



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**

*As many of us are aware, COVID 19 has affected practitioner's workloads and personal lives this year, meaning that many are still having to catch-up on imaging backlogs from the various levels of COVID 19 lockdown and restrictions. It important to continue to support each other and still take regular breaks if you can.*

*Our new graduates from education providers around NZ are getting ready to graduate in November/ December. This may be a difficult employment time for them as the expected departure from NZ for those going on their OE has not occurred and the return of Kiwis from overseas. If all possible, it would be great to see that all NZ graduates are employed, adding to the number of "home-grown" NZ practitioners. This post qualification work experience is integral to building a strong and reliable medical imaging and radiation therapy workforce for the future.*

*The NZ Health System Report (often called the Simpson report) was released this year and has some very relevant information for the imaging workforce for the future. The relevant section is Sect11 page 189. We will attach the link to this newsletter.*

*And finally, with the holiday season fast approaching, the Council's office will be closed from 25 December 2020 till 10 January 2021. The last day for registration applications is 18 December 2020 for registrations applications from New Zealand graduates wishing to be registered and issued with an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break and 21 December 2020 is last day for APC applications from newly registered practitioner requiring an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break.*

*We wish you all a safe holiday season and hope you are all able to enjoy some time with family and friends for those of you fortunate enough to have leave over that time.*

**Beryl Kelly**

**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 practise.*

## ***2020-2023 CPD Triennium***

The 2020-2023 triennium covers 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023. The minimum requirements are:

- 60-hours of CPD within the three-year cycle (triennium)
- at least 10 hours of CPD each year
- 35 hours CPD must relate to activities classified as substantive CPD

The Board has agreed that there will be no audit for practitioners in 2021, meaning that the first audit for the 2020-2023 triennium will be in 2022. The Board recognises that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, practitioners are likely to have had difficulties accessing the usual channels and methods to undertake learning and development activities to meet their CPD requirements. However, practitioners are encouraged to continue to take opportunities to undertake CPD activities when they are available.

Remember, updating your CPD records as you go will reduce the stress should you be audited.

---

## ***2017 -2020 Triennium CPD Audit***

We have completed the audit for the 2017-2020 triennium. There were 619 practitioners selected for this year's audit. Excluding those practitioners who were granted an exemption, the audit response rate was 99%, and the pass rate was 98%.

Auditors reported that the practitioner portfolios were of a high standard. However, some practitioners could have provided more in-depth reflections.

---

## ***Online Examination Update***

In 2019 the Board launched the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy examinations. The intention is to offer the Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging examinations for the first time in December 2020. Registration for these exams opens in late November 2020.

## *Revision of the Register*

The Board is attempting to locate registered practitioners it does not hold address or other contact information for, and who have not been in touch with the Board for some time. The Board wishes to revise its register to remove the names of any practitioners who are no longer in practice. If your name, if you know someone who appears on the list, please make contact with the Board at [mrt@medsci.co.nz](mailto:mrt@medsci.co.nz).

---

## *Consultation*

The Board's consultation on the proposed changes to qualification prescribed for the purpose of registration is open for feedback until **6 November 2020**. A link to the electronic survey is under 'News' on the Board's website [www.mrtboard.org.nz](http://www.mrtboard.org.nz).

---

## *Simpson Report*

The Health and Disability System Review was charged with recommending system-level changes that would be sustainable, lead to better and more equitable outcomes for all New Zealanders and shift the balance from the treatment of illness towards health and wellbeing. The report discusses a range of detailed proposals regarding all the elements that need to change for the New Zealand health and disability system to produce more equitable health outcomes and to become more financially sustainable. Section 11, page 190-192 mentions the registration requirements for MRIs in New Zealand in comparison to Australia and other overseas-trained MRIs. The link to the report is [here](#).

---

## *Christmas Office Closure*

The Office will be closed from 25 December 2020 to 10 January 2021. 18 December is last day for registrations applications from New Zealand graduates wishing to be registered and issued with an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break and 21 December is last day for APC applications from newly registered practitioner requiring an Annual Practising Certificate before the Christmas break.