



New Zealand
 Medical Radiation
 Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
 NEWS

FROM THE CHAIR

Tenā koutou katoa

As another year draws to a close, we reflect on the work and achievements that have taken place throughout the year.

The Board presented at the ANZSNM, ASUM, NZIMRT and ISMRT conferences, with MSS CE Sue Calvert and Registrar Caleb Bridgeman. It meant we were able to meet and connect with practitioners face to face. This was a great opportunity for us to kōrero and strengthen our relationship with the professional bodies and those of you out there doing the hard work in medical imaging and radiotherapy. A big thank you to the professional bodies for taking time to meet with us and discuss opportunities we have for collaboration on projects we're undertaking.

The Board was also invited to meet with MRPBA and spend a day sharing some of the work we're doing and hear about what's happening for the professions in Australia. This was a fantastic opportunity to form a working relationship with our Australian colleagues and align some aspects of our work.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the practitioners who have taken time to be part of the expert advisory group (EAG) for the Board's scope of practice review project. This a big project and we appreciate your continued work and advice on this.

A big 'thank you' to the hard-working team on Te Manu Mātārae (Māori Practitioners advisory committee) who continue their work with the Board.

There have been changes to the Board membership this year and we sadly said goodbye to Billie Mudie, who gave nine years of her time as the RT member and chair of the Medical Radiation Technologists Board. We also said farewell to Philip Thomas who gave his time and wisdom as an MIT rep to the Board.

We've welcomed Allison Copland as our new RT member – we look forward to the contribution and expertise she'll bring to the Board.

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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.



At this time of the year our Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) staff are busy registering Aotearoa New Zealand graduates. Starting a career as a health professional is exciting and rewarding. It's exciting to have them entering the workforce to start their careers as health professionals. We wish them well in their chosen career. Practitioners shouldn't hesitate to contact us if they have any questions. Another big 'thank you' to Sue and the MSS team for their hard work in a year that's included some big projects, and a heavy workload that often goes unseen.

Lastly, thank you all for your hard work serving the health needs of New Zealanders. This can be a demanding and stressful job at times. Remember it's important to take time to look after your own health and wellbeing. I hope you get the opportunity over the holiday period, or early 2025, for some rest and relaxation with your whānau and friends.

Ngā mihi nui

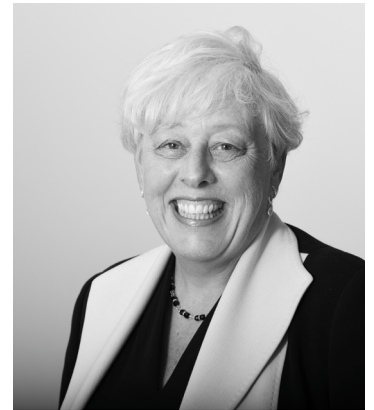
Lizzie Macaulay | **MRTB Chair**

Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Kia ora katoa

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2024. This has been a big and busy year.

Firstly, welcome to all recent graduates who have completed their programmes of education and are applying for registration in their respective scopes. This is a significant achievement, and we wish you well in your chosen career. The Board has several documents that are relevant for your practice, and you can view them here: [Competence standards](#), [Scopes of practice](#), and [Code of ethical conduct](#) for medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners. They're available on the website under Resources.



Our annual report for 2023-2024 showed an increase in registrations within the profession and this trend has continued over 2024. Recent figures show the total number of practitioners with practising certificates is more than 2% higher than 31 March 2024. In addition, approved registrations are 9% higher than this period in 2023. These figures exclude our recent graduates.

The Board members have had a busy year, as mentioned by Lizzie. We've attended several conferences and recently met with the Medical Radiation Practitioners Board of Australia. This was a great opportunity to discuss matters of common interest, and to look at and consider collaborative work that impacts on practitioners in both jurisdictions. We've also met with people at the Ministry of Health and provided the Minister with updates and information, about the regulation of practitioners. This includes updates on our scope of practice work.

The review of the scope of practice is one of the key strategic projects that's being undertaken by the Board. An expert advisory group met in Wellington and provided advice to the Board for this project. This work is being considered by the Board who will consult with the profession while things progress. Topics that have been considered include the role of assistants, as well as advanced practice.

The Board recently met with Te Manu Mātārae, its Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee, and discussed the work that has been undertaken during 2024 – along with what's programmed for 2025. The rōpū have provided the Board with advice that we are working to implement during 2025.

