



22 October 2020

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck  
Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians  
Minister for Youth and Sport  
Senate, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2020 outlining your expectations of my role in administering the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency Act 1998* (the ARPANS Act) and leading the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Intent, which sets out how I will meet the expectations you have outlined and carry out my functions under the ARPANS Act.

### **Priorities**

As the Australian Government's primary authority on radiation protection and nuclear safety, ARPANSA will continue to maintain internal expertise and monitor domestic and international research and best practice, to ensure that we can fulfil this role.

As the regulator of Commonwealth entities using or producing radiation, we will continue to fulfil our role independently and transparently, working also to identify and address any weaknesses of our regulatory processes. I will be working to implement actions responding to the findings of the significant international peer review that ARPANSA hosted in 2018. This Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission coordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency covered all of our regulatory activities as well as some of our corporate areas and I will continue to address all findings directed at ARPANSA before the follow-up mission, expected in 2022.

ARPANSA will work collaboratively with the Communications portfolio in the delivery of our commitments under the Enhanced Electromagnetic Energy (EME) Program, including a targeted research program, involvement in international forums (such as the World Health Organization), provision of scientific advice, and the ongoing maintenance of the EME standard that is integrated in to the telecommunications regulatory framework. Under my direction, ARPANSA staff will also continue to work closely with the

Communications portfolio to support its commitment in the delivery of a targeted public communication program.

ARPANSA follows closely the plans for establishment of a National Radioactive Waste Facility (NRWMF). We interact with relevant stakeholders in that regard, while maintaining a clear demarcation between our roles as regulator on one hand, and as adviser on appropriate standards on the other hand. We maintain an ongoing engagement with the local community to provide information and understanding of the safety requirements and the regulatory process.

### **Relationship with the Minister and portfolio**

I acknowledge the role ARPANSA has in assisting yourself, as responsible minister, and the Government to respond promptly to issues that may arise in radiation protection and nuclear safety. I undertake to provide you accurate and timely advice on any significant issues that may arise.

Additionally, ARPANSA will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Health in developing any future work that may have a bearing on the government or the Department's work. Under my direction, ARPANSA staff will continue to maintain a close working relationship with relevant areas within the Department of Health, particularly Office of Health Protection and Response, which is principally responsible for developing the government's policy around radiation protection and nuclear safety.

### **Organisational Governance and Financial Management**

As an officer under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), I will continue to comply with the principles of the Commonwealth Resource Management Framework and give effect to the governance, performance and accountability requirements of the PGPA Act.

ARPANSA is committed to the ongoing management of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council, Radiation Health Committee, and the Nuclear Safety Committee as established in the ARPANS Act. I am committed to maintaining the transparency of these bodies and will continue to report on their activities through the quarterly reporting to Parliament and through the publishing of any minutes on the ARPANSA website.

### **Regulatory Framework**

ARPANSA is committed to the adoption of a risk informed approach to regulation that minimises unnecessary regulatory burden, whilst ensuring the safe use of radiation by Commonwealth entities. ARPANSA will also continue to promote the adoption of nationally consistent regulation particularly to enable a consistent level of safety for all Australians, while also eliminating unnecessary complexity for licensed users of radiation across Australia.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

I will continue to recognise and respect your role as the Minister responsible for operation of the ARPANS Act and will meet all reporting obligations as established by the ARPANS Act or other relevant frameworks.

I appreciate your confidence in ARPANSA and your support for our work, as expressed in your Statement of Expectations. I look forward to continuing working with your Office and to support you as responsible Minister in matters relating to radiation safety.

Your Statement of Expectations and my response through this Statement of Intent will be published on the ARPANSA website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl-Magnus Larsson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson  
CEO of ARPANSA

Cc: The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health