



New Zealand
 Medical Radiation
 Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
 NEWS

Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Tēnā koutou katoa

We have had a busy few months in the Secretariat with a number of key projects and initiatives underway. We have completed our consultation on the revised standards of competence for medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners, and I hope that you took the opportunity to respond. We are currently in the process of undertaking research to inform the revised scopes of practice for the professions project and are formalising the expert advisory group who will provide advice to the Board. I will be at the NZIMRT conference in New Plymouth in September with various staff and Board Chair, Lizzie Macaulay. Please take the opportunity to come and talk with us if you have any questions about regulation matters. We enjoy the opportunity to meet with practitioners and to share updates on the work that is underway. As the scope of practice review is a key strategic project for the Board, we welcome any questions you may have around this matter. Speaking with practitioners helps to inform our communications with the wider sector.



Since our last newsletter we have said farewell and thanks to two Board members - Billie Mudie, a radiation therapist member and former Board Chair, and Philip Thomas a medical imaging health professional member. Both played key roles in the Board, providing advice and expertise to inform Board decisions. We have also welcomed Allison Copland (a radiation therapist) onto the Board. A recent highlight for me has been attending a joint hui with Te Manu Mātārae and Te Ama Tōtika – the Māori Practitioner Advisory Committees for the the Medical Radiation Technologists Board and Medical Sciences Council, respectively. Both rōpū met recently in Wellington and discussed matters of common interest, including the work they have been undertaking for their responsible authorities in support of policy, data sovereignty and connecting with other practitioners. Te Manu Mātārae and the Board plan to host a hui for Māori practitioners in Tāmaki Makarau in February 2025. This activity will count as continuing professional development (CPD). We'll be in touch soon with more information about that. For more information about the work of Te Manu Mātārae and its membership visit our website page ['About us/Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee'](#). Once again, I want to thank the staff at the Secretariat who continue to provide an excellent regulatory service to practitioners. Not only have they been working on projects in support of the professions that the Board regulates, but also managing registration exams, communications, reviewing evidence and data to support policy change, alongside our regular registration and ongoing practising certificate work.

Ngā mihi

Dr Sue Calvert, **Chief Executive**



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).

Content: Being a radiation therapist - Preparing for the 2025 CPD Audit - Who 'we' are - Consultation - Privacy and raising a concern - Te Manu Mātārae - Cultural resources - Board changes - Conferences and meetings

FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora katoa

Once again, we're facing a season of increased winter illnesses that are affecting staff numbers and workforce pressures. This is on top of acute staff shortages, so I encourage everyone to please look after yourselves as much as possible.

I also acknowledge the pressures and stress that some of our practitioner colleagues are facing, while involved in employment bargaining with their employers.

The Board has been connecting with practitioners at various professional conferences this year and I recently had the opportunity to attend the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) conference in Auckland, with Board member Carol Bagnall and Registrar Caleb Bridgeman. It was great to see all the outstanding mahi and achievements going on in the sonography profession. The Board appreciated some of the exciting and engaging conversations we had with practitioners around issues in the profession. We look forward to further engagement at the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology (NZIMRT) conference in New Plymouth during September – please come and see us if you're there.

To those practitioners who took time to review the revised competency standards, providing us with feedback, 'thank you' on behalf of the Board. Your input and engagement are appreciated.

The Board recently welcomed our newest member, Allison Copland who is a radiation therapist. We very much look forward to working with Alli.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Billie Mudie who we farewelled in June after completing an admirable nine years as a Board member and Chair. We will miss her commitment, leadership, and friendship.

Ngā mihi

Lizzie Macaulay, **MRTB Chair**



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Being a radiation therapist

Kelsey Lane works at Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoā | the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) as an Education Advisor for the Board. She also works as a radiation therapist (RT) at Wellington Hospital. At MSS, Kelsey's role involves reviewing applications from international candidates to see whether they have the appropriate skills to practise here in Aotearoa. She also engages with education providers to ensure they're continuing to provide relevant education for future practitioners. We asked Kelsey what it's like being an RT.