Finally, I acknowledge the team at MSS who work behind the scenes undertaking the work of the Board. This year has been extremely productive. Not only have we worked on projects around practice, but we've also engaged with numbers of practitioners, undertaken accreditation reviews, monitored programmes of education, offered exams, managed complaints and issues of practitioner competence and health, as well as undertaking consultations and issuing record numbers of practising certificates. Aside from this we have also begun a large project to replace our database. This will continue into early 2025 and will mean that we can streamline many of our policies and processes, making the application and renewal process more streamlined for practitioners. You'll receive more information about the project as work progresses.

I also acknowledge the Board, and especially Lizzie the Chair, for all their advice and guidance this year. As governors they set the direction for the profession, and we value the wealth of experience they bring to the table.

Ngā mihi

Dr Sue Calvert | **Chief Executive**

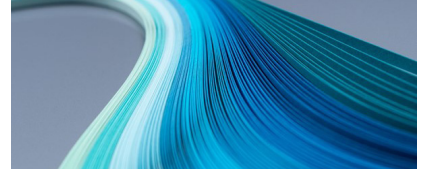
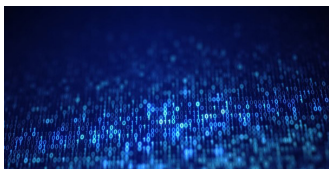


Change is coming and it's exciting

From a Regulation Advisor

At the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS), the regulation team are always busy processing applications for registration and APCs, answering questions and processing other registration-related requests.

Doing this means using a piece of digital equipment called a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system. While our current CRM system has served us well for nearly 20 years, it's time to replace it with a modern system that fits current and future needs. We've named this work Project VELMA and set up a project team to get the job done.



The team are currently tackling the enormous task of guiding our contracted experts to customise a new system (VELMA). Our aim, once the system is built, tested, and embedded, is to make the switch in April 2025.

What this means for you

A key part of this project centres around process improvement, the goal being increased accuracy and efficiency. Once the new system goes LIVE, we expect there'll be a more comprehensive online profile for practitioners, through which you'll be able to make requests and applications, provide feedback, manage your supervision/supervisees, complete the Continued Professional Development (CPD) audit, and more.

Business as usual

Until then, it's 'business as usual'. There won't be any major changes to our processes for the next APC renewal (recertification/applying for your Annual Practising Certificate).

As a reminder: you must hold a current APC to practise as a medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioner in Aotearoa New Zealand. Information on how to apply for your APC, and when, is available [here](#) – on our website under 'Already registered'. There's also a list of FAQs at the bottom of the web page.

Keeping informed

We'll provide updates about the replacement CRM system, and what it means for users, by email – as we reach key milestones throughout the project. This will include contact details, should you have any queries.

Competence standards - consultation outcome

The consultation on proposed changes to competence standards for **medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners** ran from 22 July to 19 August 2024. A total of 55 responses were received - 51 were from individuals and four were from organisations.

Thank you to those who took the time to read and respond to the consultation document.

On average 92% of those who responded agreed with the proposed changes. The Board has also agreed – this means we'll be moving forward to implement those changes to the competence standards.

The consultation outcome has been published [here](#) – with some of the feedback received.

Health and disability services consumer rights

View information about services rights on the Health & Disability Commissioner (HDC) website [here](#).

There are online learning modules - relevant for all practitioners - information for providers of health or disability services and consumers, including a video that encourages you to be aware of your rights.

[Online learning — Health & Disability Commissioner](#)



Mike awarded King's Service Order

Mike Hollings is a Senior Consultant at Haemata (Māori professional services consultancy). He's a consultant to the Board on all things te reo and te ao Māori, along with the Secretariat staff. He also works with Te Manu Mātārae – our Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee.

Recently Mike was awarded the King's Service Order (KSO) – an acknowledgement for his services to education and Māori.

Mike has spent 35 years in education, 17 as the head of Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu correspondence school, CE of Te Māngai Pāho (the government agency responsible for promoting Māori language and culture on radio and TV, along with many other achievements.



Mike says, 'When I was in university, I got very much involved with the Te Reo Māori Society. And then latterly, working with people to establish kura kaupapa Māori and kōhanga reo in the Wairarapa. Those things have been really quite enduring things that I'm probably the most proud of.'

