



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)

Ms Isabelle Vallin-Thorpe
(public member)



The Board has now been provided with a summary of the submission from registrants on recency of practice and is in the process of reviewing these submissions to assist it in the formulation of a policy that will form the basis for a new regulation. The Board has been advised that the inclusion of a new regulation for all health professions prior to this year's renewal date is not possible and any new regulation will become effective from 1 July 2008.

The annual registration fee has remained at \$220 for the first five years of operation. Operational costs including staff salaries of the Office of the Health Practitioner Registration Boards have risen on average 4% per annum during that period. Consequently, the MRTBQ has found it necessary to raise the annual registration fee by the consumer price index of 3.42% on this occasion. It is anticipated that the new registration fee will be \$228.00.

Effective from 1 March 2007, an amendment was included in all health practitioner registration Acts to include "short-term registration".

To address perceived misunderstandings of the role and functions of the Board in introducing recency of practice regulations, the Board has included a letter to all registrants.

FROM THE CHAIR

In recent months the Board has participated in a number of activities in accordance with its obligations under the *Medical Radiation Technologists Act 2001*. Two Board representatives participated in the annual Conference of Regulating Authorities (CORA) wherein members of similar authorities in other states and representatives of national professional associations discussed areas of mutual interest. Items discussed included resumption of professional practice, recency of practice (on renewal), the COAG proposal for a national registration scheme, accreditation of medical radiation technology courses, the administration of the PDY/SPP year and the new registration Acts in Western Australia and Victoria.

PRIZES FOR FINAL YEAR QUT STUDENTS

Once again the Board will be awarding Prizes to two final year QUT students, these are: Medical Radiation Technologist Board Prize for Medical Imaging and the Medical Radiation Technologist Board Prize for Radiotherapy. Each Prize is a travelling award to the value of \$2,000 for the recipient to attend a national/international medical radiation conference as well as a cash component of \$500.

AWARDS FOR PUBLISHED ARTICLES

The MRTBQ Published Article Award is granted to a medical radiation 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 recognised 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. Further details are available on the Board's website www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au.

REGENCY OF PRACTICE

The introduction in April 2008 of recency of practice requirements of Queensland's 38,000 registered health practitioners is on schedule following a second round of consultation on the issue.

The consultation process has been staged deliberately over some years to allow practitioners in the regulated health professions an opportunity to identify and undertake appropriate continuing professional education.

For the same reason, the requirement will not be introduced before next year's annual registration renewal period for general registrants, from 30 April to 30 June 2008. This will provide a further 14 months for practitioners to undertake appropriate education to meet requirements.

The Boards are seeking to introduce a requirement that every practitioner who applies for registration or to renew registration must, at the time of application, be able to show that they have practised their profession - while registered - within the last five years.

Practitioners who cannot meet this requirement will be required to remedy this by undertaking activity such as an examination, a return to practice course, continuing professional development and/or accepting conditions on practice before registration will be granted.

By introducing recency of practice requirements, each Board is acting to fulfill its duty under its respective registration Act - to ensure safe and competent practice by registrants and to maintain the public's confidence in the profession.

In February 2005, Queensland's 13 health practitioner registration Boards released a discussion paper on the issue of recency of practice for feedback to help develop a draft policy.

Feedback on the discussion paper was collated and distributed, with the draft policy, for consultation from November 2006 to end January 2007.

The Boards will now review information provided by members of the 18 regulated health professions, professional associations and the community. This second round of feedback will inform the final recency of practice policy which will be referred to Queensland Health to develop into a Regulation.

Information on recency of practice can be viewed at individual Board websites by choosing the relevant Board at www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au.

****Note:** There are 18 health professions regulated in Queensland by 13 registration Boards. They are chiropractors, dental (comprising dentists, dental auxiliaries and dental specialists), dental technicians, dental prosthetists (regulated by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board), medical, medical radiation technology (comprising medical imaging technology, nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy), occupational therapists, optometrists, osteopaths, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists



SUPERVISED PRACTICE PROGRAM (SPP)

There are 130 Probationary Registrants (PRs) in the Supervised Practice Program (SPP) across the three professions. The progress report form for the PRs who commenced in January 2007 will be sent out on 17 May for return to the Office by June 15. If you do not receive a form please contact the Office. A letter regarding the forms will be sent to all supervisors.

