

Te Heamana – Te Manahautū

Message from the Chair

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Ma'ifuna'i Shannon loane-Moala toku ingoa. He honore nui kia tū hei Tumuaki mo Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke.

Talofa lava. My name is Ma'ifuna'i Shannon loane-Moala, and it is an absolute privilege to have been elected as Chair, and to welcome you to the latest pānui of 2026. The past six months have been a busy period for the Board, during which we have farewelled several Board members who have made significant contributions.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Anthony Bow (Lay member) for his nine years of service to the MRTB, including roles as Deputy Chair and, most recently, Chair in 2025. I also extend my sincere thanks to Peter Dooley for his nine years, and Pru Burns for her eight years, both as practitioner members. Each of you has made a meaningful contribution to the Board and to your respective imaging communities and we are deeply grateful for the dedication, time and professionalism you have brought throughout your tenure.

As the Board progresses through several significant pieces of work and consultations, including the review of all eight scopes of practice, and determines a position on remote access and hybrid models of care; conferences and other professional events, including those recently focused on MRI, Nuclear Medicine, and Sonography, have provided valuable opportunities to connect with practitioners, professional bodies, tertiary education providers, employers, representatives and our colleagues from across the ditch.

We want to acknowledge the time, collaboration and thoughtfulness reflected in your consultation feedback. Every submission is carefully reviewed and given full consideration as part of our decision-making process as we determine the best way forward for the professions and the safety of the public. We

In this issue

- » **Government propose changes to the Act**
- » **TTMR Act update**
- » **Changes to Board members**
- » **Te Manu Mātārae**
- » **Working in isolation**
- » **ASA scope for sonographers**
- » **Practising without an APC**
- » **Most APCs processed immediately**
- » **Express interest - join the exam committee**
- » **Consultations and policies**
- » **Keeping your information safe**
- » **PET-CT programme**
- » **2024-2025 Annual report**
- » **How's the website working for you?**
- » **Who 'we' are and what we do**

really valued the opportunity to listen to your experiences, respond to your questions, and connect in meaningful kōrero about the Board's work and the future of the professions.

Te Manu Mātārae (Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee) has continued to play a vital role in supporting the Board throughout this period. Their expertise and guidance are invaluable as we consider developments in practice and technology, helping to ensure the potential impacts on Māori are thoughtfully considered in the Board's work and decision-making. It was a privilege to introduce and whakawhiti our new Board Member, Nic Ross, as the Board representative on this rōpū, and take the opportunity to also congratulate our newly appointed committee Co-Chairs Dr Te Tuhi Robust, Georgia Nankivell and Moana Tipene-Boyd. Te Manu Mātārae have a significant 2026-2027 ahead including the upcoming review of practitioner Cultural Competency and we look forward to connecting with them again soon.

The Board has also recently completed its regular Ministry of Health performance review which included interviews with Board members, committee members and practitioners. The review has now been finalised, and the report will be available on our website shortly. I encourage you all to take a look when its published. It provides a useful overview of the Board's work, our governance responsibilities, and the processes that help to ensure we continue to serve the public and the professions effectively. We thank the Medical Sciences Secretariat for their continued support in progressing our goals and their significant role in preparing for this review.

The Board is currently reviewing the proposed amendments to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCAA), the legislation that sets out how health practitioners are regulated in New Zealand, including registration, practising requirements, and the protection of public safety. We know many practitioners will be interested in these proposed changes, and we'll keep you informed as our work progresses, including opportunities to learn more about the Board's submission.

As September approaches, we're looking forward to seeing practitioners at the ASUM conference in Christchurch, and also the NZSMIRT conference in Tāmaki Makaurau. Nau mai, haere mai! We'd love for you to stop by our exhibitor booth to say hello and continue the kōrero.

Ngā mihi nui and manuia

Ma'ifuna'i Shannon
Ioane-Moala
MRTB Chair



Message from the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

As Shannon said, the Board recently completed a performance review required by the Ministry. This review checks how well the Board is meeting its responsibilities under the law. The results were positive and show that the Board is doing its job well. Two low risk improvements were suggested, and I'm pleased to say the team has already started working on these, with some changes already in place. The Report will soon be available on our website for you to read.

Shannon also mentioned the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Amendment Act 2003, which has recently been introduced to Parliament. The Board is keeping an eye on how this progresses and will make a submission on proposed changes. I encourage you to also take some time to look at these proposed changes, as they may affect you as a regulated health professional in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You'll see later in this newsletter that the 2024–2025 Annual Report is now available on the website. It's a useful read to understand what the Board and the MSS have been working on and what's planned next.