You can read the full Te Ao Māori News article about Mike's award here: [Tohu a Te Kīngi 2024: Mike Hollings' passion for education and te reo Māori – Te Ao Māori News](#)

Congratulations Mike - how lucky are we to have you supporting and advising us.

Te Manu Mātārae

Join us

We're seeking expressions of interest for two tangata whenua lay people to join Te Manu Mātārae (the Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee) for medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners.

If you (or some you know) is interested – and you're not a health practitioner – please email the Medical Sciences Secretariat/ Chief Executive, Dr Sue Calvert at sue.calvert@medsci.co.nz

The email should include:

- your/their first and last name
- a summary of your/their recent positions and experience
- a brief overview of why you/they want to be considered for this role.

For more about what Te Manu Mātārae do and current members, view details [here](#) – details are on our website under 'About us / Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee'.

New appointments

There's been two new appointments to Te Manu Matarae recently:

- Melanie Laing works in mamography
- Charlotte York working in imaging

We'll update the website soon to include their bios.

2025 Hui for Māori practitioners

We mentioned this in our previous newsletter – it's still on but will now happen later in 2025 (not February).

Exam review - survey

We're reviewing the exam, the exam process, and holding a survey with past participants to find out what they thought about it (their experience).

By 'exam' we mean the online examination that is sometimes offered to international practitioners wanting to register, to practise in Aotearoa New Zealand. You can view information about the exam [here](#) – it's on our website under 'Pre-registration / Internationally qualified - How to register / Online examination'.

While the exams have been providing the Board with satisfactory results and assurance of an applicant's foundational knowledge, it's time to review/update and recalibrate the process.

We've started investigating the current exam process, people involved, procedures, policies, timing, and guidance. This review will highlight areas where we can provide greater clarity, effectiveness, and efficiencies.

Recently we sent a survey to past successful practitioners, and employers of those practitioners. Once the survey has ended we'll analyse the responses, and use that information to provide insight into the validity of the exam in reflecting good current practice of candidates assessed in the relevant scope of practice.

What this means for you

It's not going to affect you at all (unless you're one of the people that we surveyed – and thank you for taking part, by the way) – this article is just for your information.



Using artificial intelligence (AI)

AI is a rapidly moving area with implications for how practitioners work, both now and in the future. It includes creating/using machines/programmes/tools to do things in a more efficient and effective way than doing it ourselves. That's the short explanation.

Guidance

The Board has developed guidance (about the safe, secure, and responsible use of AI tools) to help practitioners when considering the use of artificial intelligence in medical imaging and therapy.

The document is called '**Artificial intelligence for medical imaging and radiation therapy**'. You can view it [here](#) - on the website under Resources/Fitness to practise. It's a very short document and includes links to helpful resources.



Fees - no change

The Board's income comes mainly from fees associated with the issuing of practising certificates (that registered practitioners apply for each year). The Board has decided not to propose a change to fees for the 2025–2026 year.

Working with radiation?

What's changed?

For those who work with radiation, the Code of Practice for diagnostic and interventional radiology ORS C1 is available to view [here](#) on the Ministry of Health website.

The code was reviewed in September 2023 and revised, then consulted on in August this year. There was a gazette notice published in November and this came into effect on 1 December.

The code (C1 2024) applies to radiation practices associated with radiological equipment used for diagnostic radiology procedures, interventional radiology procedures, etc.

Visitors from the Malaysian MOH

In October the Secretariat staff hosted two visitors from the Malaysian Ministry of Health (MOH) - Alia and Kamisah. It was an opportunity to exchange information, and for our visitors to not only find out what we do, but how we do it (for the Board and the Council*).

Image (front/left to right): Alia and Kamisah from the Malaysian Ministry of Health. (back/left to right): Dr Sue Calvert, CE and Peter Lourie, Deputy Registrar from the Medical Sciences Secretariat.



**refer to 'Who's who'*

Deputy Registrar Peter Lourie said, 'Alia and Kamisah spent one and a half days with us – talking about registration, examinations, international qualifications and recertification. They were impressed with the amount of work we do, our knowledge and the variety of things we deal with. It was very easy to talk with them as they were so engaged and thirsty for knowledge.'

