



New Zealand
 Medical Radiation
 Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
 NEWS

From the Chair

Tenā koutou katoa

As incoming Chair, I have the great privilege of being able to lead an excellent governance board comprising both professional and lay-members with significant scope, regulatory and governance expertise.

I was appointed to the Board in 2017 and have been Deputy Chair for the last four years.

During this time, I have served under the leadership of four past Chairs, two Medical Imaging Technologists, a Radiation Therapist, and a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. Accordingly, I have a full appreciation of the breadth and depth of the medical imaging and radiation therapy health profession, and the considerable impact you as practitioners have on the health sector.

With a background in financial services and accounting, I also hold several other governance roles including Chair of Whai Rawa Fund Limited, and board member of NZ Blood and Organ Service.

The Secretariat* will continue to deliver several work streams over the coming year, including various consultations that will enable us to fine tune our profession and prepare for the Ministry's scheduled performance review of the Board. This includes working with our Australian counterpart, the MRPBA, on projects of mutual benefit to our respective regulated professions.

I have been working with the Secretariat for seven years now and look forward to continuing the successful relationship that I've shared with Dr Sue Calvert and her staff.

Our principal work stream for the next 12 to 15 months will be to deliver the output from our scope of practice (SOP) review and continue consulting on this in accordance with the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act/HPCA).

Working on the scopes will, of course, mean balancing competencies against increasing specialisation within existing scopes, emerging/merging technologies, AI, and innovation.



CONTENT: Messages from the Chair and the CE – Digital change project – Review of the HPCA - Examining the exam process – Scope of practice review - Registered but not active – Te Manu Mātārae appointments – It's APC time – Honoured for services to nuclear medicine.

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.

We see this as both a challenge and an opportunity to use this review to include future flexibility, providing a strong platform to grow the number of practitioners, and develop the profession for the benefit of patients well into the next decade.

Lastly, I acknowledge outgoing Board Chair Lizzie Macaulay for the work she has done, and Prue Lamerton on her new year's honour.

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Bow | **MRTB Chair**

Ō māua kōreo | our discussion

Kia ora katoa

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2025. We are now more than halfway through our Annual Practising Certificate (APC) renewal period and it's pleasing to see that many of you have already taken the opportunity to renew your status.

Please remember that if you haven't applied and paid for your APC by 31 March 2025 you won't be able to work on 1 April. There's an extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website – have a look at them [here](#) if you have any queries.



The year has started with a flurry of activity. The Board has been working through the decisions it needs to make around aspects of the scope of practice, following advice from the Expert Advisory Group. We're now methodically developing communications and consultation documents to seek perspectives of the sector (both individuals and organisations) on proposed changes. There are many aspects of this project which include considerations of the scope structure as well as qualifications needed for entry to the Register. We're mindful there can be a flurry of communication, and we want to make sure we get as many responses as possible to our consultations, so we know and understand your perspectives of change. Please watch for our communications about change and take the time to make submissions.

The Board met recently and one of its key activities was the election of Anthony Bow as Chair and Ma'ifuna'i Shannon Ioane-Moala as Deputy Chair for 2025 – you can view more about them here. I want to acknowledge the work of Lizzie Macaulay who was the Board Chair during 2024. Lizzie has been an incredible resource for me as CE, providing advice and guidance about practice. Lizzie will remain on the Board until her term of appointment expires.

The Board met recently with providers of pre-registration programmes of education and discussed matters that relate to the scope of practice work. Meeting with educators provided the opportunity for great discussion and to hear the perspectives of the education sector. This provided valuable insight for the Board. Representatives of the Board also met with Te Manu Mātārae, its Māori practitioner advisory rōpū, where they discussed a hui for Māori practitioners as well as the rōpū's work plan.

We have a full work programme this year that includes not only the scope of practice work but also the implementation of a new database for practitioners. We'll be communicating with you about changes as we progress to the implementation phase. In addition, every five years the Board is required to undergo a performance review, and although not scheduled until 2026, work has begun in preparation for this already. Our 2021 report can be found [here](#). The Board is also participating in workshops and consultations that relate to the regulation of health practitioners - this work is being led by the Ministry of Health.

Once again, I encourage you to look for communications that come from the Board and to participate in any consultations that may occur.

If you have any questions around aspects of the Board's work, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Ngā mihi

Dr Sue Calvert | **Chief Executive**

** 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 Rongoā | the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS/the Secretariat) to achieve efficiencies and consistency in regulatory standards, manage key initiatives and business goals.*

Digital change project

We're replacing our database system - where all your information is stored and kept updated by you (as a registered practitioner) and us, under 'my profile'.

There's nothing you need to do differently right now. We'll give you plenty of notice about what's changed.

Why and why now?

Our current system dates back many years and the infrastructure needs replacing with a more modern system. This will help support us in providing more efficient services.

