



National Registration – how will it work and what will it mean for me?

Neil Hicks, Chair

AIR Conference 2012, 20 April

How did we get here?

Two volunteer groups have put in considerable effort over several years, to move the profession to National Registration;

- **Council of Regulating Authorities, CORA.**

Made up of representatives from the existing State Registration Boards.

- **National Registration Steering Group.**

Made up of representatives from CORA, AIR / ANZSNM and the Universities group, Medical Radiations Australia, MRA.

We acknowledge their effort and thank them on behalf of the profession.



CORA & National Registration Steering Group

- Wayne Nuss, (Chair)
- Francesca Holloway (Sec)
- Ingrid Egan
- David Collier
- Tim Way / Bruce Harvey
- Neil Hicks
- Marilyn Baird
- Stan Naylor
- Mark Marcenko
- Chris Hicks
- David Lyall
- Bridget Chappell
- John Ryan
- Adam Freeborn
- Kerry Thoires
- Michelle McCarron
- Mark Palmer
- Chris Pilkington
- Roger Weckert
- Mark Strickland
- David Thomas
- Shane Dempsey
- Sharon Brackenridge
- Jo Page
- Elizabeth Bailey
- Min Ku

Outline

1. Overview of the National Registration & Accreditation Scheme (NRAS)
2. National registration for Medical Radiation Practitioners
3. Standards, Codes and Guidelines
4. Student registration
5. What do I need to do? How to register
6. Other matters
7. Questions

National Registration & Accreditation Scheme

- 1st July 2010 Australia introduced world's first National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.
- Eight States and Territories under one national scheme.
- 85 plus health professional boards devolved to 10.
- 529,000 health practitioners listed on the online National Registers.
- 66 Acts of Parliament devolved to one nationally consistent law – the National Law.
- Health Practitioners Regulation National Law Act.

The 10 Nationally Registered Professions joined in July 2010

- [Chiropractic Board](#)
- [Dental Board](#)
- [Medical Board](#)
- [Nursing and Midwifery Board](#)
- [Optometry Board](#)
- [Osteopathy Board](#)
- [Pharmacy Board](#)
- [Physiotherapy Board](#)
- [Podiatry Board](#)
- [Psychology Board](#)

The four Partially Regulated Professions will join in July 2012

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board](#)
- [Chinese Medicine Board](#)
- [Medical Radiation Practice Board](#)
- [Occupational Therapy Board](#)

From 1 July 2012, if you are a diagnostic radiographer, radiation therapist or nuclear medicine technologist you must be registered with the National Board to work.