APCs and bulk funding

Every year registered practitioners apply for their Annual Practising Certificate (mostly this occurs during March), and every year they, or their employer (if agreed) pays the fee). Last year we introduced the option for employers to pay for multiple employees using the bulk funding arrangement.

This option will still be available in March 2025, but not after that as our systems are no longer able to support it. Also, this process takes a considerable amount of time – it's a lot of manual handling.

For more about bulk funding you can view information [here](#) – it's also available on our website under 'Already registered / Annual Practising Certificates – APC fees paid using bulk funding'. It's important that you talk with your employer and confirm that they have an arrangement with the Board before using this option.

Who's who

The New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB/the Board) works very closely with another health responsible authority, Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council (MSC/the Council). Together they set up a jointly owned company, Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoa | the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS/the Secretariat) to achieve efficiencies and consistency in regulatory standards, manage key initiatives and business goals.



Office closed over the holidays

During the December/January holidays our MSS office will be:

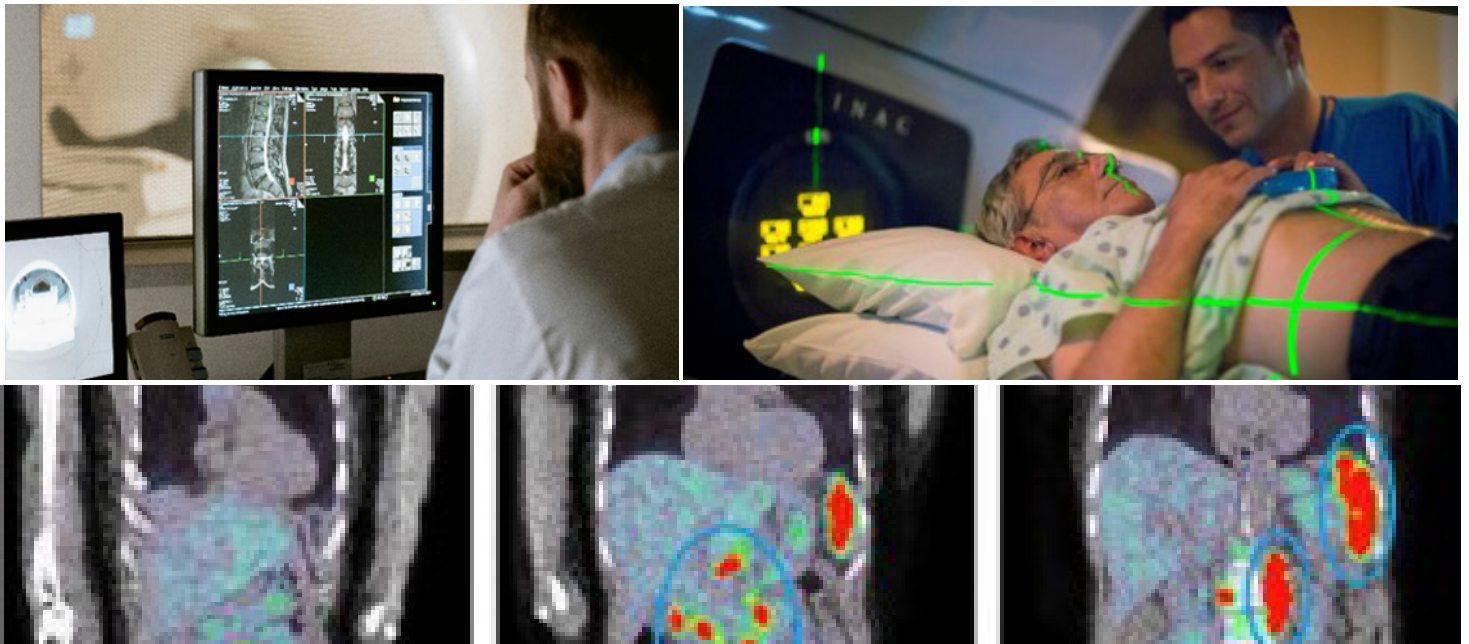
closed from 4pm Friday, 20 December 2024

reopening 8am Monday, 6 January 2025.

If you have any queries during that time, please check the website in the first instance:

www.mrtboard.org.nz

You can also email mrt@medsci.co.nz – this will be monitored during the holiday period for urgent enquiries.



Ngā mihi mō ngā tau kei mua i te aroaro.

Good luck for the future everyone.