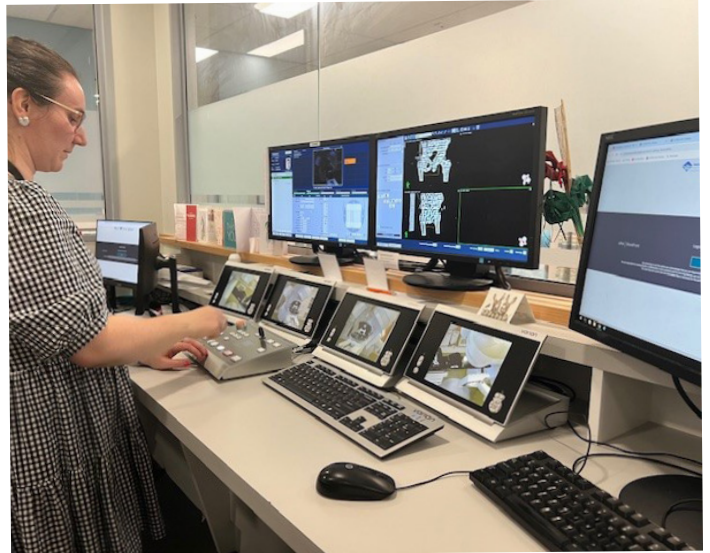
'I've been a radiation therapist (RT) for just under ten years, and in my role, I mainly treat cancer patients with therapeutic doses of radiation. Doing what I do means I'm involved in a cancer patient's radiation therapy journey from the first time they step foot in a radiation therapy department, until their last day of treatment. It means I get to know my patients a bit more.

'Part of my job involves explaining the process of acquiring a CT simulated image in the patient's treatment position – that's technical speak for how we literally position the patient in the machine to receive treatment. Getting them into the correct position is very important. It involves using a range of different equipment to make sure: a) they're comfortable, and b) they're set up correctly to receive treatment in the right places.

'Before that happens, I'll work with radiation oncologists and a medical physicist to create and plan the patient's treatment. It can be challenging to make sure each plan is tailored to each patient's disease and treatment needs, but it's a rewarding process.

'Once treatment begins, I'll provide patient care by checking they're comfortable and aware of the treatment process/what's going to happen. As RT treatment progresses, I'll form part of a wider team that manages any related side effects. While providing the patient with support I'm also responsible for reproducing their treatment position (for each visit) and making sure treatment is delivered correctly.

Kelsey showing us how she operates the linear accelerator (minus a patient).



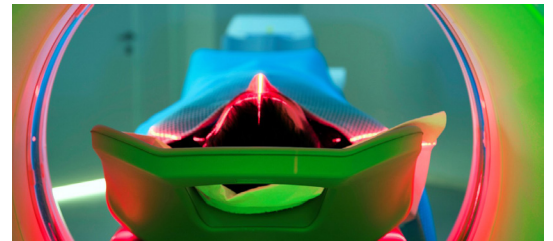
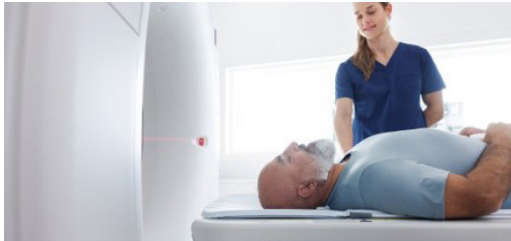
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‘Radiation therapy is a unique profession as I get the opportunity to know my patients over several weeks. I get to connect on a personal level, learning a lot about their families, pets, garden, and interests. And I really like the opportunity to work as part of a team - getting to know my colleagues.

‘Over the course of my career, I’ve seen a few different iterations of linear accelerators (treatment machines). The workplace has also transitioned from a ‘paper heavy’ environment to virtually being paperless, while the complexity of planning radiation therapy has changed. Early in my career, planning involved modifying a few parameters to shape the radiation to the tumour. Now we identify organs and areas of the body we want to avoid, then work with a computer system to create the best plan that treats the tumour, while sparing normal tissue.

‘Most workplaces provide the opportunity to attend in-house professional development courses that I identify as interesting and relevant to my profession, as well as national or international radiation therapy conferences. I really enjoy the patient contact, while working in a constantly evolving and improving profession.’