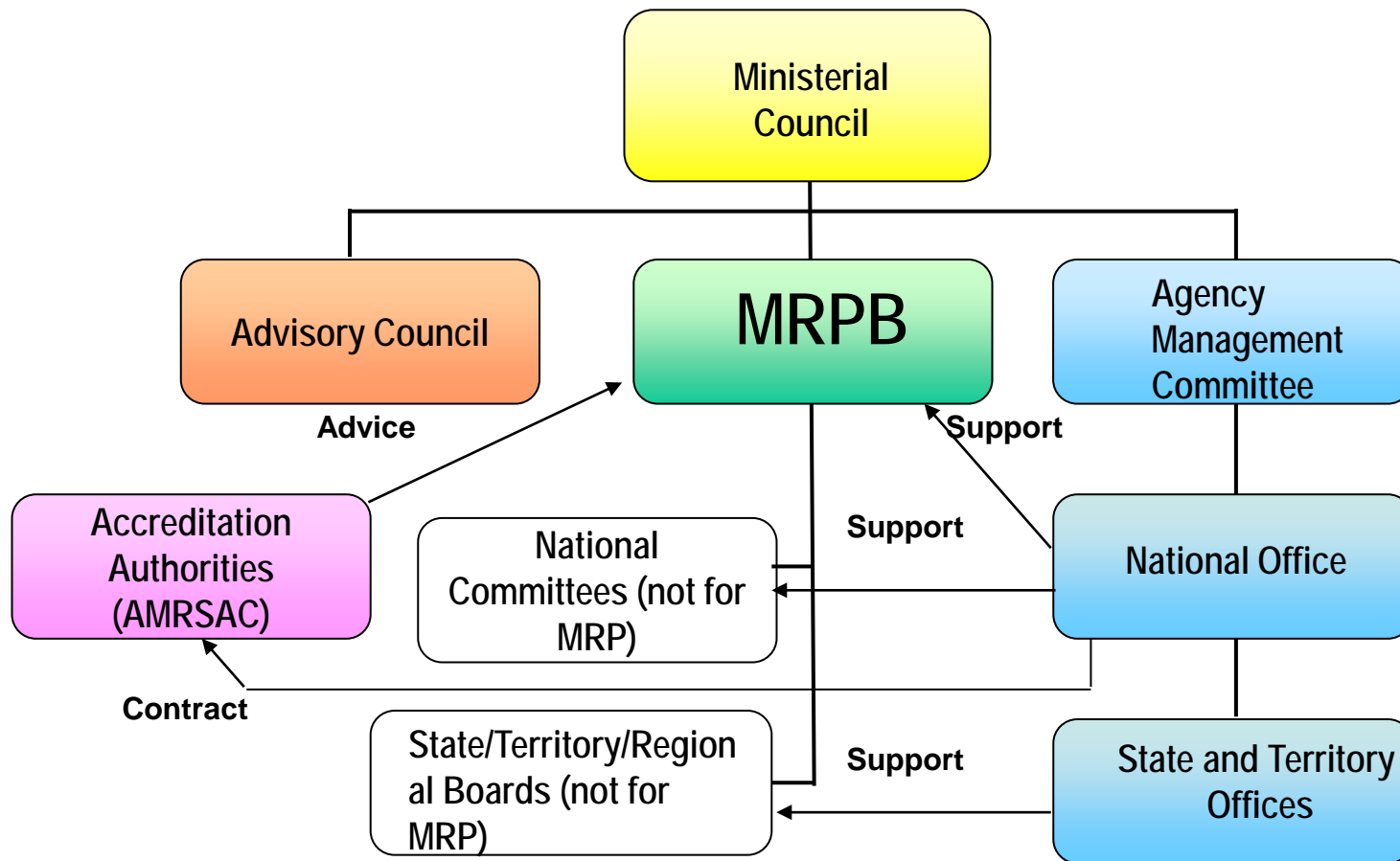
Benefits of National Registration

- Promotes mobility: Register once, practice nationally.
- Consistency: Through uniform national standards.
- Efficiency: Less red tape, standard systems.
- Collaboration: Inter-professional learning and support.
- Transparency: On-line registers, searchable databases for conditions, notifications, public recognition.
- Consultation: Joint consultations and submissions.

Registration components include

- Independent accreditation of national and overseas courses.
- Criminal History and Identity checks.
- Mandatory Continuing Professional Development.
- Mandatory Professional Indemnity Insurance.
- Notifications and complaints management.
- National registration fee for each profession.
- Student registration.
- Collaboration, clear roles and accountabilities.
- A joint commitment to best practice.

