



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
NEWS

Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome to the new practising year. Thank you to all the practitioners who applied for and were granted their practising certificate before Easter. One month into the practising year and the office is again busy as we process registrations and support practitioners with questions around practice, recertification and supervision, for example.

Recently, our Chair Lizzie Macaulay and I were able to attend the ANZSNM conference (Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine) held in Christchurch. With almost 400 practitioners from various disciplines, this was the perfect opportunity to network with practitioners from across the motu and discuss matters with our Australian counterparts from the Medical Radiation Practice Board (the Board).

Lizzie and I were able to present on the work of the Board and although our presentation did not elicit a large number of questions at the time, we had a stream of practitioners come to our stand and discuss matters with us one-on-one. It was great to meet the Nuclear Medicine Technologists and we look forward to meeting other practitioners over the course of the year.

In the Secretariat we have a full work programme for 2024-2025. Our key strategic project is the review of the scopes of practice for members of the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy professions in Aotearoa | New Zealand. Further information will be forthcoming over the course of the year so please ensure that you view our newsletters as they're published. With the scope review it's essential that practitioners have a voice and participate in any consultations that occur.

Our annual report for 2022-2023 was finally published in April 2024. As mentioned previously, the delays in publishing this report were out of the Board's control. You can now view the report on our website under About us/Annual reports.

Ngā mihi

Dr Sue Calvert, **Chief Executive**

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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.

TE HEAMANA | FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora katoa

As we head towards winter ('flu season) and the usual pressures that has on our healthcare system, please remember to look after your own health, safety and wellbeing. Even at the best of times it can be an extraordinarily busy and challenging period.

I'm quickly getting up to speed with my new appointment as Chair of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board). There's some exciting work coming up this year, including the Scope of Practice review. This is a great opportunity for practitioners to get involved and have a voice at the table via the expert advisory groups, so when the call is made, please think about registering your interest.

It's going to be another busy year for the Board in terms of regulation and we look forward to continuing our work with the professions, and relevant stakeholders, in progressing our projects.

Sue (our Chief Executive) and I attended the ANZSNM conference in Christchurch (26-28 April). It was a great opportunity for us to connect with the Nuclear Medicine community. We also had a speaking engagement on the Friday and a booth in the exhibition area.

Ngā mihi

Lizzie Macaulay - **Chair**

Supervision of trainees

In 2022 the Board issued a new policy around the supervision of practitioners. The policy in this instance included post-graduate trainees. Following feedback from the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy professions, the Board advised practitioners that supervision arrangements for trainees would stay the same as they were before the policy was issued.

Board representatives met with providers of education to discuss the matter of supervision. In late 2023 the Board received information from the education provider describing a consultation process that had occurred. It outlined a proposed three level supervision framework for post-graduate trainees. The Board then reviewed the proposed supervision approach and its own supervision policy.

As a result, the Board has revised its supervision policy. The requirement for post-graduate trainees, completing programmes of education that lead to 'registration to practise under supervision' remains. The level of supervision required is the one determined by the provider of post-graduate education that aligns with their approach.

As students it's important that 'informed consent' for participation in care is obtained from people using health care services, prior to any procedures taking place. Those people have the right to know, and understand, the role that the trainee will have in their care. And they have the right to decline the participation of a trainee.



More

Information and education about 'informed consent' is available on the [Health & Disability Commissioner website www.hdc.org.nz](http://www.hdc.org.nz) under [Education/Online learning](#)

And if you have any questions please email mrt@medsci.co.nz

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English language requirements

We recently updated the website on 'English language requirements' for internationally qualified registration – practitioners who hold an overseas qualification in medical imaging or radiation therapy, or equivalent, and want to apply for registration.

Here's what it now says about English language requirements –

All registration applicants must meet the Board's English language requirements. If you are required to sit an English language test, please provide a copy of your examination results. Applicants may take either the IELTS test (academic) or the OET test. If an applicant chooses the IELTS test, they must attain a score of 7.0 in each of the four categories of listening, reading, writing and speaking. If an applicant chooses the OET test, they must attain a B pass. For OET tests, an applicant may attempt the radiology test.

Please note, the Board also accepts the 'one skill retake' offered by IELTS - it allows an applicant to retake just one category if they only failed one of the categories and saves them from retaking the whole test.

Deputy Registrar onboard

Peter Lourie, newly appointed Deputy Registrar, comes to us with a background in regulatory environments. Peter has previously worked with Engineering New Zealand Te Ao Rangahau and the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand Te Pou Whakamana Kaimatū o Aotearoa, so he brings a lot of relevant experience.

The role of Deputy Registrar was created to assist the team in delivering a strong regulatory approach for our systems, processes and regulatory compliance, along with assurance functions. This includes making sure practitioners are registered and hold an Annual Practising Certificate (if working). Welcome Peter!

Registrar v Deputy Registrar

The Board must appoint a registrar under legislation to make sure various regulatory processes are carried out. For example, overseeing the registration of practitioners. Whereas the Deputy Registrar is employed to assist the Registrar with those functions.

Ultimately the Registrar (ours is Caleb Bridgeman) is responsible for ensuring all regulatory processes are carried out.

Annual report

After getting the final sign-off from our auditors the 2022-2023 MRTB Annual Report has been finalised and published.

It's now available to view on the website under [About us/Annual reports](#).

You can also get to it via the 'News' and 'Resources' sections.