Over the coming months Francesca Holloway will be visiting practices and hospitals in the SPP and will notify the practices of proposed dates of visits.

If there are any queries regarding the forms or the SPP, please contact Francesca at the Office, details below.

SHORT TERM REGISTRATION

As from 1 March 2007, medical radiation technologists may apply for general or special purpose registration for short-term registration of up to 5 weeks, for which no application fee or registration fee will apply. In approving such applications, the Board must be satisfied that the applicant has a good reason for a period of registration of that length. It is important to note that the provisions of the Act do not allow for short-term registration to be renewable or restored; however, it does allow for further applications to be made. The Board will have the discretion to either grant or refuse a further period of short-term registration.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

On 14 July 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that, to facilitate workforce mobility, improve safety and quality and

reduce red tape, a single national registration and accreditation scheme for health professionals, beginning with nine professions currently registered in all Australian jurisdictions, would be established by 1 July 2008. The nine professions are: chiropractors, dental care, medicine, nursing, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and psychology.

COAG has announced that other professions may be considered for inclusion by health ministers during and following implementation of the national scheme in July 2008.

IMPLICATION OF PRACTISING WITHOUT REGISTRATION

A medical radiation technologist who fails to pay the renewal fee and continues to practise as if still registered is, in accordance with the legislation, 'holding out' and/or 'claiming' to be a medical radiation technologist and therefore is in breach of section 136 of the *Medical Radiation Technologists Act 2001*.

Section 136 of the Act relates to the use of a 'restricted title'. The following titles are restricted titles under the Act and a person must be registered to use these titles:

- 'medical imaging technologist';
- 'radiographer';
- 'nuclear medicine technologist'; or
- 'radiation therapist'.

If a person does use a restricted title without being registered, they are in breach of section 136 of the Act and, if prosecuted, a maximum penalty of \$75,000 may be imposed.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

The application for renewal of registration forms are distributed to registrants in late April. These



forms must be completed and **RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE BY 30 JUNE 2007**. Failure to renew by 30 June results in:

- a registrant having to apply for restoration to the register;
- restoration to the register incurs an additional fee; and
- the registrant has a “gap” in their registration from 30 June until the date of restoration.

REMINDER: Registrants must complete the mandatory disclosure on the renewal of registration form stating whether they suffer from any ongoing medical condition, of which they are aware, or know or ought reasonably to know adversely affects their ability to competently and safely practise the profession. If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* which relates to the management of impaired registrants.

The renewal form will be available on the Board’s website www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au at the beginning of May each year.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Registrants are required to notify the Board in the following circumstances:

- change of name (within 21 days);
- change of address (within 21 days);
- the withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration (within 21 days);
- conviction of an indictable offence (within 30 days);
- If a party to proceedings in court claiming damages or compensation for alleged negligence in the practice of the profession and in which either a judgement has been delivered or in respect of which there has

been a settlement of the proceedings or part of the proceedings (within 30 days); or

- if you are registered under a corresponding law and your registration, licence or certification under that law is affected by disciplinary action or is otherwise cancelled, suspended or made subject to a condition or an undertaking (within 30 days).

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 19, Forestry House
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Executive Officer:

Mr Jim O’Dempsey

Director (Board Support & Advisory Program)

Mr Michael Demy-Geroe

Professional Advisor

Ms Francesca Holloway

Principal Coordinator

(Board Support & Advisory Program)

Ms Pauline Portier

Phone: 61 7 3234 1164

Fax: 61 7 3225 2527

Email: mrt@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Website: www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Executive Officer

Medical Radiation Technologists Board
of Queensland

GPO Box 2438

BRISBANE QLD 4001

