New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board
Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke

Purongo | Newsletter **Issue 49**

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MRTB News

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Te Heamana - Te Manahautū

Message from the Chair

Tēnā koutou katoa

O le tele o sulu e maua ai figota.
With many torches, more shellfish are gathered.

As we share our final newsletter for the year, I want to thank each of you for the contribution you have made to ensuring people across Aotearoa continue to receive safe, high-quality medical imaging and radiation therapy services.

Every person within the profession has an important role in the healthcare experience of people receiving service, their whānau and communities, and it has been a privilege to work with the profession, while also upholding our responsibility to the public and the communities who place their trust in practitioners.

This year has brought significant progress, and many of our achievements have been shaped by your involvement. You have contributed through formal consultations, shared your experiences and perspectives at conferences and engagement hui, participated in Expert Advisory Groups and Committees, and provided valuable feedback throughout the year. Your contributions have helped inform important developments including changes to our new practitioner portal and register, Scopes of Practice, and our position statement on remote and hybrid models of care.

Since our last newsletter, we have also continued to build relationships across the profession, both nationally and across the Tasman.

We recently met with our Australian regulatory colleagues, the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA) and Medical Radiation Practice Council of New South Wales, to discuss shared opportunities and challenges across registration, accreditation, competency, AI and emerging technologies, while strengthening our growing Trans-Tasman relationship.

At the New Zealand Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (NZSMIRT) Symposium, we opened with a tripartite hui bringing together the Regulatory Authority, Professional Association, and tertiary education sector to explore how greater collaboration can strengthen the profession. Discussion included role clarity, student placements, advanced practice and future opportunities to work better together. We also contributed to the Symposium programme - with our Chief Executive, Dr Sue Calvert, presenting on changes to Scopes of Practice - while I joined a panel exploring Hybrid Intelligence and its potential benefits and challenges, and our responsibilities in how we use intelligence for the future of our professions.

The Sāmoan alagā‘upu above feels particularly fitting as we reflect on these achievements. Progress is rarely the work of one person or one organisation. It is strengthened by the many people who contribute their knowledge, experience and perspectives towards a shared purpose.

As we look ahead, 2027 is shaping up to be another significant year. We will continue working with practitioners, stakeholders and communities to support the delivery of medical imaging and radiation therapy services that are responsive to a changing health environment, while maintaining our fundamental responsibility to protect the health and safety of the public.

On behalf of the Board, ngā mihi nui and fa‘afetai tele lava to you all for your ongoing engagement, your support, and most importantly, the commitment you bring to your mahi and to the people and communities you serve.

We look forward to continuing this work together in 2027.

Ngā mihi nui and manuia



Ma’ifuna’i Shannon Ioane-Moala
Kaiārahi | Board Chair

Message from the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

As another year comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Board's work during 2026. This includes our Board members, staff, practitioners, professional groups, and stakeholders. Your input and support have helped us make significant progress on several important initiatives.

A major focus this year has been the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Scope of Practice project. This has been a substantial project, and we are now planning for implementation. Given the complexity of the changes, we are taking the time needed to identify and address any implementation challenges. We know practitioners will need clear and timely information throughout this process, and communication will be a key priority. Staff at the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) are currently working through the implementation of the removal of trainee scopes decision and will be in touch with those affected soon. They are also actively working on changes that will be required to support endorsements, and sonography domains of practice, and how these will be shown on the online Register.

One outcome of this work is the publication of the new **Gazette notice**, which is the legal document that formally sets out the **scope of practice**. This was **published on 26 November** and comes into effect on 1 April 2027. I encourage you to read and review the notice (along with the article later in this newsletter) so that you are aware of what it now says.

As a responsible authority, the Board can create this type of secondary legislation, but there are strict requirements around how it is written, published, and made accessible. You may have noticed some recent changes to how Gazette notices are presented on our website, where current and previous notices are now available to view.

Alongside the scope of practice project, the Board has also published its position on remote and hybrid practice. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project. Consultation remains one of the most important ways the Board gathers information before making decisions. We genuinely want to hear the views of practitioners and stakeholders, and no decisions are made before consultation takes place. Feedback is carefully reviewed alongside summary reports, expert advice, and, where appropriate, independent analysis.