Finally, thank you again for the important work you do every day. Your work makes a real difference to the people receiving care. If you have any questions about your responsibilities as a regulated health professional, please feel free to contact my team.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Susan Calvert
Chief Executive



Government propose changes to the Act

On 18 May, the Government introduced an amendment bill (the Bill) proposing changes to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

You can read the full amendment bill here: [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill | New Zealand Legislation](#).

Consideration - impact of Bill

The Minister of Health, Simeon Brown has been clear in the purpose of the Bill - it is intended to 'better align health workforce regulation with patient needs, health system policy, and Government priorities'.

The Government considers the current system too fragmented and insufficiently aligned with wider health system priorities. The Bill reflects the Government's stated intention of moving toward greater central oversight and control, stronger protection for those people accessing health services, and consistency in regulatory settings.

Summary - proposed changes

Minister: The Bill proposes to give the Minister more responsibility over what the Board does.

New review committee: A new committee could review and overturn decisions about a practitioner's registration or scope of practice. The cost of running this committee will likely be paid for by practitioners through their fees.

Conduct matters: Professional conduct (not just clinical competence) will be explicitly incorporated into registration and practising certificate decisions.

Interim suspension: Regulators may suspend a practising certificate or place conditions on it straight away, without warning, if they believe there is a risk of serious harm due to concerns about a practitioner's competence.

Patient voice: The Bill emphasises that regulators must seek the view of 'patient' groups.

Restorative justice/conciliation: Some disciplinary cases can be handled through a restorative justice or agreed resolution process if it suits the situation, and everyone involved agrees.

Cultural competence: The Bill still requires the Board to set standards for cultural competence, but it removes specific reference to skills for working effectively and respectfully with Māori.

Crown entity: The Bill means the Board would have to follow some of the rules and requirements that apply to Crown entities.

Next steps

The Bill is at the very start of its Parliamentary journey. It's about to have its first reading (and referral to a select committee). The Board will make a submission to the Select Committee, and we encourage practitioners to do the same. Select Committee hearings and amendments inevitably follow before the Bill progresses to its second and third readings. Only then does it become law.

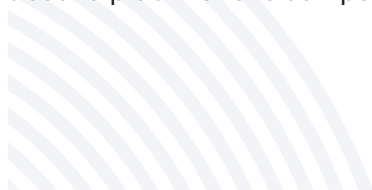
TTMR Act - update

The Board has reviewed its processes regarding practitioners registered under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMRA).

Verification of registration and Certificates of Good Standing, are now sent directly to us from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and we will do the same for any health practitioners registered with us.

The TTMRA pathway currently only applies to the medical imaging technologist, radiation therapist, and nuclear medicine technologist scopes of practice.

Australian health practitioners seeking registration in sonography or magnetic resonance imaging technology, must apply as an internationally qualified applicant.



Changes to Board members

Some members of our Board have recently reached the end of their terms:

- Anthony Bow joined the Board as a lay person in 2017, was appointed Deputy Chair in 2017, and was the Chair from February 2025 to February 2026.
- Pru Burns, a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, joined the Board in 2019 and was reappointed in November 2022.
- Peter Dooley, a Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Medical Imaging Technologist, joined the Board in May 2017, and was last reappointed in September 2025.

We thank Anthony, Pru, and Peter for their valuable work and dedication to protecting public safety during their time on the Board.

Te Manu Mātārae

Te Manu Mātārae | The Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee is made up of practitioners from the different scopes of practice, and some lay members. They assist with reviewing key standards and codes of conduct, inform the Board about policy changes required to ensure practitioners have the competencies to enable effective interaction with Māori, and advise on related matters as per section 118 of the Act.

Te Manu Mātārae have met several times this year and continue to provide valuable advice to the Board. They're currently working on a statement to support equity in providing care to people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For more about them, view our website details here under About us/[Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee](#).

Working in isolation

A reminder for all practitioners across the motu to make sure you always act within the scope of practice for your profession.

Know what you are allowed to do, and what you are not allowed to do.

We understand that sometimes you may feel pressure to take on tasks outside your role, especially if there are staff shortages or if you work in a smaller community where there aren't enough people to cover all roles in a health service.

However, **you should only do tasks that you're competent to perform**, and that fall within your scope of practice. If you're unsure about what you can or can't do, or whether a task is within your scope, please contact us by email and we can provide guidance.

mrt@medsci.co.nz

ASA scope for sonographers

The Australian Sonographers Association (ASA) has released a scope of practice. It's a very useful document that deepens understanding of a sonographer's role and provides a shared reference point for Trans-Tasman practitioners.

