



New Zealand

Medical Radiation

Technologists Board

*Te Poari Ringa Hangarua Iraruke*MRTB  
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Summer is on the horizon and we are definitely on our way with only four-months in the year to go. I hope you have managed to keep the flu at bay although there is still a lot of it about.

As you will see from the newsletter the Board has been working hard behind the scenes on the online exam and I do urge you to put your names forward as content writers.

The Board has been present at both the NZIMRT and ASUM meetings in the last quarter and it was good to meet with practitioners face to face. We have also met with representatives from the educators at a successful forum held in Wellington.

I know the last quarter will be as busy as we plan ahead for 2019.

Take care,  
Ngā mihi

Prue Lamerton  
MRTB Chair

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

*Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Board of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.*

**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 practice.*

## ONLINE EXAMINATION UPDATE

The Board has made significant progress with the implementation of an online examination.

In July the Board held their first Examination Committee meeting to review the first set of questions submitted by content writers, where the committee was delighted with the calibre of the questions submitted.

## INAUGURAL EXAMINATIONS

The target date for the roll-out of the first exams for the MIT, NMT and RT scopes of practice was to be 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. After the Exam Committee meeting, the Board confirmed this was not a realistic target and therefore the date for offering the first exam for the MIT, NMT and RT scopes of practice will be early 2019.

## MORE CONTENT WRITERS WANTED

The completion of a gaps analysis identified a significant number of questions is still required, and would like to invite any interested medical imaging and radiation therapy practitioners to submit their interest to [swas.lal@medsci.co.nz](mailto:swas.lal@medsci.co.nz). Please do this by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The Board will hold an all-day training workshop which is set for 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Wellington. This workshop is compulsory for all new content writers.

## CONSULTATIONS

The Board has recently published the following consultations in relation to the online examination:

- MRTB Examination Fee consultation (consultation has been completed and is currently under Board review)
- Examination Policy and Guidelines consultation (outcomes have been published and a revised policy document is scheduled for issue later in 2018)

Watch this space for more information.

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## WHAT'S NEW IN PUBLICATIONS

The Board would like to bring to your attention the following recently published documents, which can be found on the Board's website:

- Gazette notice regarding scopes of practice and prescribed qualifications. This is in response to the upcoming online examination as a qualification leading to registration with the Board.
- [Cultural competence standards](#)

## ***ACCOMMODATION***

The Board's administration team (Medical Sciences Secretariat) have continued to work in temporary premises, and under challenging circumstances. The first in respect of accommodation, which involved two physical moves within a six-month period as an aftermath of the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake.

Due to remediation work MSS were required to vacate their office premises. While that remediation work was completed at the end of 2017, an independent engineering report identified a separate issue in terms of a potential health and safety risk associated with the building's construction. The secretariat is settled in alternative temporary accommodation while negotiations continue in respect of a potential return to the accommodation we shared with a number of other regulatory authorities.

The situation with our accommodation has resulted in an extended period of additional costs in terms of lease obligations, however we expect to be able recoup at least a percentage of those costs through our business continuity insurance cover. At this point it is unknown as to when the situation with our shared accommodation will be resolved, however the collective regulatory authorities are taking a proactive approach to bring this to resolution as soon as possible.

A second challenge has been due to recent demolition work being carried out on the building next to the Secretariat's current accommodation, resulting in relocation of a number of Board meetings and staff working remotely due to noise pollution.

Despite these challenges the Secretariat manages the day-to-day business of the Board with minimal disruption.

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## ***DIPLOMA OF MEDICAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY STUDENTS***

On 26 June ASUM issued an official statement advising they are discontinuing the Graduate Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography (GDMU). ASUM confirmed this decision does not affect current Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography (DMU) students and ASUM will continue to take enrolments for the DMU course in New Zealand.

We advise students currently enrolled in the GDMU to contact ASUM to discuss their options. ASUM will have contacted all students to advise them of their specific pathway options, depending on whether they are in Australia or New Zealand and which field they are studying.

The MRTB will be working with ASUM in regard to the continuation of the DMU as a pathway for Sonographer registration in New Zealand.

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## ***APC PAYMENTS***

The Board would like to remind all practitioners and employers, that an annual practising certificate application is about checking eligibility of individual practitioners, therefore each practitioner is responsible for making payment of the APC fee. During the last APC renewal period, we received a large number of requests for group payments, which the Board will no longer accept.