



New Zealand
Medical Radiation
Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

MRTB
NEWS

Ō MĀUA KŌREO | OUR DISCUSSION

Tēnā koutou katoa

As the summer holiday period approaches we've reflected on what's been a successful year for Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB/the Board).

The formation of the Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee has been instrumental in providing the Board with advice and direction on work that needs to be implemented to ensure that practitioners have competencies to enable effective engagement with Māori. We've both enjoyed our meetings with this rōpū immensely and acknowledge the value and insights that are presented in discussion. Next year will be very busy as they progress in their workplan. The Board has also engaged in its own cultural development with members recently attending an Allyship workshop as well as a joint regulatory authority workshop on [Ao Mai te Rā](#) – the Anti-racism kaupapa.

While the review of the scope of practice for practitioners was paused, this project recommences in 2024. There have been opportunities this year to liaise with, and learn from, international regulators about work that they are undertaking and the challenges that they have faced. Recently we were both fortunate to attend a symposium where we heard about new models of education for pre-registration students. This adds to the richness of information and advice that can support the review of the scopes.

Our Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) staff are busy registering Aotearoa | New Zealand graduates. Starting a career as a health professional is exciting and rewarding. These graduates enter the workforce having completed accredited programmes of education here in Aotearoa. They have the knowledge and skills to ensure safe and effective care for whānau. We wish them well in their chosen career and encourage them to ensure that from a regulatory perspective, they know and understand their professional obligations. Practitioners should not hesitate to contact the MRTB offices if they have any questions.

Finally, thank you everyone who supported Sue in her new role as Chief Executive for the MRTB. This has been an immensely positive year. Sue has made many new connections and learnt a lot about different areas of clinical practice. We also want to acknowledge the Board staff of the MSS, and all the key stakeholders who've worked with us to ensure a successful 2023.

Have a safe festive season and we look forward to continuing our mahi in 2024.

Billie Mudie - MRTB Chair

Dr Sue 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.

Fees consultation

During November the Board consulted with practitioners about a potential increase in service fees (the consultation closed 6 December 2023).

Thank you to those who were able to contribute – that information is now being reviewed and the Board will advise practitioners of the outcome, and any changes to fees, in the New Zealand Gazette. We'll also include an update in the next issue of this newsletter in 2024.

As a reminder, here are the proposed changes discussed in the consultation:

- An increase in all fees including that paid for a practising certificate. For practitioners this will mean an increase in the practising certificate fee from \$469.20 to \$495.00
- Removal of a reduced practising certificate fee for practitioners who apply for a practising certificate after 30 September
- Introduction of a reduced practising certificate fee for new graduates entering the Register and applying for their first practising certificate between December – March each year for the current practising year
- Introduction of a disciplinary levy.

For more about this view information on the Medical Radiation Technologists Board website under [Consultation Practitioner Fees](#).

Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee update

The Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee (the Committee) commenced their collaboration in early September with a clear purpose - to provide advice to the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board) regarding policy documents. Their focus has been on fostering whakawhanaungatanga (good relations) within the committee. In addition, emphasis has been placed on identifying the core principles that define the committee's essence and establishing a committee name that encapsulates their important work.

Soon, the Committee will review the Board's 'Cultural Competence' policy document. This process draws from evidence-based literature on current cultural competency standards, the expertise of committee members, insights from te ao Māori, and committing to tikanga Māori practices. Their aspiration is to use this as a founding document for the review process of other policy documents.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to this field of work.

Congratulations Georgia

Our Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee (MPAC) member Georgia Nankivell (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Raukawa, Kōtīrana) received the "Allied Health Professions Award: Te Tiriti in Action" by Te Whatu Oras 'Allied Health Scientific & Technical Awards'. This is a huge achievement. Congratulations Georgia.

Congratulations and welcome...

to all the newly qualified practitioners entering the Register. Don't forget to check the website for important information www.mrtboard.org.nz for example, dates/when you need to get things done, such as the last days you can submit your registration application or apply for your practising certificate.