Here's an example of what you might see in future when logging into 'my profile' –

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links for Home, Eligibility Search, Application Forms, Raise a Concern, and More. Below the navigation is a welcome message: "Welcome to the Medical Radiation Technologists Board portal". The main heading reads "Apply for registration, renew practising certificates, and track your application status". There is a button labeled "Update contact details". Below this is a "Search the Register" section with the instruction "Search the register by any of the following information". It contains three input fields: "Practitioner Name", "Scope of Practice" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Status" (with a dropdown arrow). There are "Reset" and "Search" buttons at the bottom right of the search form.

We've still got work to do, including the testing to make sure it works well for all of us who'll be using it. Some of the benefits of this new system that we can all look forward to include:

- Increased ability to submit reports online.
- Automatic processing of practising certificates for eligible practitioners.
- Enhanced security of practitioner information.

Review of the HPCA

The Ministry of Health has been working on a review of the HPCA Act. Representatives of the Board and secretariat staff have both attended and participated in workshops about the review, while also giving feedback on aspects of the Act to the Ministry as requested. Consultation timeframes for feedback are often limited so the possibility to seek the opinion of members of the workforce is limited. We will attempt to keep you up to date about any changes as we are informed.

HPCA Act: Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003).

Examining the exam process

The online examination is an approved part of the pathway to registration, primarily for international applicants seeking registration. It's only available following approval by the Board. Applicants will need to meet certain criteria to be offered the opportunity to sit the examination.

An applicant who's been successful in the exam has been able to demonstrate their foundational knowledge in their scope of practice. They've also demonstrated an understanding and application of professional health practitioner practice, communication, and collaboration within an Aotearoa New Zealand practice context.

An examination committee oversees the exam to ensure that it's valid, robust and reflects current good practice.

To provide additional assurance that the exam is meeting expectations we surveyed previous applicants who have successfully sat it, and practitioners who've worked alongside these newly registered practitioners.

Feedback from this survey has been analysed and shows that expectations of applicants and supervisors of newly registered practitioners are being met.

Feedback regarding the guidance we provide to applicants will be updated on our website.

This includes the clarity around the purpose of the practice exam. The quantity of items in the question bank per the various domains have also been evaluated to determine where we need to prioritise our efforts in the creation of more content.

Scope of practice review

This is a heads-up that we're progressing work on reviewing the Medical Radiation Technology scope of practice – it's a big job with lots of moving parts.

We expect to be consulting on proposed changes later in the year and we'll give you plenty of notice about that so you can participate in the process.

Why – why now?

It's important to make sure the scope is fit for purpose now, and into the future – hence the review. When we get a bit further along in the process, we'll update you further on what the key areas of review will include.

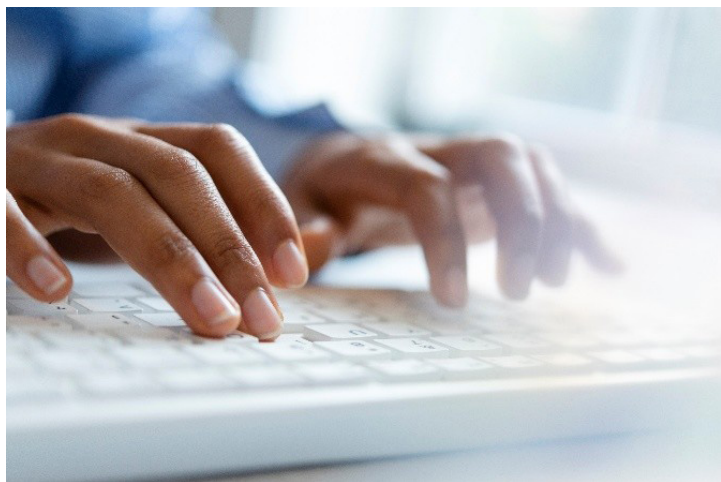
Registered but not active

It's important to keep your contact details up to date with the Board – on the Register. From time to time, we undertake a process called 'Managing the Register'.

This involves us attempting to contact practitioners who haven't held a practising certificate for a certain period and asking them if they want to remain on the Register.

We use the contact details that are on our Register so it's vital that you keep them up to date.

It's also a requirement under the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 No 48 \(as at 15 June 2023\), Public Act 140 Health practitioners must notify Registrar of addresses for service – New Zealand Legislation](#).



If we don't get a response the first time we try to get in touch, then we'll write again six months later, asking the same question. If after two attempts, we still don't receive a response, under instruction from the Board, practitioners can be removed from the register.

The process we're required to follow sits under section 144 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act - you can find it here [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 No 48 \(as at 15 June 2023\), Public Act 144 Revision of register – New Zealand Legislation](#).

How to get back on

If you've been removed from the Register and want to be put back on, you'll need to follow a process - you'll find all the details, including forms, [here](#).

If you have any queries about this, please don't hesitate to contact us by email mrt@medsci.co.nz or phone +64 4 801 6250.

Te Manu Mātārae

Te Manu Mātārae | Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee – is made up of representatives from different scopes of practice (as well as lay people) from consumers of health care services. They assist with the review of key standards and codes of conduct, while also providing advice to the Board.