I encourage all practitioners to take part in consultations. Thoughtful feedback and practical suggestions help the Board make informed decisions and often highlight perspectives or solutions we may not have considered. Looking ahead to 2027, consultation will continue on a range of issues, and we look forward to hearing your views as work progresses.

During 2026, the Board also completed its **five-year Ministry of Health performance review**. The report, available on our website, provides a useful overview of the Board's role and responsibilities. Regulation can sometimes be confusing, particularly as practitioners are influenced by decisions from employers, professional associations, unions, accrediting bodies, and regulators. The review helps explain what the Board does and how it carries out its responsibilities under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

The review confirmed that the Board is meeting its legislative obligations and has the systems and processes needed to carry out its functions effectively. While a small number of recommendations were made, many have already been completed, and progress on all recommendations is reported annually.

In 2027, the Board will continue implementing the scope of practice decisions and progressing work relating to practice. We will also be consulting on other important regulatory matters, including registration pathways and accreditation standards, and I encourage you to share your views when the opportunity arises.

I would also like to acknowledge **Te Manu Mātārae**, the Board's Māori practitioner advisory committee. The committee has provided valuable advice and guidance throughout the year and continues to make an important contribution to the Board's work.

I want to acknowledge the Board and the work that has been undertaken. And the staff that work for the Board – their commitment ensures the Board's policies are implemented effectively, practitioners receive the advice they need, and the organisation continues to meet its responsibilities. The team have worked incredibly hard, being responsive to the many different requests they receive every day.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the **practitioners**. Many of you continue providing essential healthcare services throughout the festive season, often without the opportunity for an extended break. **Thank you** for the expertise, professionalism, and care you bring to your work every day. I hope you can spend some time with whānau and friends over the holiday period, and we look forward to connecting with you again in 2027.

Ngā mihi nui



Dr Susan Calvert
Chief Executive Medical Sciences Secretariat

Fees and APCs

Having your say - consultation feedback

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on the Board's **proposed fees** for 2027/28.

Information about the proposed fee changes, frequently asked questions, current and proposed fee schedules, how the Board is funded, how fees and levies are charged, and the online feedback survey is available on the Board's website. Check information under: **News – Consultation: proposed changes to medical radiation technology fees 2027/28,** and under **Consultations.**

The consultation closes at **8.00am on Monday, 30 November 2026**.

The Board will consider all feedback before making a final decision. The outcome will be shared with practitioners and stakeholders, and any approved fee changes will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Preparing for your 2027/28 APC renewal

If you are practising in Aotearoa New Zealand, you must hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) for your scope of practice.

To renew your APC, you will need to submit an application to the Board and pay the required fees. Please note that the Board does not offer a bulk-funding arrangement where employers pay fees on behalf of practitioners.

The APC renewal period takes place between **February and March each year**. We will be in touch with practitioners in the New Year to let them know what's required, when, and how.

For information about the APC application process, including how to apply, what happens next, key documents, and frequently asked questions, visit the **Already registered/Annual Practising Certificate (APC)** section of the Board's website.

Raising a concern and Naming Policy

Raising a concern

If a health practitioner, a colleague, an employer, or a member of the public wants to raise a concern about a medical imaging or radiation therapy practitioner, please get in touch with the Board by emailing pro-standards@medsci.co.nz.

First, check the website information under **Raising a concern** - what you need to know.

We know that whether you are making a complaint or receiving notice that a complaint has been made about you, it can be a stressful experience. While we have a responsibility to assess and respond to concerns brought to our attention, our approach is guided by a number of principles, including natural justice – this means providing practitioners with the information received about them and giving them an opportunity to respond.

Many of the concerns that the Board receive relate to incidents arising during everyday practice. We recognise that many of these concerns can be appropriately addressed through education and supportive measures rather than formal statutory action.

Assessing what action to take

The Board's role is to assess whether any risks to public safety have been appropriately addressed. This includes understanding what happened because of the incident, and the steps taken to reduce the chance of a similar event occurring again, such as professional development, reflection, or other quality improvement activities.

We know that most Board registered practitioners practise safely and effectively every day. However, when mistakes or concerns arise, constructive engagement with Board processes helps the Board to make well-informed decisions. A genuine commitment to reflection, learning, and improvement is often key to achieving a timely resolution of complaints.

For more about what to do if you wish to make a complaint, or a complaint has been made against you, view details on the website under **Raising a concern - what you need to know**.

