

Communiqué

First Meeting of the Medical Radiation Practice Board

26 July 2011

The first meeting of the Medical Radiation Practice Board

The 12 members of the Medical Radiation Practice Board (the Board) are Neil Hicks (Chair), Christopher Pilkington, Marcia Fleet, Tracy Vitucci, Susan Baldwin, Kar Giam, Christopher Hicks, Mark Marcenko, Liz Benson, Myrtle Green, Rosie Yeo and Robyn Hopcroft.

The Board met for the first time on 26 July 2011 in Melbourne. The Chair and members thanked the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for welcoming them to their new roles and for their ongoing support of national registration and accreditation of the medical radiation practice profession.

The Board acknowledged the challenges and opportunities over the next 11 months as it undertakes important work to prepare the profession for national registration. It expressed confidence in the abilities and commitment of the Board to see the vision through to 1 July 2012 when practitioners will become registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The Board looks forward to engaging medical radiation practice stakeholders across all states and territories in the development of standards and guidelines affecting the profession. In particular, the Board welcomes the opportunity to work with existing state and territory registration boards during the transition from state and territory-based registration to national registration.

The Board encouraged all interested parties to have their say on proposals for registration, during public consultation that will occur over the coming months. More information about how to access and comment on proposals and draft standards will be provided over the coming months.

Communication

The Board recognised the importance of communicating with the profession as it prepares for national registration. In the next couple of months, the Board will establish its own website to provide information to the profession about its activities and important updates about national registration. In the meantime, information will be available on the NRAS2012 Project website (www.nras2012.ahpra.gov.au) (also accessible through a link on the National Boards page on the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au).

Registration Standards

At its first meeting, the Board agreed to prepare for consultation on a range of important matters affecting the profession. Importantly, this includes the five registration standards the Board must set under the National Law related to:

- professional indemnity insurance
- criminal history
- continuing professional development
- English language skills and
- recency of practice.

The Board also plans to develop a standard clarifying the required qualifications for applicants for initial registration.

Establishing State and Territory Boards and/or National Committees of the National Board

The Board is required to decide on a committee structure that will support the functions of the Board. Various models were considered and it was agreed that no State or Territory (or Regional) Boards will be established for the medical radiation practice profession. Rather, it will establish national committees for registration and notifications, and other committees as needed to assist the board to exercise its functions.

Transition of currently registered medical radiation practitioners

The Board considered strategies to support the automatic transition of current registrants as well as the entry of new practitioners to the national in July 2012. Further work will be progressed on the assessment and processing of registration applications from practitioners who have not previously been registered over the coming months. The Board looks forward to working with all stakeholders as this work progresses.

Registration Period

The Board agreed that the registration period for medical radiation practitioners will be from 1 December to 30 November each year.

Accreditation

The Board noted that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) has decided to leave the decision on accreditation arrangements to each of the Boards. The Board commissioned further work to enable it to make a decision about the accreditation function for the medical radiation practice profession.

Neil Hicks

Chair

4 August 2011