NRAS Governance



AMRSAC – External Accreditation Authority

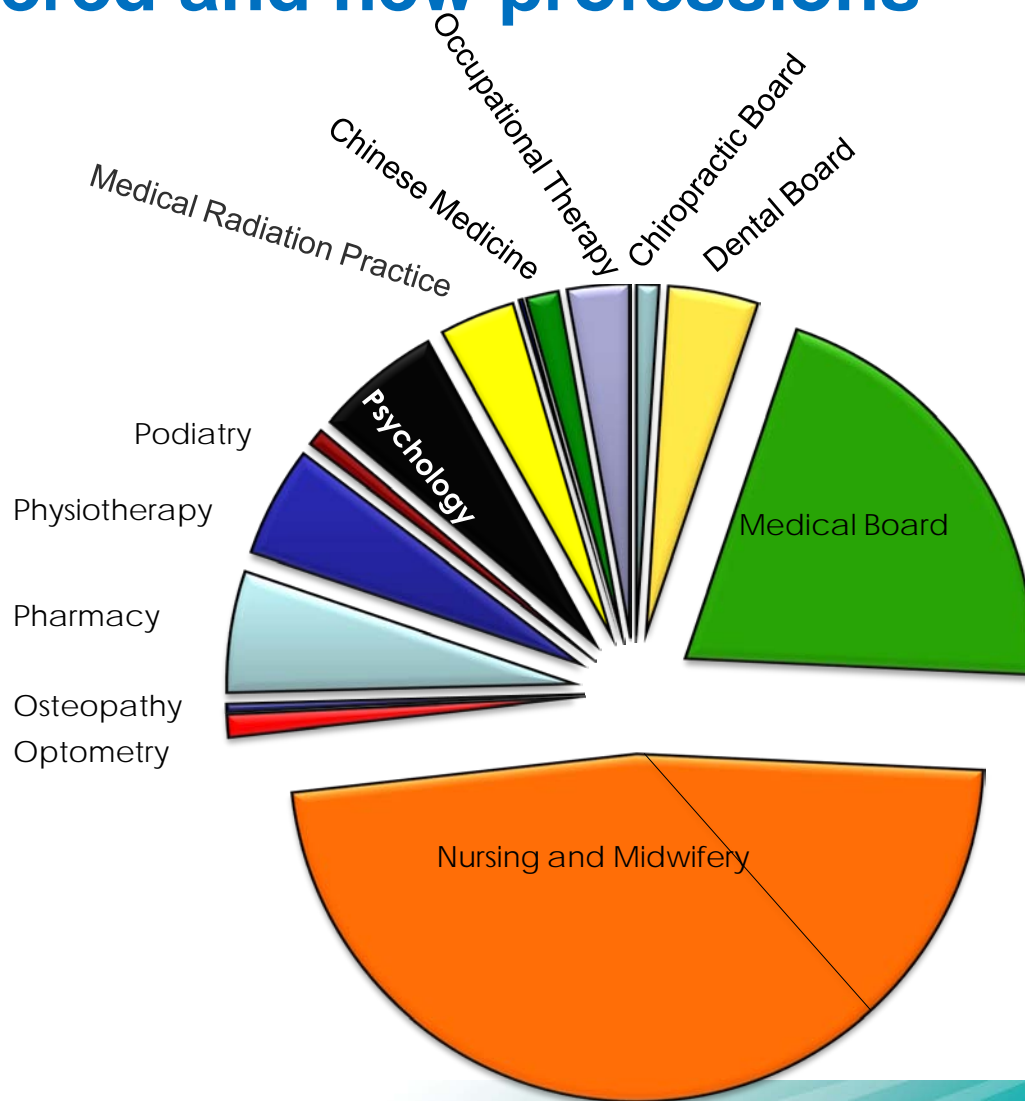
- Australian Medical Radiation Sciences Accreditation Council.
- Limited liability company.
- External Accreditation Authority to the MRPB.
- Under contract through AHPRA to provide accreditation functions for the board.
- Tripartite group, nominations from the AIR / ANZSNM, state boards and universities.
- Chair Ingrid Egan, Deputy Chair Eileen Giles.
- Executive Officer Kate Charters.

Functions of AMRSAC – s.42

Accreditation function means:

- a) **Develop accreditation standards** for approval by the board.
- b) **Assess programs of study and providers** to determine whether they meet approved standards.
- c) **Assessing authorities in other countries** who conduct examinations for registration, ,, ,to decide whether the persons have the knowledge clinical skills and professional attributes to practice in Australia.
- d) **Oversee the assessment of the knowledge, clinical skills** and professional attributes of overseas qualified practitioners.... whose qualifications are not approved qualifications.
- e) **Make recommendations and give advice** to the Board about matters referred to above.

Registered and new professions



Medical Radiation practitioners

State numbers as at December 2011

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	Vic	WA	<u>Total</u>
MRPs Reg'ed	244		134	2,892		319	3,851	1,306	8,746
Not Reg		4000	100		2,100				6,200
								Total	14,946

Practitioners in NSW, SA (and some in NT) will need to be registered for the first time.