Naming policy

This policy is important because it helps ensure the Board's decisions about publishing practitioner names are clear, consistent, and transparent. We encourage practitioners, stakeholders, and members of the public to review the proposed changes and share their views.

Have your say on the proposed Naming Policy

The Board is currently reviewing its Naming Policy. This policy explains when the Board may publish the name of a practitioner following regulatory, competence, health, or disciplinary action under the Act. It also outlines the factors that may be taken into account when deciding whether publishing a name is appropriate.

The current policy is available on the website under **Resources and Publications > Health, Competence and Conduct**.

Consultation now open

Practitioners, stakeholders, and members of the public are invited to review the proposed new policy and provide feedback.

To learn more and view the draft policy, see the website **News** item **Consultation: MRTB naming policy**.

Feedback can be submitted by emailing **mrtconsultation@medsci.co.nz** by **11.59pm on Monday, 11 January 2027**. Please use the subject line **MRTB Naming Policy consultation**.

What happens next?

The Board will carefully consider all feedback received before making a final decision on the policy. A summary of the consultation results, along with a link to the final policy, will be published on the website and included in the **February 2027 newsletter**.

Performance review 2026

Regular independent reviews help ensure the Board is carrying out its responsibilities effectively and identifies opportunities to improve. The HPCA Act requires that these reviews occur.

2026 Performance review highlights

The Board recently completed its 2026 independent performance review, with very positive results. The review found that the Board is performing well and made only two recommendations for improvement.

The Board welcomes the findings and recommendations have been considered and implemented. Further updates are provided in the Annual report.

Read the report

The full **2026 MRTB Performance Review** is available on the Board's website under **Resources and Publications > Other Publications**.

Resources

You will find useful cultural resources, including links to further information for health practitioners on our website under Puna rauemi | Cultural resources – whether you are graduating or a registered international practitioner seeking registration in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For example:
Human rights-focused Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Human Rights | Evidence-Based Resources and Information – it includes a useful three-minute video about Te Tiriti.

Board projects and updates

Healthcare is a busy and changing environment, and it can be challenging to keep up with new requirements, consultations, and guidance. Here is a snapshot of some of the work the **Board is currently progressing**, much of which involves input from practitioners and stakeholders.

Recent consultations and publications

Since the last newsletter in July, the Board has completed or progressed a number of important projects, including:

- Consultation on proposed practitioner fees for 2027/28.
- Consultation on the proposed Naming Policy.
- Publication of the Remote Position Statement.
- Publication of the Substance Use Management Policy.
- Updates to the Online Examination Policy. Appointment of a refreshed committee which has had its first meeting recently.
- Publication of the 2026 MRTB Performance Review report.

Find out more

Information about these projects, consultations, policies, and reports is available on the Board's website under **News**, **Consultations**, and **Resources and Publications**. Stay up to date by checking the website regularly for new information and opportunities to provide feedback.

Updated scope of practice

Medical Radiation Technologists scope of practice review
The Board has published the updated scope of practice for medical imaging and radiation technologist practitioners. This is the culmination of several years of work including the consideration of current practice, future needs, and opportunities to better support the profession.

Key changes include:

- Ending the trainee scopes for Nuclear Medicine Technologists (NMT), Sonographers (SON) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (MRIT).
- Introducing endorsements to recognise additional approved education and skills.
- Including diagnostic CT within the Nuclear Medicine Technologist scope.

- Providing for future undergraduate education pathways for Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Sonographers and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists.
- Updating and aligning scope wording and registration pathways across the profession where appropriate.

For more details view the website **News** item (and key documents) called Consultation outcome: MRTB scope of practice review.

The Board is also reviewing its policies to ensure they are aligned to the scope of practice. Consultation is planned on new policies.

Ending of trainee scopes

The **updated scopes** (detailed in the new gazette notice) will **take effect from 1 April 2027**.

What this means for trainees

If you are currently registered in a trainee scope, there is no immediate action required. The trainee scopes will remain in place until 1 April 2027. After that date, registration in a trainee scope will no longer be required. For more about what this means, view the website **News** item.

Webinar discussion

To help practitioners understand the changes and what they mean in practice, the Board will be holding a webinar, **with a particular focus on the ending of the trainee scopes** for Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Sonographers and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists.