Annual Practising Certificates(APC)

APC renewal period

The APC renewal period will run from mid-February to 31 March 2024. We'll confirm the exact date closer to the time.

[Annual Practising Certificates \(APC\) | Medical Radiation Technologists Board \(www.mrtboard.org.nz\)](http://www.mrtboard.org.nz)

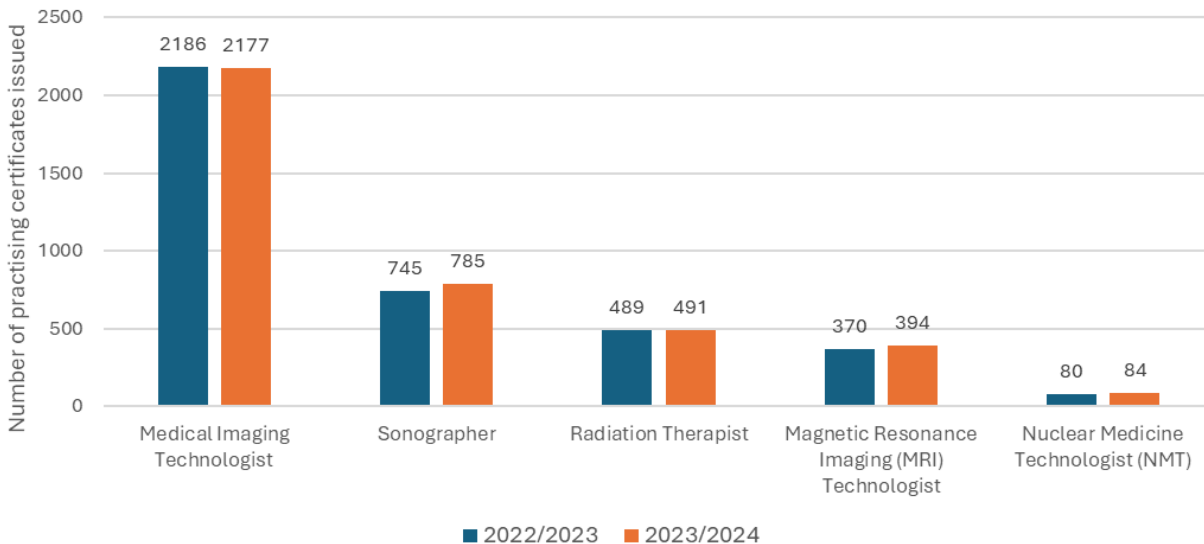
Statistics

Increased practising certificates issued

3,870*	3,931*
practising certificates issued during the 2022/2023 year (between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023)	practising certificates issued during the 2023/2024 year (between 1 April 2023 and 13 December 2023)
	We've already EXCEEDED NUMBERS for 2022/2023 by
	61
	with more to come

* Trainee scopes haven't been included on this graph as the number of practising certificates vary throughout the year as students enrol and graduate.

Number of practising certificates issued 2022-2023 compared to 2023-2024



Registration applications approved

We've approved more applications from Aotearoa | New Zealand graduates than internationally qualified practitioners so far in the 2023/2024 practising year.