MRPBA Appointed July 2011

- Twelve member Board first meet on 26 July 2011: 8 practitioner members and 4 community members.
- Objective: 12 months to establish the processes and register approximately 6200 unregistered MRPs in NSW, SA and the NT.
- Executive Office Adam Reinhard and AHPRA support staff.
- Meet monthly and additional teleconferences and committee meetings.



Medical Radiation Practice
Board of Australia

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Registration](#)[Registration Standards](#)[Codes and Guidelines](#)[Accreditation](#)[News](#)

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

Working in partnership with [AHPRA](#) to protect the public and guide the profession.

Updates:

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for National Registration

[Receive](#)
email updates from the Board

Top Content

- [1 Registers of Practitioners](#)
Need to find the registration status and details of a health practitioner?
- [2 Make a Notification](#)
Concerned about the health, conduct, or performance of a health practitioner?
Interested in notification outcomes?
- [3 Consultations](#)
Help to shape Registration Standards, Codes and Guidelines, and policies.

About Us

- [About the Board](#)
Learn about the Board and its functions.
Receive email updates from the Board.
 - [Communiqués](#)
Important decisions made by the Board.
 - [NRAS 2012](#)
The latest developments of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.
- [More About Us »](#)

Latest News

- Four more health professions regulated nationally from 1 July 2012.
03/04/2012 | [Read Article](#)
 - The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia releases its Communiqué.
02/04/2012 | [Read Article](#)
 - Joint statement released regarding English language skills for overseas qualified practitioners.
02/04/2012 | [Read Article](#)
 - Applications for provisional registration are now available.
30/03/2012 | [Read Article](#)
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Members of the Board



Neil Hicks



Mark Marcenko



Christopher Hicks



Chris Pilkington



Kar Giam



Liz Benson



Susan Baldwin



Tracy Vitucci



Robyn Hopcroft



Marcia Fleet



Myrtle Green



Rosie Yeo

The Board includes diagnostic, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy and community representatives

Role of the Board – main functions

- Register suitably qualified and competent persons.
- Decide the requirements for registration, including the arrangements for supervised practice.
- Develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines.
- Approve accredited programs of study.
- Oversee the assessment of overseas trained applicants for registration.
- Establish panels to conduct hearings about health and performance standards.

Board functions

From July 2011:

- Develop Mandatory and Registration Standards and Guidelines related to the Medical Radiation Profession.
- Establish the application forms and processes for Board functions.

Additional functions from July 2012:

- Register Medical Radiation Practitioners and students.
- Deal with notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings.
- Accredite National and Overseas MRP courses through the independent Accreditation Authority, AMRSAC.
- Assess overseas-trained practitioners who wish to practice in Australia, through the Accreditation Authority.

Committees of the Board

- Registration Review Committee
- Accreditation, Policy, Research & Standards Committee
- Overseas Applications Committee (will transition to AMRSAC)
- Notification and Complaints Committee
- Finance Committee
- Communication Strategy Committee (interim)
- Supervised Practice Committee

Consultation and Communication

- Monthly Board Communiqués
- Public calls for consultation on Standards and Guidelines
- MRPBA web site www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au
- Email distribution list mrpbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au
- State registration board web sites and newsletters
- NSW & SA Forums
- MRPB Flyer
- National newspaper notice
- Publicity in the Professional Journals i.e. AIR and ANZSNM
- Presentations at professional meetings and conferences

What are the protected titles?

Anyone using any of these “Protected Titles” must be registered.

- medical radiation practitioner
- diagnostic radiographer.
- medical imaging technologist
- radiographer
- nuclear medicine scientist
- nuclear medicine technologist
- radiation therapist

Definition of practice

- The current definition of practice adopted by most National Boards is as follows:

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession.

For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Who needs to register?

- Do you call yourself a Medical Radiation Practitioner?
- Is your job description that of a Medical Radiation Practitioner?
- Do you do the work of a Medical Radiation Practitioner?
- Are you required to hold a radiation license?