Tokowhitu ngā mema o Te Manu Mātārae. Ko rātou ngā māngai o ngā momo hōkaitanga (me ngā tāngata reimana) mai i ngā kiritaki o ngā ratonga hauora hei Awhina ki te arotake i ngā paerewa matua me ngā tikanga whakahaere. He kaitohutohu hoki rātou ki te Poari.

Cont.,

Recent changes to the Committee include the introduction of four new members:

- Melanie Laing
- Charlotte York
- Te Tuhi Robust
- Sandra Laing

For more about the Committee and its members view information on the website [here](#).

We're still planning a hui – mentioned in our previous newsletters – with Te Mana Mātārae and Māori practitioners, about Māori in the profession. It's planned for the second half of 2025 – more on that closer to the time.



It's APC time - have you applied

It's that time of the year when we remind registered practitioners to apply for their annual practising certificate (APC) – the one they need to work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The application period runs from 14 February to 31 March and includes, not only the applications, but also the fees. It's a busy time for staff doing the processing so we've provided a good amount of FAQs on the website here. The list covers, amongst other things -

- Why you need an APC –

it's a legal requirement but it's also key to how we regulate and monitor practitioners in the profession of medical imaging and radiation therapy – making sure they are competent and fit to practise.

- The difference between being registered and holding an APC
- How often you need to apply for an APC **(the clue is in the name)**
- How long it takes to 'get' an APC
- What you must do
- How your employer pays your APC fees **(if that's what you've both agreed, and it's been arranged with us)**
- What happens if you don't apply for your APC by 31 March
- Who to contact if you're having trouble resetting your 'my profile' password
- How to find out what the fees are
- What if you're starting work before 1 April and don't have an APC **(you can't start work without an APC so you really need to read this FAQ asap)**
- How soon after you apply for your APC will you receive it
- What to do if you're on leave.

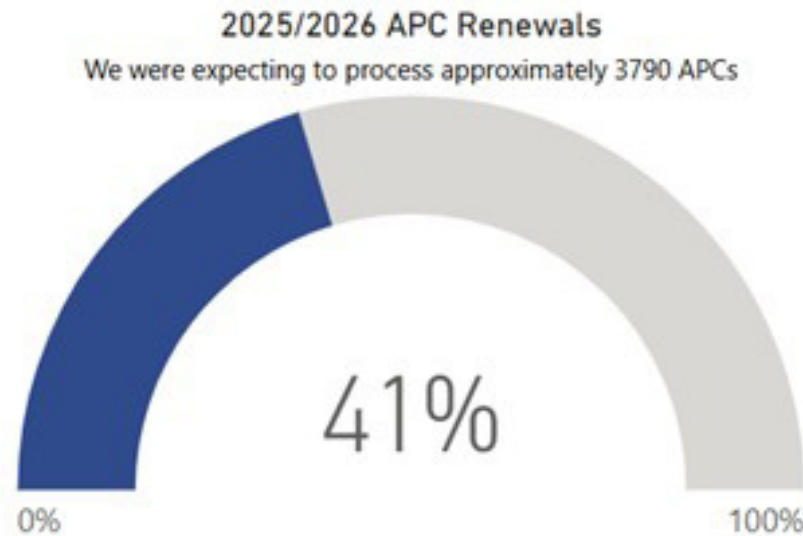
With less than 13 working days to go we've processed **41%** of expected APCs so far.

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Also, did you know...

You can have two scopes of practice within your profession, but you're only required to pay one APC fee. You will, however, need to demonstrate competence for both scopes when completing CPD audits (view the Continuing Professional Development policy about this [here](#)).

Also, when somebody searches you on the register all the scopes you practice in will show.



Honoured for services to nuclear medicine

In the New Year 2025 honours Hawke's Bay nuclear medical technologist, Prue Lamerton was made an officer of the Order of New Zealand (ONZM) for services to nuclear medical.

Prue Lamerton has been at the leading edge of advances in the nuclear medicine environment in New Zealand for more than four decades.

In 2002 she collaborated on the first delivery in New Zealand of selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT) to treat liver tumours, later being recognised by the American Society of Nuclear Medicine in 2005 for her joint publication.

Prue was involved in the implementation of New Zealand's first PET/CT scanner in 2006, building a relationship with an imaging company and radiopharmaceutical supplier, and convincing stakeholders of the benefits of the scans. In 2009 after relocating to Hawke's Bay, she worked to improve access for patients to nuclear medicine imaging, advocating for the then District Health Board to establish a new scanner in 2016.

In 2021 Prue undertook the first PSMA scan for prostate cancer, a procedure previously unavailable regionally, served on the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board for 11 years, and was actively involved nationally and internationally with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM) for more than 20 years.

Prue received the ANZSNM Dr Elizabeth Bailey Lecture Award in 2022 and has dedicated two years to establishing a Molecular Imaging and Therapy Centre in Hawke's Bay to save patients travelling outside of the region.