Preparing for the 2025 CPD Audit

Every two years we audit a selected number of registered practitioners to make sure they’re keeping up to date with current good practice in their respective scopes - practising safely, effectively and legally.

As we all know, nothing ever really stays the same so it’s important to keep updated on current practices. Recertification - continuing professional development (CPD) is also a way for health practitioners to support their ongoing professional development, whether they’ve been in the profession for one year or 20 years. It’s also important that practitioners understand their professional ethical requirements – this includes trying to achieve equitable health outcomes for Māori.

The next CPD Audit will be undertaken in 2025 (covering the biennium period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024). Biennium being two years that run consecutively.

Everything you need to know about recent changes to the CPD Audit information, the process, and recording your professional development is available on the website under [Already registered/Recertification – Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\)](#) - with FAQs, links to the updated CPD Policy and the recertification logbook.

Just so you know, recent changes include:

- CPD is now audited within a two-year period – referred to as a biennium – a fixed period from 1 January to 31 December the first year, and 1 January to 31 December the following year.
- The Board selects up to 40% of health practitioners with a current practising certificate to participate in the audit – and those selected must provide their CPD information for the whole biennium period.

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Who 'we' are



We are **Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | the Medical Radiation Technologists Board** (also referred to as the Board and/or MRTB). We are responsible for protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring practitioners registered in the profession of medical imaging and radiation therapy are competent and fit to practise in 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.

As one of 18 New Zealand health responsible authorities we're responsible for administering the Act (the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003), we manage practitioner registrations and the processing of annual practising certificates (APCs), ensure compliance with obligations under the Act, provide advice, manage the website www.mrtboard.org.nz and CPD audits – amongst other things - which you can read about in the [2023 Annual Report](#) on our website under Resources/Publications.

We employ Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoā | the Medical Sciences Secretariat (the Secretariat), whose staff provide regulation and business services on our behalf. For details about who does what, view the website under About us/Board staff.

If you'd like to get in touch, email us at mrt@medsci.co.nz or phone 04 801 6250 and/or visit the website for more information:

www.mrtboard.org.nz

Consultation

Over the last couple of months, we held a consultation on the Medical Radiation Technologists Board Competence Standards – this closed on 19 August 2024. Thank you to those who found time to participate by putting in a submission (doing the survey). We're currently reviewing that information and will be in touch shortly with feedback and details about what happens next.

You can view details about the consultation on our website (including the current standards and FAQs) under 'News' [here](#).

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Privacy and raising a concern

We're currently reviewing our privacy policies and processes to make sure practitioners are aware of how their information is managed and used. As soon as that work is completed, we'll update the policy on our website.

There's information on our website about 'raising a concern' if you're a member of the public, a registered practitioner or an employer [here](#). It contains details about what you need to know as a member of the public, an employer, colleague, or health practitioner if you become concerned about a practitioner's competence or conduct.

If you have any queries about 'raising a concern', please email us at pro-standards@medsci.co.nz or phone 04 801 6250.

You can view information on the Health & Disability Commissioner website, including videos, on 'respecting your rights' [here](#), and details about the HDC Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights [here](#).

FREE online learning

The Privacy Commissioner has several FREE online courses that may be of use to practitioners wanting to improve their privacy knowledge and ensure they're meeting their obligations under the Privacy Act. This includes "Health ABC" and "Health 101" courses - [Office of the Privacy Commissioner | E-learning](#)

Te Manu Mātārae

Te Manu Mātārae was formed in 2023 – it's a committee that's currently made up of seven people representing different scopes of practice and includes a lay person whose purpose is to provide the Board with advice and guidance in supporting its work.

Under section 118i of the Act, the Board has specific requirements for setting standards of clinical competence, cultural competence (including competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori), and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession.

In our previous newsletter we introduced two of the committee members: Co-Chairs Pare Graham and Allannah Harrington. This time we're introducing you to Moana Tipene-Boyd (on the left) and Kiriana Maxwell.



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Moana is a Medical Imaging Technologist working in Palmerston North. She also completed her Medical Resonance Imaging (MRI) education in 2020.