If the answer to any of these question is "yes", then you probably need to be registered with the MRPB.

To be registered, I must:

- Hold a qualification, prescribed or equivalent
- Completed any required Supervised Practice
- Be a fit and proper person and not disqualified
- Not be convicted of an offence which would render me unfit to practice
- Have sufficient physical & mental capacity and skill to practice
- Have sufficient knowledge and practical skills in the area of MRP to perform the duties of a MRP
- Satisfy the five Mandatory Standards (Criminal History & Identity check, CPD, PI Insurance, English Language Skills & Recency of Practice)

Qualifications for general registration

– s53

An individual is qualified if they:

- hold an **approved** qualification; or
- hold a **substantially equivalent** qualification; or
- hold a **relevant qualification** and has successfully completed an **examination or assessment** required by the Board; or
- hold a qualification recognised by a previous registration board, and was previously registered with that Board (Australian practitioners only)

Grandparenting provisions of the Act

– s303

- The Grandparenting provisions are broad.
- The intent is to ensure that practitioners who are legitimately practising the profession currently, are not unjustly disadvantaged because they do not hold an approved qualification.

Grandparenting provisions of the Act

– s303

- Under s303 - practitioners can apply for registration under the Grandparenting provisions based on;
 - a) qualifications the Board considers **adequate; or**
 - b) qualification with further study, training or supervised practice, required by the Board; **or**
 - c) adequate experience i.e. worked 5 years in the last 10 years
- Importantly, the Grandparenting provisions apply for applications received until 1 July 2015.
- The Board has developed a document titled **Assistance for Grandparenting Applications**, which is available on the Board's website.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- Practising Medical Radiation Practitioners require a minimum coverage of \$10 million for a single claim and unlimited run off cover.
- Practitioners must not work in Australia unless they have appropriate PII in place.
- PI insurance arrangements through employers and third party organisations i.e. membership of professional bodies or unions is permitted.
- Should ensure that their PII arrangements are appropriate for the work they do, this may relate to advanced practice i.e. reporting.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- Government employees covered under “Vicarious Liability”.
- AIR – Included in membership - Guild Insurance.
www.guildinsurance.com.au/radiographer-indemnity-insurance/comparison
- ANZSNM – Offered for purchase, not included in membership.
- Medical Indemnity Protection Society (MIPS). www.mips.com.au/
- HSU – Included in membership - Vero Insurance.
www.withyouatwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/HSU-Indemnity-Insurance.pdf
- ASUM - Included in membership.
- Guild Insurance.
- AON Risk Services.

Criminal History Check

- Board is required to check an applicant's criminal history before deciding an application for registration (section 79).
- All applicants for registration will undergo a criminal history check.
The cost is included in the application fee.
- Where an applicant has a recorded criminal history the National Law requires the Board to act only as far as necessary to protect the public.
 - Convictions
 - Findings of guilt
 - Pending charges
 - Finding of guilt, even with no conviction recorded
 - **Spent convictions also apply to the criminal history disclosure requirements**

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- Practitioners must:
 - complete a minimum of **60 hours** of CPD activities over a three year cycle, with a minimum of 10 hours in any one year; **or**
 - comply with the requirements of a CPD program approved by the Medical Radiation Practice Board, i.e. a program run by professional organisations. (Approval pending for AIR / ANZSNM).
 - keep records for 4 years of CPD and produce evidence if requested by Board. Random audits will be conducted.
- CPD activity:
 - a greater proportion must be **substantive** CPD activity.
 - a lesser proportion may be **general** CPD activity.

English Language Skills

- English Language Skills Standard is consistent with the approach taken by the other Health Professions.
- It requires international applicants, or those who have not undertaken their **secondary and tertiary education** in Australia or a country listed below, to undertake an **IELTS** or **OET** English assessment.
- Exemptions - Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America.