194*

150*

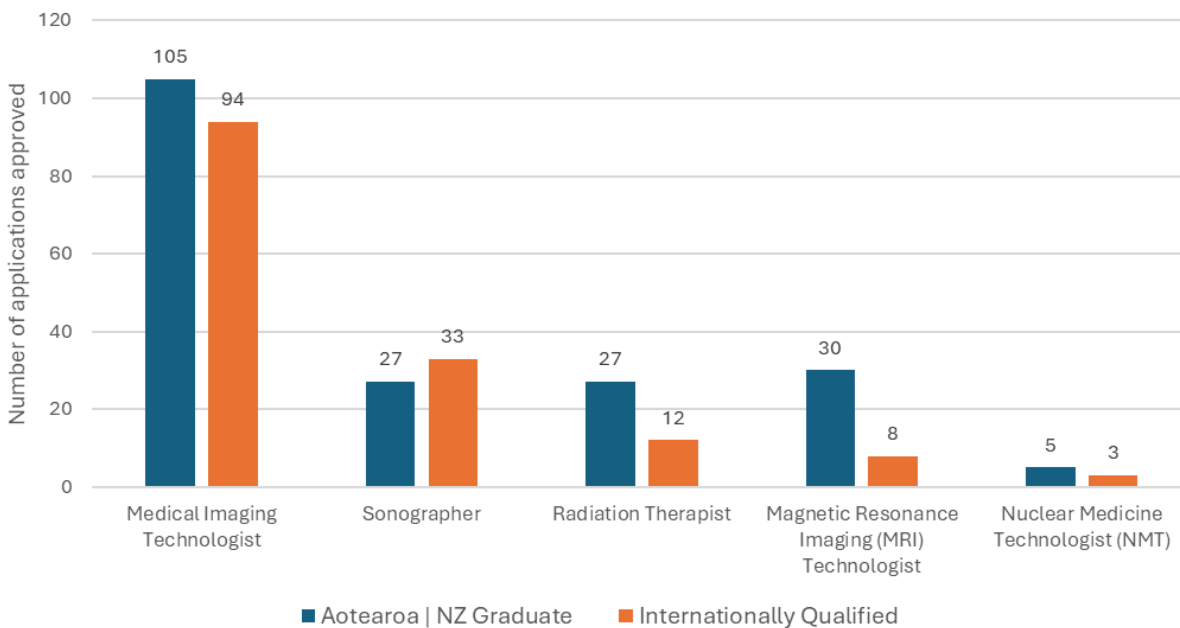
Aotearoa New Zealand | Graduate applications approved between 1 April 2023 and 13 December 2023

Internationally qualified practitioners approved between 1 April 2023 and 13 December 2023

As we're only eight months through the 2023/2024 practising year we expect the number of approved applications will continue to increase.

* Trainee scopes haven't been included in these numbers.

Number of applications approved to date in 2023-2024 by country educated



Taking a break - MSS office closed

The Medical Sciences Secretariat office will be closed for the holiday period

**12 noon Friday 22 December 2023
to 8:30am Monday 8 January 2024**

Voluntary Bonding Scheme 2024

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme (the Scheme) is a practical initiative run by Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand. It encourages newly qualified health professionals to work in our communities and specialties that need them the most. And it helps retain those people in Aotearoa | New Zealand. Those people on the scheme can receive payments to help repay student loans (or increase their 'take home' income if they don't have a student loan).

Entry criteria you'll need to meet



Sonographers...

who completed the final year of study towards the Post-graduate Diploma in Health Science in Ultrasound in 2023, and intend working at 0.6FTE or more for a public sector employer for at least three and up to five years, you may be eligible to register for the 2024 intake of the Scheme.

Radiation Therapists...

who completed undergraduate university studies as a Radiation Therapist in 2023, and intend working at 0.6FTE or more for a public sector employer for at least three and up to five years, you may be eligible to register for the 2024 intake of the Scheme.

If your registration is accepted and you meet the criteria...

a bond payment of \$11,796 (after tax) is available after completing a minimum of three years service, and up to two additional payments of \$3,932 after a fourth year and fifth year.

a bond payment of \$10,125 (after tax) is available after completing a minimum of three years service, and up to two additional payments of \$3,375 after a fourth year and fifth year.

When to register and how

The six week registration of interest period for the Scheme's 2024 will likely open in February 2024 – you'll do this by completing an online form available on the [Te Whatu Ora website](#)

You'll also find more information about the Scheme there.

An important reminder

Registrations for the 2024 intake must be received within the six-week Registration of Interest period – late registrations cannot be considered.

[The Voluntary Bonding Scheme 2024 intake information – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#)