imaging, four radiation therapy and two nuclear medicine technology probationary registrants. The presentations were on varied topics and of a very high standard, all the probationary registrants are to be commended.

The winning presentation was by Diane Fitzgerald a medical imaging probationary registrant and entitled Plagiocephaly. Diane received her award from John Andersen the Chair of the Supervised Practice Program Committee.





Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland member John Andersen presents Diane Fitzgerald with the Board's prize for best paper presentation by a probationary registrant.

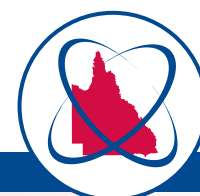


Pictured are medical radiation technology probationary registrants who participated in the presentation evening.

BOARD ANNUAL INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS

The Board held a breakfast information session on 14 November 2008 for students about to graduate with qualifications in medical imaging technology or radiation therapy.

The information session included guest speakers from the Board, and the Australian Institute of Radiography. Each student was provided with an information pack about the professions and registration. This year's breakfast was very well attended.



THE MRTBQ PUBLISHED ARTICLE AWARD

This award is granted to a medical imaging technologist, radiation therapist or nuclear medicine technologist, currently registered in Queensland for an article published in the *Radiographer*, *ANZ Nuclear Medicine* or other national or international medical radiation, or nuclear medicine 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.

In 2008 the award went to Nikki-Louise Scott. Nikki-Louise received her award at the Board's Information session for students from the Chair of the Board. The article was published in the September edition of the *ANZ Nuclear Medicine Journal* and entitled 'Are we scanning enough PET patients in RTP positions?'



Nikki-Louise Scott receives the award for publication of a journal article from Chair of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland Wayne Nuss.

INFECTION CONTROL

The Board has endorsed the *Guidelines for professional conduct for Radiographers, Radiation Therapists and Sonographers*, Australian Institute of Radiography April 2007. These guidelines can be viewed on www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au in publications.

The guidelines state that radiographers and radiation therapists:

should maintain their working environment in a safe and hygienic condition according to occupational health and safety requirements so as to avoid adverse effects to patients or staff

The Board endorses this statement particularly in regard to infection control. The Commonwealth Government has issued a document in which the principles involved in, and the procedures necessary for, the prevention of the transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting, referred to as infection control or infection control procedures are outlined.

Copies of the *Infection Control Guidelines* have been distributed nationally to public and private hospitals, aged care facilities, peak health organisations, state and territory health departments, health libraries and universities.

The link to this document is

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/icg-guidelines-index.htm.

SUPERVISED PRACTICE PROGRAM

The 2009 Supervised Practice Program (SPP) commences on 12 January 2009. Please make the graduates welcome in your practice, and mentor and guide them in the profession.

Guidelines to the supervised practice program can be found on the Board's website on the supervised practice program page. There are also available copies of the assessment forms and other forms relevant to the SPP.



Merrill Filkin has resigned from the supervised practice program committee. The Board is currently recruiting another member of committee.

In 2009, practices approved for the supervised practice program by the Board will require approval for a further 4 year term. The practices will be notified by the supervised practice program committee of the audit process.

If you have any queries in regard to the supervised practice program and its conduct please contact Francesca Holloway (details below)

REGENCY OF PRACTICE

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board has been advised that the Board's draft Recency of Practice Policy has been approved by the Minister for Health and that a Regulation to implement it is currently being drafted. It is anticipated that the Recency of Practice Regulation will apply to the 2010 renewal period (starting from 1 July 2010), whereby registrants will need to have complied with their recency of practice obligations over the preceding year in order to renew or restore. In early 2009 the Board will provide comprehensive information to all registrants about these recency obligations so that registrants can begin planning their recency activities.

OHPRB TO PUBLISH DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards, which provides services to assist the 12 Boards, has developed a register of disciplinary decisions relating to the conduct and practice of registered health practitioners in Queensland.

This register is in the process of being published to the OHPRB website at www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au and will be accessible from all individual Board websites, temporarily from the Latest News column at the Boards' home pages and permanently from the Complaints page of each Board's web site.

Initially, the register will comprise the order (judgement) by the Health Practitioners Tribunal (part of the Queensland Courts) relating to matters heard in public by the Tribunal to which one of the 12 Boards is a party.

The site will support viewing matters by Board; by party name; and by date. The Office intends to expand the capacity of this site in the future to enable visitors to search findings by keywords to enhance the ability to cross-reference results of disciplinary actions.

As Professional Conduct Review Panel and Board/disciplinary committee hearings are not open to the public, records of such matters are under review currently to determine the most appropriate avenue and format for publication of such records.

The register of disciplinary decisions is an important contribution to the role of Queensland's 12 health practitioner registration Boards to protect the public; uphold standards of

practice within the health professions; and maintain public confidence.

Queries regarding the content of this site may be directed to the Office's Manager (Communications) on telephone (07) 3225 2529. Queries regarding disciplinary matters should be directed to the Office's Professional Standards Program on telephone (07) 3225 2467.

BOARD WEB

The Board's web site is updated as required. Please refer to it for any information regarding the Board's role and policies. All policies are in the publications section of the site.

www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au.

OFFICE CONTACTS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards (OHPRB) is open to the public between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and is located at:

Level 8, Forestry House
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Executive Officer:	Mr J O'Dempsey
Director: (Board Support & Advisory Program)	Mr M Demy-Geroe
A/Director: (Registration Services Program)	Ms T Stenzel
Professional Advisor:	Ms Francesca Holloway
Principal Coordinator: (Board Support & Advisory Program)	Ms Pauline Portier

Telephone:

Registration	3225 2532
Board Issues	3225 2505
Professional Adviser	3222 2808
Conduct and Health	3225 2467

Fax: 3225 2527

Email: mrtboard@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Website: www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence should be addressed to:

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