English Language Skills

- Applicants must undertake the academic version of the IELTS and must **score 7** or more in each of the four categories in a **single sitting, within 2 years** of applying.
- OET pass with grades **A or B** in each of the four categories (Listening, reading, writing & speaking). (Currently available for Diagnostic only).
- www.ielts.org/
- www.occupationalenglishtest.org/

English language Skills – Grandparenting 303,1,(c) >5 year Option

Practitioners:

- who have practised in Australia (or one of the other exempt countries) for five years or more in the last 10 years, **OR**
- who have previously completed an assessment of their English language skills through a professional body

may be eligible for registration with a condition that will require the practitioner to nominate a referee who can confirm their ability to communicate effectively in English for the purpose of professional practice. On receipt of the referee report the condition may be removed.

Further details on who may be a referee and an assessment report template for completion by referees, will be available on the website shortly.

English language Skills <5 year Option

For practitioners who have practised in Australia (or one of the exempt countries) for less than five years in the last 10 years.

The Board will consider special conditions to allow them to practise under a supervisory arrangement for 12 months to allow them to sit and pass one of the required English language examinations.

New graduates who did not complete their secondary education in English may be registered with the condition that they complete their IELTS within 12 months.

Recency of Practice

- Does NOT apply to those who have practiced within three years of applying.
- If you haven't worked for more than three years, but less than five, you will be required to submit a Return to Practice Plan.
- If you haven't worked for more than five years, you will generally be required to undergo an assessment of skills and knowledge.
- The Board may impose conditions such as a requirement for further study or a period of supervised practice.
- **Note:** there is no specific number of practice hours required, however, it is the responsibility of all practitioners to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to undertake practice.

Supervised Practice - Transition period, July 2012 to end of 2012

- The MRPB has agreed in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Radiography and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine, to continue the current NPDP and PDY Supervised Practice programs through to the end of 2012.
- This is to provide stability for the current PDY / NPDP enrolments and to enable the Board time to review and implement any changes required for 2013.
- Registrants in Qld operate under Qld law, the National Board is working with the MRTBQ toward the transition of Qld probationary practitioners into the current AIR / ANZSNM Schemes.

Supervised Practice – 2013 and beyond?

- Public consultation on SPP.
- Reviewing the consultation responses.
- Collaboration with AMRSAC and MRA.
- Discussion with key stakeholders and Government.
- Consulting with Health Workforce Australia.
- Planning for forum on SP:
 - Professional organisations
 - Universities
 - Unions
 - HWA
 - Health departments

Code of Conduct – and Advertising Guidelines

Code of Conduct - is a document consistent across all Boards that sets out the standard of conduct required of practitioners.

Advertising Guidelines - this guides those practitioners providing and advertising health services.

Mandatory Notifications

Mandatory Notifications - provides guidance about and when a practitioner, employer or education provider must notify AHPRA.

The requirements focus on instances of sub-standard practice or conduct by practitioners where the behaviors puts the **public at risk of harm**.

- Intoxicated by drugs or alcohol
- Sexual misconduct
- Impairment
- Departure from accepted standards

Mandatory Reports

Table 24: Grounds for mandatory notifications

Grounds for notification	Number	Percent
Sexual misconduct	29	6.8%
Drug or alcohol	18	4.2%
Impairment	128	29.9%
Departure from standards	253	59.1%
Total	428	100.0%

What appears on the register?

- Last name, first name, sex, qualifications.
- Languages spoken (in addition to English).
- **Principle place of Practice** - City/Suburb/Town, State, Postcode, Country.
- Profession, Registration Type (i.e. General), Status.
- Endorsements, conditions, undertakings, notations or reprimands.
- Registration number.
- Date of first registration – expiry date of registration.

MRP students

- Students are deemed to be registered.
- Registration fees do not apply.
- Universities will provide student lists to AHPRA.
- The Student register is confidential.
- **These Standards do not apply;**
 - Continuing Professional Development
 - Criminal History check
 - English Language Skill
 - Professional Indemnity Insurance
 - Recency of Practice
- **Mandatory Notifications** - students are not required to make a notification, but education providers and other health practitioners are required to make mandatory notifications about an impaired student.

How do I register?

