



New Zealand  
 Medical Radiation  
 Technologists Board  
*Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke*

MRTB  
 NEWS

## Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Tēnā koutou katoa

2024 has once again begun with a flurry of activity in the secretariat. We have a busy workplan and our main objective is to progress the review of the Scopes of Practice which was put on hold in 2021. We will be updating the sector on the project progress and seeking your input into the revised scope.

Keeping in mind the increased work pressures in the healthcare sector, it's still important for practitioners to renew their Annual Practising Certificates (APCs) in a timely manner to reduce any potential stress later.

While APC renewals are open until 31 March 2024, please be mindful that you must have your certificate before that date (not just put in your application). And with a public holiday falling on Friday 29 March (plus a weekend) practitioners (and employers paying fees using the bulk funding method) should plan to have paid/received APCs by 26 March at the latest – this allows the Finance team a few days to process payments, which is required to issue the APC.

With nearly 10,000 APCs to process, staff are working hard, so we recommend you allow at least five working days for that to happen – don't leave it to the last week.

Dr Sue Calvert, Chief Executive

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**APC renewal reminder:** make sure you've got your APC by 26 March

**Board updates:** roles confirmed

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Medical Sciences



SECRETARIAT  
 Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoa

*The Board is responsible for protecting the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with it are competent and fit to practise. This newsletter is brought to you by the Medical Sciences Secretariat, employed by the Board, providing business support services on their behalf (ie managing practitioner registrations and processing annual practising certificates).*

Kia ora katoa

As the incoming Board Chair, I would like to sincerely thank Billie Mudie, the outgoing Board Chair, for her dedication, hard work, and valuable contributions since 2021.

Billie's leadership and wisdom has been much appreciated by her colleagues over the years. And we look forward to working with Billie for the last few months of her tenure.

With 29 years as a Medical Imaging Technologist, I've had clinical experience in different hospital settings, including both public and private healthcare. I have been with the Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital for 20 years in different roles including general Medical Imaging Technologist, Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS), project co-ordination and I'm currently the team leader in Computed Tomography (CT).

I have a keen focus on quality improvement and clinical governance leading to improved outcomes and experiences for patients.

So that's a bit about me.

With the start of a new year, the Board welcomes recent medical imaging and radiation therapy graduates to our professions. We look forward to working with you throughout your careers.

Lizzie Macaulay

MRTB Chair (incoming)



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## APC Renewal Reminder

It's that time of the year again when registered practitioners must obtain an Annual Practising Certificate (APC). This process runs for about six weeks, ending on 31 March – by which time everyone needs to make sure they **have** their APC.

In fact, **26 March is 'the' final date** when you should have applied, paid for and received your certificate as 29 March is a public holiday (Easter/Good Friday), 30/31 March is a weekend and the Finance team will need a couple of days to process payments (which is required to issue the APC).

**Please make a plan to get your APC by 26 March**

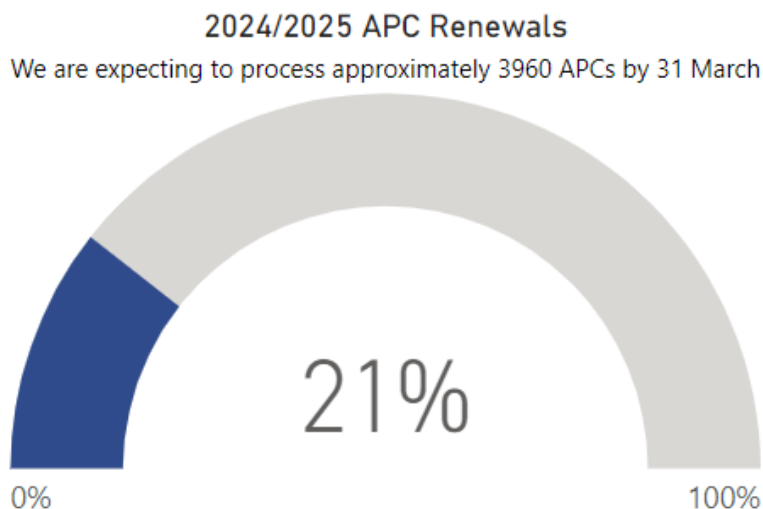
There's [information on the website about APCs](#): what it is, why you need a current one to legally practice/work in Aotearoa | New Zealand, how to apply for your APC, pay and receive it; including information about how employers can use the 'bulk funding' method to pay APC fees for several practitioners at a time (if that's what they have agreed to). As a reminder: the APC fee and the disciplinary levy must be paid together.