In recent years Moana has gravitated towards education where she has worked at the Pūhoro STEMM Academy, and now currently at Universal College of Learning (UCOL) | Te Pūkenga as a lecturer. She enjoys sharing knowledge with the students - ngā rangatira mō āpōpō (leaders for tomorrow). Moana is also passionate about increasing the number of Māori within the profession.

Kiriana was appointed to Te Manu Mātārae in 2023. Having qualified as a Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT), Kiriana has continued to further her knowledge and skills and is now a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technician, working across Auckland City, Starship, and Greenlane Hospitals. She's also the new Māori Health Lead for Clinical Support Services at Te Toka Tūmai. This position allows Kiriana to focus on improving Māori health outcomes, embedding cultural safety, and increasing Māori in her workforce.

More about the committee

Ma'ifuna'i Shannon Ioane-Moala has replaced Philip Thomas on Te Manu Mātārae as the Board representative. Shannon is a Senior Hospital Play Specialist at Starship Children's Hospital.

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

Cultural resources

We're planning to update/expand our website information around cultural resources. If you have any ideas about content for that section, please email us at mrt@medsci.co.nz

Currently you'll find '[Useful links](#)' to information under 'careers and immigration', and 'continuing professional development' which includes:

- **Mauriora:** foundational courses in 'Cultural competency' and 'Healthcare and the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi'
- **Ao Mai te Rā:** works across the health system to increase access, achieve equity and improve outcomes for Māori
- **Te Tāhu Hauora Co-design:** FREE e-learning courses about co-design in health; supporting consumers, whanau and communities to contribute to co-design; engaging Māori and Pacific consumers in co-design and, how to be involved.

We'll also include information about Te Reo and Te Ao Māori, including some definitions as a guide. For example:

- **Mana whenua** refers to the authority and guardianship that Māori have over a particular area of land. This authority is derived from whakapapa (ancestral) connections and is held by the iwi (tribes) or hapū (sub-tribes) who have historical and ongoing ties to that specific land. Mana whenua involves both the rights and responsibilities to care for the land, resources, and people within that area. For example, 'Mike' was born and lived for many years in the Wairarapa, but he doesn't have whakapapa connections to the Wairarapa. So, he's tangata whenua in the Wairarapa but not mana whenua.

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- **Tangata whenua** means ‘people of the land’ and are those who belong to the land through whakapapa (genealogy) connections to the original inhabitants of Aotearoa
- **Tangata Tiriti** means ‘people of the Treaty’ and refers to non-Māori; those who have settled in New Zealand because of the agreements made in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This term emphasises the rights and responsibilities of non-Māori under the Treaty, acknowledging their place in New Zealand society as partners with Māori under the Treaty framework. Tangata Tiriti are those who have come to Aotearoa New Zealand and live here in accordance with the principles of the Treaty.

Key differences

- **Mana whenua** relates specifically to the authority and custodianship over land held by certain iwi or hapū.
- **Tangata whenua** is a broader term that refers to all Māori as the indigenous people of New Zealand.
- **Tangata Tiriti** refers to non-Māori New Zealanders including new immigrants, recognising their rights and responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Board changes

We have recently had a few changes. We farewelled:

- Board member Billie Mudie, after nine years (which included a period as Chair), ended her term in July.
- Board member Philip Thomas resigned in May. During Philip’s final meeting he presented the Board with a Taiaha (a traditional Māori weapon - pictured below).



We also welcomed:

- new Board member Allison Copland – a radiation therapist.

You can view more about the Board members on the website [here](#) under About Us/Board members/Board.

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Conferences and meetings

We hope to see you at upcoming conferences – if you're there, please look us up:

- **NZIMRT conference (13-15 Sept):** New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology – reaching for the summit. We'll have an exhibition booth there (No. 17) and a speaking slot on Saturday 14 September at noon).

Stakeholder event 2025

The Board's annual stakeholder event is being held in Auckland on a date/time to be confirmed in February 2025. All practitioners will be invited, along with employers and other stakeholders. We're still in the early planning stages. More on this to come. We'll send out an email with further information and how to register in the next month or so.

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