If you are working as a Medical Radiation Practitioner on 1 July 2012 – then you must be registered

- On 1st July 2012 Medical Radiation Practitioners (MRPs) who hold current State or Territory registration will automatically transition into the National Scheme.
- MRPs who are not currently expected to hold State or Territory registration will be required to apply for Registration with the National MRP Board well before 1st July 2012.
- These practitioners include those who currently work in NSW, South Australia and some in the Northern Territory.

Registration Application Process

- NSW SA & NT Practitioners required to complete the application form and post or deliver to AHPRA.
- Initial registration period will be five months, at pro rata fees, then 12 months to align with 30 November, renewal date for all MRPs.
- Application should be submitted as soon as possible.
- Receipt of applications will be acknowledged and then certificates posted after July 2012, once registration applies.
- Registrants will be listed on the MRPBA website ASAP.

Four new boards

Numbers and fees

Board	Practitioners	Application Fee (one off)	Annual (12 Month) Registration Fee
MRP	14,946	\$300	\$325
			5 months = \$135
OT	12,281	\$280	\$280
ATSIHP	685	\$80	\$100
CM	5,004	\$550-700	\$550

What do I need to do?

Registration in NSW and SA

- Registration information pack will take you through step-by-step, including Criminal History and Grandparenting requirements. This is being mailed to each licensed practitioner in February.
- One-off Application fee, \$300, plus Initial Registration fee, \$135.
- Register early – submit information before 31 March 2012 to enable staff to process the large numbers.
- Unregistered NT practitioners will also need to apply for registration
- All registration information also available at www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au

What do i need to do – in Vic, Qld, WA, Tas, ACT & NT

In Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, ACT or if you are a registered radiographer in NT:

- If you have current registration in a State or Territory you will automatically transition into the new National Scheme on 1st July 2012.
- Please maintain your current State / Territory registration and ensure your contact details are up to date.

Other Matters – NSW is different – how?

- Co-regulatory jurisdiction.
- State MRP Board and AHPRA deal only with registration issues.
- Health Professional Councils and Health Care Complaints Commission deal with notifications – conduct, performance, health.
- Outcomes are recorded in Register of Practitioners and apply nationally.

Other Matters – Radiation licensing

- States and Territories governments are responsible for the administration of radiation sources.
- Government departments issue a licence under legislation that controls the use of X-ray equipment or radioactive materials.
- From 1 July 2012 medical radiation practitioners will need registration and in most cases they will also need to be licensed.
- It is expected that these licences will only be issued by the relevant authorities to MRPs who are registered by the Board.

Other Matters – membership of professional organisations

- Registration with the MRPBA is separate and independent from any required membership of another organisation i.e.;
 - Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) or,
 - Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM).
- Statement of Accreditation from the AIR or ANZSNM, may be considered as supporting documentation of qualifications and English skills assessment in some cases.

Other Matters – State MRP Boards

- The existing State and Territory MRP boards will cease to exist on the 1 July 2012
- Funds held will be transferred to the National MRP Board, under the SALT agreement
- The State AHPRA offices may provide assistance in the management of the registration process and notification matters if requested
- AHPRA Call Centre 1300 419 495, will be the point of contact for enquiries

Employers responsibilities

- Check your staff are registered on the **Online register**
- Registration is an individual responsibility but you may be liable in other areas i.e. Medicare claims, and voiding PII cover
- Review and be aware of your corporate PI insurance cover
- Be aware of the registration requirements
- Include “eligibility for registration“ in position descriptions
- Familiarise yourself with the **Mandatory Notification** requirements
- Encourage and support suitable CPD

How do I keep informed about registration?

- To receive updates and communiqués, send your full name and email address to mrpbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au
- Be proactive with National Registration – Distribute information and talk to your colleagues.
- Read your professional journals.
- Check our website www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au
- Check the MRPBA FAQ on the website.

MRPBA Office – Staff and contact details

- Executive Officer Mr Adam Reinhard
- Board Support Officer Miss Akemi Pham-Vu
- www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/

Call 1300 419 495

Postal Address

AHPRA

G.P.O. Box 9958

In your capital city

Questions?