



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date	10/12/2021
Time	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Location	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Members present	Carl-Magnus Larsson, Roslyn Drummond, Bradley Feldtman, Fay Bellis, Glenn Riley, Mark Carey, Penny Hill, Simon Critchley, Stephen Newbery, Joanna Wriedt, Daniel Bellifemine.
Observers	Gillian Hirth, Ivan Williams, Jim Scott, Katie Volter, Trent Furminger, Rick Tinker, Ryan Hemsley, Nathan Wahl, Helen Alexander, Cameron Lawrence, Peter Thomas
Apologies	Hazel Upton, Lara Purdy
Secretariat	James Wheaton, Helen Alexander, Nathan Wahl

1 - Welcome by the Chair

The Chair respectfully acknowledged the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we each met today, and paid respects to their Elders, past and present.

The Chair welcomed Dr Katie Volter from the Commonwealth Department of Health, and Mr Daniel Bellifemine as the new RHC member representing South Australia.

2 - Conflict of Interest Declarations

None declared.

3 - Prior Minutes

Comments were requested by Monday morning 13 December 2021 after which the prior minutes will be published.

4 - Update from the CEO of ARPANSA

The CEO gave an overview of recent international travel, noting the scheduling of a follow-up International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission for October 2023, when a team of around eight international experts will come to Australia and focus on reviewing the outcomes of actions taken to address the findings from the initial 2018 IRRS Mission report. The CEO noted the publication of the National Directory of Radiation Protection 2nd Edition (NDRP2) has progressed many issues from the 2018 IRRS Mission findings. The extended

timing for a follow-up mission is in line with other countries similarly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CEO noted the Australian Government's nuclear-propelled submarine announcement as part of the 'AUKUS' agreement means there will be ongoing work for the next 15 months (as we are already approximately three months in to the 18-month period initial planning period). The Department of Defence coordinated submarine taskforce is considering the various options for an Australian regulatory structure to oversee such a project and future operations.

5 - Incoming Correspondence

It was noted that there had been no correspondence incoming or outgoing.

6 - Member representing the public

No matters to note.

7 - Update on Approvals of the National Directory for Radiation Protection 2nd Edition (NDRP2) and the Radiation Protection Series (RPS) Code for Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure (C-5)

It was noted that NDRP2 and RPS C-5 have now each been formally endorsed by the relevant Ministers. The Commonwealth's Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) will be responsible for any future amendments of the NDRP. Adoption of RPS C-5 into jurisdictional regulatory frameworks can now commence. ARPANSA will next look at developing guidance on how to proceed and work with these documents in regulatory applications.

8 - Review of RHC Work Program and Action List

The Secretariat gave an overview of proposals to close, complete or retain various items on the RHC action list, bearing in mind the policy ownership of certain items by enHealth (for example, the action items addressing IAEA IRRS 2018 Mission findings), which can therefore be closed and removed from the RHC action list.

The RHC noted its own previous analysis of some competencies as part of its broader review of existing RPS documents. Nonetheless, it was further noted that the implementation of competencies is an issue for the Radiation Health Experts Reference Panel (RHERP) as the expert advisory body to enHealth. The RHC Secretariat requested the endorsement of RHC to transfer the competency work to RHERP. Clarity was requested as to what has been agreed regarding competencies and workbooks before they are referred to RHERP. The RHC Secretariat agreed to circulate details out-of-session or to provide this for the next session.

It was proposed that a stocktake be done of items and workbooks that have been approved or are more mature and that these be presented to RHC at the next session or out-of-session for final approval before further engagement with enHealth.

For Medical competency requirements, the RHC discussed that the level of competency required across the jurisdictions first needs to be agreed and then actioned. It was proposed that a the RHC

conduct a stocktake of the above work, with the suggestion that required regulatory competencies and training are included with any work passed to RHERP for implementation.

It was noted that the agenda item on Non-ionising Radiation (NIR) regulation has already been passed to enHealth as the responsible entity. ARPANSA has a watching brief on NIR and is considering options to influence training curriculums, and it was proposed to remove this agenda item with ARPANSA reporting back to the RHC when appropriate.

For the exemption of X-ray apparatus action item, it was noted that confirmation was needed as to whether RHERP or enHealth involvement is required for policy input.

A number of action items were proposed for closure, with no objections raised. The members discussed the removal of the glossary as an action item. The aim of this action item was outlined as being to ensure definitions were the same across all jurisdictions. It was agreed that this item can be closed as it is not the responsibility of the RHC and ARPANSA can move it on to enHealth if required.

Task: Stocktake of RHC Action Items

The RHC agreed that a stocktake be done of competencies and workbooks that have been approved or are more mature, for presenting to RHC at its next meeting or out-of-session, before communication via the CEO of ARPANSA to enHealth.

Task: Exemption of X-ray Apparatus

Confirm whether RHERP or enHealth involvement is required for policy input.

9 - Compliance Testing Standard - Consultation Update

RHC members were encouraged to distribute the links for public comments to stakeholders including details of the extension as the consultation has been extended until the 31 Jan 2022. Two submissions already received were previewed for the RHC.

The views of non-dominant industry members were noted as important to capture. There was discussion around the issues related to rural and regional areas and proposed flexibility for timing around testing following repairs and renewals. The committee noted the progress on this item.

Task: Collate feedback from Compliance Testing Standard public consultation

The working group will collate all public feedback and will adjust the document accordingly.

10 - Outcomes from Dose Conversion Factor Workshop

The RHC discussed the workshop and agreed it was excellent and that a lot of feedback has already been received including from SA and WA.

The RHC discussed the need for some jurisdictions to have extra time to consider the proposed changes as they may engender extra monitoring. Victoria asserted that they would support additional consultation as they are concerned that some voices (in particular technical) have not been heard. ARPANSA agreed that this would be in the form of a "Have your Say" on the ARPANSA public website under an RHC heading. It was agreed that this would commence in early 2022. It was

requested that the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA) be amongst the organisations alerted to the consultation.

Task: Additional consultation on Dose Conversion Factor

ARPANSA agreed to support additional consultation through the “Have your Say” page on its website under an RHC heading, to commence early 2022.

11 - RHC statement on wearable personal dosimetry and x-ray security scanners

Members suggestions from the previous RHC meeting were incorporated with amendments. ARPANSA has committed to working with the aviation authorities and the Department of Home Affairs to implement this guidance.

Decision: RHC agreed to endorse the statement on wearable personal dosimetry and x-ray security scanners.

Task: ARPANSA to communicate the statement on wearable personal dosimetry and x-ray security scanners to relevant Commonwealth agencies.

12 - Proposed transition from GovTeams to ARPANSA Teams

The RHC noted a change to its information platform which would be implemented in 2022.

13 - Meeting Closure

No other business was noted. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2022. The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.