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## A big job

It's a busy time for the Medical Sciences Secretariat who manage the processing of APCs for the Board, so if you have any queries about this, we recommend you check the website first as you're likely to find the information you need there. The team processing your APC request may not respond on the same day (they're processing approximately 10,000 requests) so please be patient. There's also a list of [FAQs](#) on the website that you may find helpful.



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## Website Updates/Changes

In February a number of Yahoo.com users experienced difficulty receiving email from the Board. This was due to Microsoft issues. The problem has since been resolved, but if it ever happens again, please get in touch with us via [mrt@medsci.co.nz](mailto:mrt@medsci.co.nz) to provide an alternative email address.

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## People Updates

Earlier this month a couple of changes happened with **Board member roles** –

- Billie Mudie completed her tenure as Board Chair
- Lizzie Macaulay was confirmed as the new Medical Radiation Technologists Board Chair
- Anthony Bow was confirmed as the Deputy Chair.

### MSS Board of Directors

Both Lizzie Macaulay and Anthony Bow are also on the Board of Directors (as well as Susan Yorke) for the Medical Sciences Secretariat (the Secretariat).

The Secretariat manages all business support services on behalf of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) - they're responsible for managing practitioner registrations, processing annual practising certificates and a lot more besides.

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## *MSS roles filled*

We're pleased to confirm a number of vacant Secretariat roles have recently been filled including Project Manager, Communications Lead, Office Administrator, Deputy Registrar (starting next month) and Education Advisor. We are pleased to have Kelsey Lane join us as an inhouse professional advisor focussing on education. Kelsey is a Radiation Therapist.

You can view the full list of Board staff (operating as the Medical Sciences Secretariat) on the website under [Board staff](#).

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## *Board Member and Chief*

There are nine people on the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (Board) and Shannon Ioane-Moala is one of them. What's unique about Shannon is that she was recently made a chief.

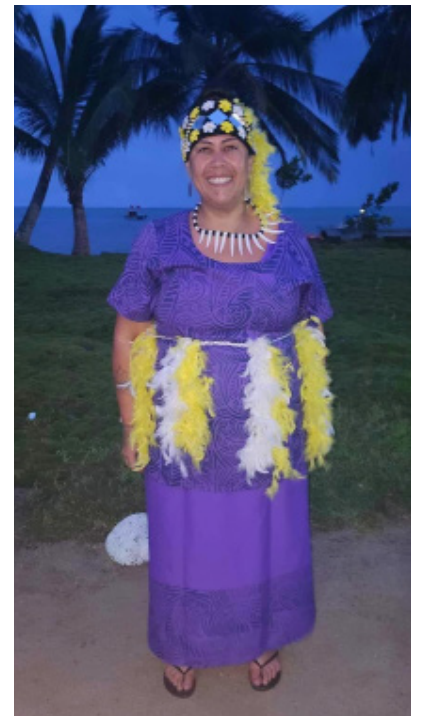
Shannon became a Board member in 2023 after serving on the Auckland District Health Board as a Board Observer. 'That was my introduction to governance and the impact Boards have on not just the direction of health services but the quality and access our communities have to healthcare,' says Shannon. 'I am also the Clinical Educator for the Starship Children's Hospital Hospital Play Specialist Service and have worked exclusively in both Paediatric Radiology and Radiotherapy for the last six years.'

'I have huge respect for the Medical Imaging profession, having worked so closely with them, and during the COVID-19 pandemic when it was 'business as usual' for much of the profession. I've seen and worked with our tertiary students during their placements, watched them graduate as radiation therapists/imaging technologists, progress their learning into other scopes and leadership roles, so I think I've had a unique relationship with both the profession and how our healthcare community interacts with them.'

