



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
NEWS

Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Once again the winter season is over and we are heading towards summer. Regardless of the season, work continues in both the public and private health sector. The Board acknowledges that often system factors impact on service delivery and that often staff can bear the brunt of frustration experienced by members of the public. The Board wishes to acknowledge all the work undertaken by medical imaging and radiation therapists across the country to ensure that people seeking diagnostic imaging or therapy receive excellent care in a timely manner from highly skilled practitioners.

The Board held its first face to face forum in Christchurch with about 20 people attending in person and a number joining via Zoom. It was good to be able to connect with practitioners and to answer questions directly. Members of the Board and also secretariat have attended a number of workshops and conferences recently. The purpose of attending these events is to give practitioners the ability to meet with representatives, ask questions, and to provide feedback. By interacting face to face we can answer questions directly and provide the advice and clarification that you need. It is also great to hear from practitioners about their interactions and experience of Board processes. It was heartening to recently receive feedback about the process of supervision from a practitioner and how supportive and positive that had been as they integrated into practice in Aotearoa. The ability to meet with members of the profession directly and to talk with them about their practice is a great benefit and provides understanding that supports decision making.

During 2023 the Board has worked to establish a Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives of the different scopes, a lay person, and Philip Thomas as a Board representative. The first meeting was held in Wellington in September. At this time, the Committee elected Pare Graham and Alannah Harrington as its co-chairs. Further information about the committee and its work will be presented on the Board's website.

The Board's work programme progresses and we provide some updates around strategic projects in this newsletter. We welcome feedback on this work.

Ngā mihi,

Billie Mudie
MRTB Chair

Dr Susan Calvert
Chief Executive

BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility of the Board is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with the Board are competent and fit to practise.

Meet the Medical Sciences Secretariat



Alison McKessar - Executive Assistant to CE and Registrar

Alison (Ali) McKessar joined MSS in June as the Executive Assistant to the CE and Registrar. She has extensive experience in the administrative field, including working with the Board of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, National Council for the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine, and as Education and Training Coordinator for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Her last role was at Worksafe New Zealand in the Health and Technical Services group. A past National President of the Association of Administrative Professionals of New Zealand (AdminZ), Ali has a strong belief in continuing professional development. She loves working with the healthcare sector and is excited by everything medical. A proud born and bred Wellingtonian, Ali is married to Mark and they have a feline fur-baby called Pepper. In her spare time Ali handmakes dolls clothes and soft toys which she sells at local craft markets.

Recording Calls

Following the comments made in the May newsletter regarding communication with staff, the Board is in the process of implementing a system whereby all calls will be recorded. We are in the process of completing our retention and recording process and policy which we will upload onto the website for your information.

Supervision

The Board reviewed its supervision policy and guidelines during 2022. As part of this process it created a suite of resources to support practitioners who are working as a supervisor or under supervision. One of the final components of this development process is an education programme for supervisors. This was recently launched. This resource includes a number of videos about the process of supervision and provides supervisors with some techniques to deal with supervision scenarios. All current supervisors have been advised of this resource and any practitioner nominated as a supervisor will be required to complete this programme of education prior to approval being granted.

The Board wishes to remind practitioners and managers to contact the secretariat if they have questions about supervision. This includes if they believe a practitioner working under supervision who has achieved their requirements within a required timeframe can change level of supervision or that supervision can cease. It is important to acknowledge the work of the secretariat staff who interact with supervisors and supervisees. Again, feedback recently provided at a forum highlighted the responsiveness of the Regulation team and the positive experience of a supervisor who interacted with them.

The Board also reminds supervisors to contact the secretariat if they have reason to believe a practitioner working under supervision does not have the required knowledge and skills for practice. The purpose of the HPCA Act is to protect the health and safety of the public, however, mechanisms provided for within the Act are focussed on being educative and supportive. This does not mean the Board will not stop a practitioner from practising if there is a need to do so, but more that a programme of education with appropriate supervision can be put in place if required.

Recertification Update

The results from the 2023 audit of practitioners are almost finalised and are in the process of being provided to those practitioners who were called. This is a reminder that no practitioner will be audited in 2024 however up to 40% of all practising will be called for audit in 2025. Even though there is no audit in 2024 all practitioners must continue to engage in ongoing development during this time. To support practitioners engagement in ongoing development the Board has listed some resources that focus specifically on the development of cultural competence on its website. They can be found [here](#).

Scope of Practice Review

The Board commenced a scope of practice review in 2020, however, due to a number of factors, this was placed on hold. The Board has now signalled that it will recommence its review of all scopes of practice and this work will progress during 2023-2024. As practitioners, any review of the scope will require that the Board consult with you. As we develop the form of the review, practitioners will be updated so they are aware and can participate. Further information will be added onto the Board website.