



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

ARPANSA

Protecting the health and safety of people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS **2008-2012**

Australian Radiation Protection And Nuclear Safety Agency

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Who we are

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is an Australian Government statutory agency that is the national centre for excellence in radiation protection and nuclear safety.

What we do

Concern about exposures to radiation has led to the development of a high standard of radiation protection and nuclear safety in Australia. ARPANSA seeks to maintain and enhance this level of protection in the delivery of its programs.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency:

- advises the government and the community about radiation protection and nuclear safety
- represents Australia in international forums that develop new principles and practices in radiation protection and nuclear safety
- undertakes research and provides services and operational capacities in the field of radiation protection
- promotes national uniformity of radiation protection
- is an independent regulator of the use of radiation and nuclear technology

Our Values

As an APS agency, ARPANSA adheres to the APS Values (see Attachment A). In particular, ARPANSA has a commitment to providing its advice and services on the basis of the best available scientific evidence.



Our strategic directions:

1. Strengthening our policy relevance and getting our messages out better by building positively on our stakeholder engagement.
2. Applying best practice regulation through the promotion of national uniformity and regulation of Australian Government entities that use radiation sources and facilities and nuclear installations.
3. Strengthening our knowledge of and contribution to international best practice in radiation protection and nuclear safety.
4. Exploring new ways to deliver the services and operational capacities that support our mission and that we can best provide.
5. Training and mentoring our staff with a focus on developing future capabilities in radiation protection and nuclear safety



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The key priority areas for ARPANSA:

ARPANSA contributes to maintaining the high standard of radiation protection and nuclear safety in Australia by providing advice, by the preparation of national uniform standards and by regulation of Australian Government entities.

ARPANSA's programs will give particular priority to the following areas over the next four years.

- Work with the medical professions to ensure the most effective use of radiation in therapeutic treatments and in diagnostic medicine.
- Continue to highlight the harmful effects of excessive exposures to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Enhance radiation protection of workers, the public and the environment from uranium mining and radioactive waste disposal.
- Assure the security of radioactive sources in Australia and strengthen Australia's capability to respond to radiation emergencies.
- Monitor and advise on population exposures to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF EMF) and electromagnetic radiation (EMR).

The following sections describe what we will do in each key priority area over the period of this Plan. Our annual plans will be described each year in the Portfolio Budget Statement and reported in our Annual Report.



The major activities in the key priority areas:

1. Our goal is to

Maintain the high level of radiation protection and nuclear safety in Australia

We will do this by

- Deepening and strengthening our knowledge of radiation protection and nuclear safety through research and engagement of the international community¹.
- Further developing the National Directory for Radiation Protection and its Codes of Practice and guidance, working with the States and Territories.
- Continuing to maintain and improve our operational capacities in radiation measurement and emergency response.
- Strengthening our regulatory framework in the light of best practice.

2. Our goal is to

Work with the medical professions to ensure the safe and effective use of radiation in therapeutic treatments and in diagnostic medicine.

We will do this by

- Developing directly measured calibrations for cancer therapy using a state-of-the-art medical LINAC.

¹ Key international organisations include the IAEA, UNSCEAR, ICRP, ICNIRP, WHO and OECD (Nuclear Energy Agency).



- Undertaking surveys of patient exposures from CT procedures to assist in establishing Australian Diagnostic Reference Levels.
- Building stronger relationships with the medical professions through collaboration and sharing of information.
- Maintaining a quality assurance program for radiopharmaceuticals used in nuclear medicine.

3. Our goal is to

Continue to highlight the harmful effects of excessive exposures to UV radiation.

We will do this by

- Maintaining a solar UV radiation measurement network
- Undertaking collaborative studies of doses from exposures to solar UV and from Solaria.
- Working, particularly with State Cancer Councils, to determine the effectiveness of measures to reduce solar UV exposures in the workplace and for the public particularly for children.
- Raising public awareness through innovative ways of disseminating relevant advice and up-to-date information.



4. Our goal is to

Enhance radiation protection of workers, the public and the environment from uranium mining and radioactive waste disposal.