In Aotearoa New Zealand we have a different regulatory system to our Australian counterparts. Under New Zealand law it's the Medical Radiation Technologist Board (the Board) that sets the scope of practice, and the competence standards that all sonographers must meet.

The ASA scope of practice is a complementary document but does not replace or dilute the Board's scope of practice and competence standards.

Practising without an APC

We've recently been made aware that some new graduates are practising without an annual practising certificate (APC). This is a risk to us all, not least the public/people using those health-care services. It can result in practitioners being referred to a disciplinary process.

We all have a part to play in making sure this doesn't happen and to educate practitioners

about making sure they apply for their first and subsequent APCs when the time comes.

You must have a current APC to work in any scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

There's information about the process, and a long list of Frequently Asked Questions that will help with any queries about APCs, on the website under [Already registered – Annual Practising Certificate \(APC\)](#).

If, after reading the website information, anyone still has a query or a concern, please get in touch by emailing mrt@medsci.co.nz or phone +64 4 801 6250.

Most APCs processed immediately

The Annual Practising Certificate (APC) renewal process for 2026–2027 went smoothly. For many practitioners, this was their first time using the Board's new database, which helped support the process.

In total, the Board received 3,789 applications from medical radiation technology practitioners. This represents 93% of those who held a certificate for the 2025–2026 practising year and chose to renew.

Most applications were processed immediately. Where a review was required, these were completed within one day.

Exam committee update

Applications to join the committee closed on 7 July. We will now review all applications against the required criteria, and shortlisted candidates will be asked to provide references.

After that, we'll run a one-day workshop on what makes a strong and reliable exam, and create a framework for the updated Board online exam.

More details about this are on the website under **News**.

Consultations and policies

MRTB scope of practice consultation

The Board is continuing work on the scope of practice. They hope to have this finalised and published soon. There are several policies that will be reviewed to support the updated scope, and consultation on these updates is planned for later this year. We encourage all practitioners to submit their thoughts as this work progresses.

MRTB remote access and hybrid models of care consultation

The Board is also finalising its position statement on remote and hybrid models of care. Thank you to those who have taken the time to share their views on this important topic.

Policies

The following policies have been updated since February 2026. You'll find them on the website – if you need help, use the enhanced search function:

- [English language proficiency](#)
- [Online examination](#)

Keeping your information safe

We take your privacy seriously and work hard to keep your information secure. The Board has clear policies in place to make sure personal details are collected, stored, and used responsibly.

You can find full details in the Management of Personal Information Policy on the Board website under Resources and publications – Registration. This policy explains what information is collected, how it's used, and how it may appear on the public register.

It also outlines your role as a practitioner, and the importance of you:

- Keeping your personal information up to date
- Notifying the Board if your details change
- Knowing that you can request access to your personal information at any time.

cont.,

By working together, we can ensure your information remains accurate, protected, and used appropriately.

PET-CT programme

Requirements and supervision - what graduates can and can't do

Completion of the post-grad certificate will allow practising MITs to complete PET-CT and diagnostic CT imaging. The qualification appears as an endorsement on the register.

The certificate includes a combination of academic and clinical education, with the requirement of a position in a nuclear medicine or radiology department. Assessed PET-CT clinical competencies are across oncology, neurology, skeletal, infection and inflammation, quality control and lab-based assessments in the radiopharmacy.

If a practitioner wanted to complete a wider range of nuclear medicine procedures including theranostics, they would need to complete the PGDip HSc (Nuclear Medicine).

The four papers that make up the PGCert HSc in PET-CT are required papers within the PGDip HSc Nuclear Medicine programme. These can be credited if progress into the full nuclear medicine technology (NMT) scope is desired.

2024-2025 Annual report

The 2024-2025 Annual Report is now available on our website under Resources and publications.

Mā te mahi mō te painga o te katoa ka whakanui mātou i tā mātou kawenga mahi ki te mahi tika mō te painga o te tangata.