Date: Monday, 14 December 2026 **Time:** 12pm (noon)

Registration: Click the link **here** to register. We recommend registering as soon as possible to make sure you receive confirmation details and can log in before the meeting begins.

More information

We encourage practitioners and stakeholders to read the consultation outcome report, feedback summary, FAQs and supporting documents. For background information, see the earlier consultation material published on the MRTB website under **News** and **Consultation** pages, including: MRTB scope of practice consultation, and Consultations – closed.

If you have questions, please contact the team at mrtconsultations@medsci.co.nz with the subject line **MRTB SOP consultation** or phone +64 4 801 6250.

Recertification and continuing professional development (CPD)

Continuing professional development (CPD) is an important part of maintaining your competence and supporting safe, effective, and legal practice throughout your career. As a registered practitioner, holding a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) includes taking part in the Board's recertification programme and completing ongoing learning and development activities.

Preparing for the next audit

Every two years, the Board conducts an audit. Up to 40% of practitioners are selected and asked to provide information about the professional development activities they have completed over the previous two consecutive years. The next audit is scheduled for July 2027.

Although there is still plenty of time to prepare, now is a good opportunity to make sure you understand the requirements and are keeping appropriate records.

Some useful things to think about include:

- How much professional development is required each year.
- Keeping a record of your activities and any supporting information you may need if selected for audit.
- Understanding what types of learning activities count towards your requirements.
- Knowing where to find the Board's recertification policy and guidance documents.
- Understanding the audit process and what you may be asked to provide.
- Becoming familiar with requirements such as practitioner declarations, peer declarations, evidence of activities, and reflective statements.

Find out more

Detailed information about recertification and the audit process is available on the website under **Already Registered >** **Recertification – Continuing Professional Development (CPD).**

This includes guidance, frequently asked questions, and practical information to help you meet your CPD requirements (including a 'how to' guide) and prepare for an audit if selected.

New examination committee

The Board has recently refreshed the **Online Examination Committee,** which is made up of registered medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners. Committee members are experienced and respected professionals with current knowledge of practice in their professions.

We thank the previous committee members for their valuable contribution and commitment to this work.

The Board's online examination is primarily used to assess internationally qualified practitioners who are applying for registration in Aotearoa New Zealand. The examination helps determine whether applicants have the foundational knowledge needed to practise safely and competently within their intended scope of practice.

The Online Examination Committee consists of well-regarded and enthusiastic health professionals from across the motu. They play an important role in supporting the exam process. Members help maintain the quality of the examination and ensure it is current, fair, valid, and robust. Their expertise helps the Board make informed decisions about applicants seeking registration and supports public confidence in the profession.

The exams are based on competence standards for each profession – whether applicants have the foundational knowledge needed to practise safely and competently within their intended scope of

practice. The exam is used to assess suitability for registration of overseas qualified applicants wanting to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The **online exam** is **only made available** to the registration applicant **if the Board asses them as having met the criteria** to be offered the opportunity to sit the exam (a pathway to registration under the Act). For more about the online exam view details on the website under **Pre-registration>Online examination**.

Using AI to support our work

The Board is using artificial intelligence (AI) in a careful and responsible way to support its regulatory work. We mainly use Microsoft 365 Copilot, which includes enterprise-level data protection. This means the information we use stays within our organisation's secure environment and is not used to train external AI systems.

Where possible we remove identifying information before using AI tools. We also follow the Ministry for Regulation's *Responsible AI in Action* guidance for regulatory organisations.

AI helps us with lower-risk administrative tasks such as drafting documents, summarising information, and checking information and data for completeness. It does not make regulatory decisions. Those decisions remain the responsibility of our people, who are accountable for ensuring decisions are fair, accurate, and meet our legal obligations.

By following New Zealand guidance on the responsible use of AI, including guidance from the Ministry for Regulation, public service AI frameworks, and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, we aim to use AI in ways that improve our work while protecting the privacy, rights, and trust of the practitioners and the public.

You can read the Ministry for Regulation's *Responsible AI in Action* guidance here: https://www.regulation.govt.nz/publications-and-resources/resource-library/responsible-ai-in-action/.