'There's a well-known Samoan saying, "O le ala i le pule o le tautua" which means the pathway to leadership is through service. If I have the position to serve my communities, then my duty is to do it with all my being. To think not of myself but of everyone and everything I represent. In terms of our pacific communities, we're not represented well in health data, and it only highlights the importance of having our people in positions to help change the trajectory of pacific health and access to high-quality healthcare.'

'I belong to many communities and feel like I could contribute my balanced approach to the Board, I can appreciate the health system as a consumer, but also represent the profession I've worked so closely with for the last six years as a lay member. That's my unique perspective as a lay member.'

'Of course, I'm also honoured to represent our Pacific community, both as a health consumer and as a Pacific healthcare worker. The other privilege of mine is being able to support our Māori Board and Secretariat members, and our Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee at the decision-making table. I believe the MRTB is making huge moves towards a culturally competent and responsive workforce and I'm looking forward to our communities, specifically our Māori and Pacific communities who are over-represented in health statistics, feeling the positive impact of this drive. It is such a joy and an honour to be able to contribute to this work.'



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'In December 2023, I was bestowed the tulafale-ali'i title of Ma'ifuna'i during a saofa'i (ceremony) in Lepuia'i, Manono (Samoa). I represent my Great-Grandfather the late Leiataua Herbert Phineas, my Grandmother Le Taua Josephine Ioane (nee Phineas) and my father the late Samuel Ioane. The saofa'i marks the formal process and acceptance of a new matai by the family and village.

'The tulafale-ali'i title takes the role of an 'Orator Chief' and supports our high-chiefs (Matai) as an advisor, debater and spokesperson for them (and the village). The Fa'amatai acts as a governance/ council system (for our respective immediate and extended families and the village) in Samoan culture.



'The saofa'i starts with a blessing by the faifeau (Ministers), sharing of oratory speeches, song and geneologies, an ava ceremony to mark the bestowal of new matai (and will then be referred to by their new name) and then the finally the exchange of fine mats and gifts to the village.

'My new name is now Ma'ifuna'i Shannon Ioane-Moala.'

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## Cultural Competence and Safety

Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) the Board is mandated to set the standards for cultural competence to be observed by medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners.

So, what does 'cultural competence' mean?

Cultural competence is the way registered practitioners consciously engage through interaction and response to patients, to get the maximum health gains for people from different cultural backgrounds. Practitioners acknowledge the importance of cultural understanding to achieve effective communication and are self-aware of the potential impact of their unconscious bias. If you can make time we recommend you view the [HQSC unconscious bias videos](#) as they explain this in more detail.

**For example, consider:** cultural, linguistic, and migration issues around health activity, knowledge and choices; differing perceptions about health and the role of medical radiation technology; understanding intergenerational differences with respect to attitudes to health services and interacting with health professionals.

Ensuring there's cultural competence applied to everything we do puts us in line with who we are as a culturally diverse society. As such, practitioners are in a unique position to demonstrate that every day with patients when performing their work. You can read more about this in the Cultural Competence policy and guidelines document on the website [here](#).

Currently the Board's Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee is reviewing these documents, taking an evidence informed approach. Further guidance will be provided to the professions during 2024.

### Continued professional development

Under the Act the Board has a duty to recognise, accredit and set programmes to ensure the ongoing competence of health practitioners, and to promote education and training in the profession. All registered medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners are required to engage in Continued Professional Development (CPD).

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## General

The MRTB Annual Report 2023 has been prepared – we're just waiting on final approval from the auditors to confirm that our accounts can be added. This is a normal part of the annual report process but this year there have been some delays that are outside of our control. We'll let you know when the report is available to view on the website.

### Roles to fill

**Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health** is currently advertising for a practitioner member for the Board (a radiation therapy candidate) – if you know of anyone suitable tell them to view details at <https://careers.health.govt.nz/jobs/MOH-1779058> and NZ Govt Jobs. Applications close 4 March. Please share this information with your networks.

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