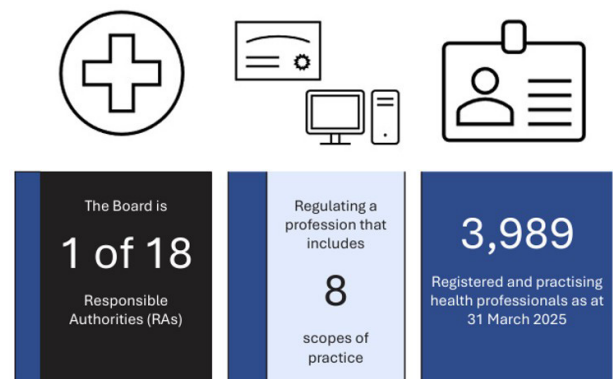
By acting for the benefit of the whole we honour our collective responsibility to do what's right for the benefit of people.



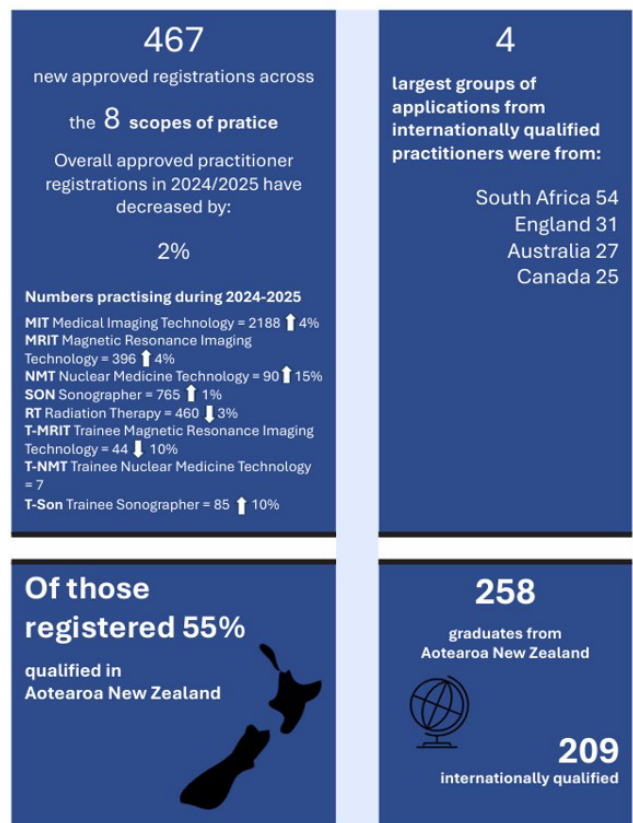
The report covers: **Our year - How we are governed - Our people - Our key priorities - Our performance - Our financial results.**

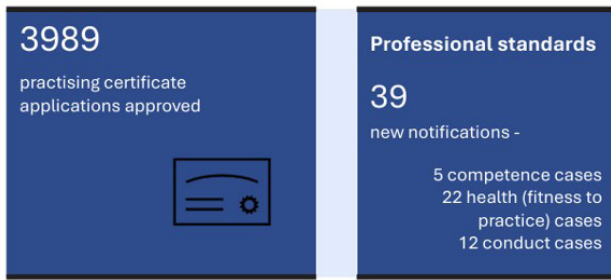
It also includes 'numbers at a glance', which highlights key data and information about the scopes of practice within medical imaging and radiation therapy. As shown below:

Medical imaging and radiation therapy - overview



Workforce during 2024-2025





- Accreditation standards - meeting education standards, obtaining accreditation, accredited programmes, monitoring. And yes, there's an accreditation policy.
- International practitioners - how to apply to register if you're living overseas and planning to work in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- How to register if you're a graduate – find out if you're eligible for registration.

How's the website working for you?

We've recently updated our search function—have you had a chance to try it out?

We're now planning a full review of the website to understand what's working well and what we could improve. Your thoughts will help us make the site better for everyone.

If you have a few minutes, please complete our short survey and tell us about your experience:

[Website review survey](#)

Thanks for sharing your feedback—we really appreciate it.



The website is there for everyone... practitioners, employers, the public and user of healthcare services

There's more on there than a login to the practitioner system and the public register (who's a registered practitioner). For instance:

- Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and fees - what it is, who needs it and why (you must have a current APC to work in any scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand), when, and how to apply.
- Raising a concern – what you need to know as a member of the public, a registered practitioner, or an employer - and recent decisions made by the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT).

Who 'we' are and what we do

The **Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB)** is one of 18 health responsible authorities (RAs). Members are appointed by the Minister of Health under the **Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003**.

The Board makes sure that medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners are competent and safe to practise.

Getting in touch and more

You'll find most things on the website

www.mrtboard.org.nz

but if you want to get in touch, please email the team at

mrt@medsci.co.nz

- you can also phone +64 4 801 6250.