We will do this by

- Producing safety guidance on how to assess effectively occupational exposure in the uranium mining industry.
- Establishing a national data base of occupational doses in the uranium mining industry.
- Assessing the significance of public and occupational exposures arising from industries affected by enhanced levels of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials.
- Implementing an improved national framework for environmental impact assessment for uranium mining and radioactive waste disposal.

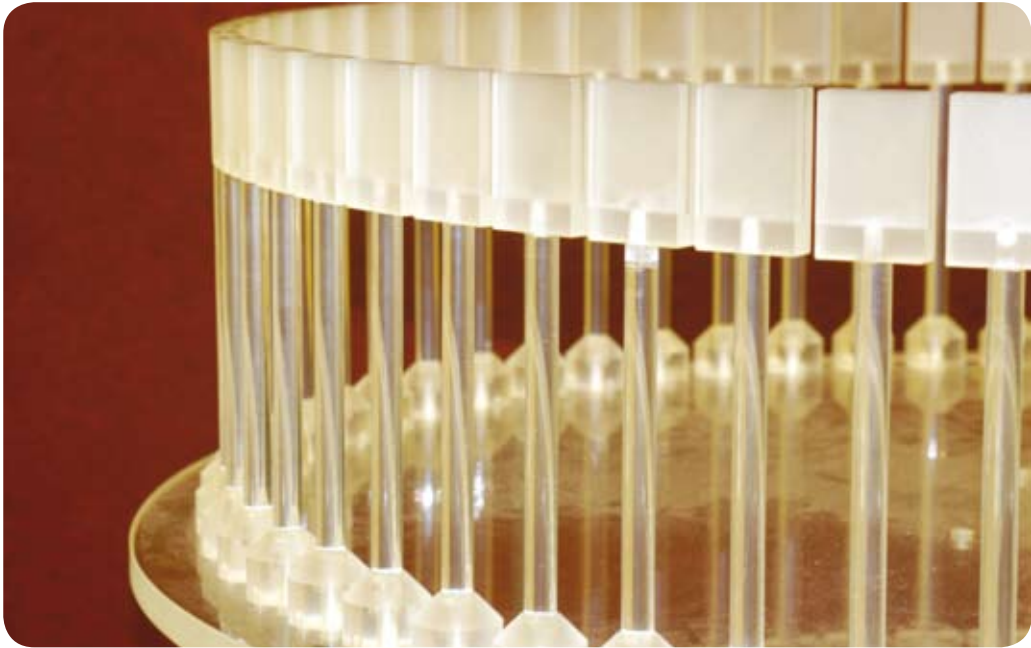
5. Our goal is to

Assure the security of radioactive sources in Australia and strengthen Australia's capability to respond to radiation emergencies.

We will do this by

- Supporting the implementation of the Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Source throughout Australia.
- Enhancing ARPANSA's capability to respond to radiation emergencies working with relevant Australian Government authorities and the States and Territories.

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6. Our goal is to

Monitor and advise on population exposures to ELF EMF and EMR

We will do this by

- Monitoring developments in mobile phone technologies and the exposure of users and the public
- Monitoring exposure levels to magnetic fields from electrical supply infrastructure and electrical equipment and appliances
- Facilitating the implementation of the ELF exposure standard
- Assessing emerging science on the potential impacts of exposure to ELF EMF and EMR



Attachment A

The APS Values

The Australian Public Service:

- is apolitical, performing its functions in an impartial and professional manner;
- is a public service in which employment decisions are based on merit;
- provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises and utilises the diversity of the Australian community it serves;
- has the highest ethical standards;
- is openly accountable for its actions, within the framework of Ministerial responsibility to the Government, the Parliament and the Australian public;
- is responsive to the Government in providing frank, honest, comprehensive, accurate and timely advice and in implementing the Government's policies and programs;
- delivers services fairly, effectively, impartially and courteously to the Australian public and is sensitive to the diversity of the Australian public;
- has leadership of the highest quality;
- establishes workplace relations that value communication, consultation, co-operation and input from employees on matters that affect their workplace;
- provides a fair, flexible, safe and rewarding workplace;
- focuses on achieving results and managing performance;
- promotes equity in employment;

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- provides a reasonable opportunity to all eligible members of the community to apply for APS employment;
- is a career-based service to enhance the effectiveness and cohesion of Australia's democratic system of government;
- provides a fair system of review of decisions taken in respect of employees.