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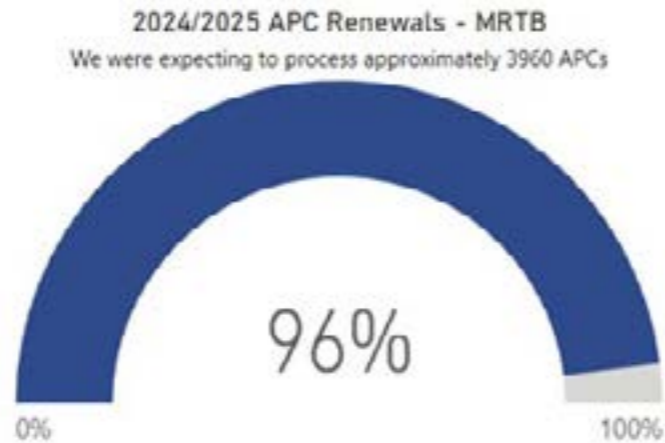
APC renewals nearly 100%

The Annual Practising Certificate (APC) renewal period officially closed on 31 March with a 96% renewal rate.

There were still a few late applications being dealt with in April, but generally people got in early to make sure they applied and paid for their APCs in plenty of time.

Remarkably there are still some registered practitioners who don't seem to know that having an APC is a legal requirement – you can't legally work in Aotearoa | New Zealand as a medical imaging or radiation therapist without one.

We tried to make it easier this year by including some FAQs on our website - how to apply for your APC; how long the process takes; what happens if you don't apply for your APC, etc. If, after reading the FAQs, you still have any questions about the process then email us at mrt@medsci.co.nz



Who we are, what we're about and what you need to know



We are Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board/MRTB). Our role, as a responsible authority, is to protect the public of Aotearoa | New Zealand through the regulation of the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession which includes the following scopes of practice:

- Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT)
- Sonographer
- Radiation Therapist
- Trainee Magnetic Resonance Technologist (TMR)
- Trainee Nuclear Medicine (TNM) Technologist
- Trainee Sonographer.

The Board employs the Medical Sciences Secretariat to provide business services, regulatory support and advice. For information email mrt@medsci.co.nz, phone 04 801 6250 and/or visit the website: WWW.MRTBOARD.ORG.NZ

We're responsible for protecting the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with us are competent and fit to practise. We manage practitioner registrations and the processing of annual practising certificates (APCs), ensure compliance with obligations under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, provide advice, manage the website www.mrtboard.org.nz and CPD audits – amongst other things.

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Scams and scammers

Beware of scams and scammers – people pretending to be someone or something they're not - usually after money or information they're not entitled to.

Ask questions to make sure the person you're talking to is legitimate, and if in doubt, get a phone number then call them back. If it's not our phone number 04 801 6250 then it could be a scam. And don't give out any personal information over the phone unless you're sure it's us you're talking to.

Te Manu Mātārae

Te Manu Mātārae (formerly known as the MRTB Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee) was formed in 2023. Since then, the committee has provided the Board with advice and guidance to support its work. This rōpū recently reviewed the Cultural Competency and Code of Ethical Conduct documents and gave recommendations to the Board. Currently the committee is reviewing the Continuing Professional Development policy document and hope to give further recommendations following their next hui.

Overall, members of Te Manu Mātārae have thoroughly enjoyed their role advising the Board. There's been a lot of productive kanohi ki te kanohi hui and they look forward to making a difference.



Pare Graham joined Te Manu Mātārae in July 2023. He uri ia noo Waikato-Tainui, Nga Puhi, Te Arawa, me Ngaati Kahungunu. She has a background in Education and Developmental Psychology and is currently working as an intern psychologist at Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga. Pare's passions include supporting Māori advancement, upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and advocating for equitable outcomes for Māori.



Allannah Harrington was appointed to Te Manu Mātārae in 2023. She's been working in the Cardiac Sonography profession for over seven years, in both the public and private sectors. And is an advocate for the Cardiac Sonography profession. Allannah is devoted to improving Māori health outcomes, embedding cultural safety, and increasing Māori in the workforce. Her interests include Cardiology, Neuroscience and Clinical Research, with a focus on indigenous health. She has a Master's degree in Clinical Neuroscience from the University of Otago. Her work as the Māori Clinical Researcher in the Health Research Council study, established the appropriateness of echocardiographic reference ranges in Māori and Pacific New Zealanders. Allannah is passionate about the clinical and research link between Cardiology and Neuroscience and has plans to complete her PhD, focusing on a Te Ao Māori framework.

More about the committee

You can view details about the committee | Te Manu Mātārae on the website under [About us/Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee](#).

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Conferences and forums

Board CE Sue Calvert and Board Chair Lizzie Macaulay attended, and spoke, at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) Conference (Discover the Nucleus) in Christchurch during April.

Lizzie and Sue presented on the work of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board. This resulted in a stream of practitioners coming up to the booth afterwards to have a discussion. Sue says, "It was great to meet the Nuclear Medicine Technologists. And the robot was pretty impressive, if not a bit intimidating."



Left to right: Adam, Cara, Sue and Lizzie.



Robot – used to find radioactive material.

Sue Calvert (CE) and Lizzie (Chair) at the MRTB exhibition booth with Adam Reinhart (Exec Officer MRPBA) and Cara Miller (Chair of Medical Radiation Practitioners Board of Australia/MRPBA).

We will be attending a number of other conferences this year, including the ASUM conference in July (Auckland) and the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology (NZIMRT) conference in September (New Plymouth).

If you're there too, please seek us out.

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