Website content – what's changed lately

Here's a reminder of some things that have changed, been added, or updated on the website since our July newsletter:

- ☐ Position statement – the provision of remote/virtual health care services and hybrid models of care
- ☐ Policy: Substance use management – section 16(3) of the Act provides for a situation where practitioners are unable to perform the functions required for practice because of a mental or physical condition at the point of registration.
- ☐ Consultation: proposed changes to medical radiation technology fees 2027/28 – see also the news item
- ☐ Board decisions following the scope of practice consultation
- ☐ MRTB position statement: remote access and hybrid models of care (including remote consultation outcome)

Know what to do if you change your name?

The Board is reviewing how practitioner names are displayed on the public register. As part of this work, it's important that the information we hold is accurate and up to date. If you change your name for any reason, such as through marriage, civil union, dissolution, or a legal name change, you must let the Board know.

Under the Act, practitioners are required to notify the Board within **one month** of a name change. To update your details, we need official evidence of the change, such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate, civil union certificate, or other formal name change documentation.

Please note that we cannot accept the form signed on the day of a marriage or civil union ceremony. We require the official certificate issued after the marriage or civil union has been formally registered.

Keeping your details up to date helps ensure the register remains accurate and that practitioners can be correctly identified.

If you have any questions about updating your name, please contact the Regulation Team at **mrt@medsci.co.nz** or phone **+64 4 801 6250**.

More than a register: what you can find on our website

Did you know our website offers much more than access to the practitioner portal and public register?

Some of the information you can find includes:

- **Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and fees** – what an APC is, who needs one, why it's required, and how to apply. Remember, you must hold a current APC to practise in any Board-approved scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **Raising a concern** – information for practitioners, employers, and members of the public about making a notification, as well as recent decisions from the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT).
- **Accreditation** – information about education standards, accreditation requirements, accredited programmes, monitoring activities, and the Board's accreditation policies.
- **International practitioners** – guidance on applying for registration if you're qualified overseas and planning to work in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **New graduates** – information about registration requirements and whether you're eligible to apply for registration.

Whether you're a registered practitioner, employer, student, international applicant, or member of the public, the website is a useful source of information about the Board, registration requirements, and professional standards.

The Board and others – different roles

Our job, as the Medical Radiation Technologists Board, is to protect public safety through the regulation of practitioners. Stakeholders are the individuals and organisations that we work with, consult, or engage with because they have an interest in the profession, or are affected by our decisions.

This distinction is why responsible authorities (healthcare regulators) often talk about 'engagement with stakeholders'. They seek input from professional bodies, educators, employers, unions, practitioners, and consumers, but the responsibility for making regulatory decisions remains with the authority itself. In New Zealand's health regulatory system, **responsible authorities** and **stakeholders** have different roles, responsibilities, and legal obligations.

Responsible authorities

Responsible authorities like ours are organisations established under the **Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act)** to regulate specific health professions.
The primary role is to **protect public safety**. Responsibilities typically include:

- Setting scopes of practice.
- Registering practitioners.
- Issuing practising certificates.
- Setting standards of competence, conduct, and ethics.
- Managing recertification and continuing professional development requirements.
- Reviewing competence, health, and conduct concerns.
- Taking regulatory action where necessary.

Responsible authorities must make decisions based on their legal duties under the Act, even when those decisions are unpopular with practitioners, employers, or professional groups.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are people, groups, or organisations that have an interest in the profession, or are affected by the responsible authority's decisions. They are not regulators and generally do not have statutory decision-making powers.

Examples include:

Stakeholder type	Typical role
Professional bodies/associations	Represent members' professional interests, provide networking and professional development.
Educators and training providers	Deliver qualifications and programmes of education.
Employers	Employ practitioners and implement workplace policies and standards.
Unions	Advocate for employment conditions, pay, and workforce issues.
Professional colleges and specialty groups	Support professional standards and development within specific disciplines.

Consumer groups	Represent the interests of consumers of health care services.
Government agencies and health organisations	Help shape policy and workforce planning.

Need help?

Most of the information you'll need can be found on our website www.mrtboard.org.nz. If you can't find what you're looking for, please contact the Board team at mrt@medsci.co.nz or phone +64 4 801 6250.

We encourage you to explore the website and make use of the resources available to support your registration and practice.

Closed during the festive season

The Board staff will be taking a break over the festive season from **Wednesday 23 December** – returning on **Monday 11 January 2027**.

We will monitor the Board's email box and pro-standards@medsci.co.nz for any urgent queries over the break.

Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board
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