



Australian Government
Australian Radiation Protection
and Nuclear Safety Agency



15 July 2026

Ref: D2618742

Dr Jane Canestra
Chair
Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

Dear Dr Canestra

Re: National Competency Workforce Framework for the safe use of radiation sources

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for a national competency-based framework for the safe use of radiation sources. I would like to acknowledge the significant amount of work that went into considering this complex issue in the context of Australia's current operating landscape.

I note the view of Council that national competencies for the safe use of radiation sources would underpin automatic recognition for workers moving between jurisdictions, and contribute towards protection of the public, radiation workers and the environment. I agree that this work should be made a national priority.

I am pleased to advise that I tabled your letter of advice at the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) meeting on 17-18 June 2026 for further consideration, along with a paper laying out a draft Terms of Reference to propose further work on this matter. The RHC discussed the proposed scope of work and agreed to establish a working group to finalise the terms of reference and commence key pieces immediately.

The RHC broadly agreed to prioritise work to identify existing competency requirements within jurisdictional regulations and develop a system of national documentation to record nationally agreed competency standards. The preferred approach is to record competencies in the Radiation Protection Series (RPS) documents. The RHC will initially focus on dental and veterinary practices, which represent a large portion of existing Australian radiation licences or registrations with competency requirements.

I look forward to providing Council further updates as this work progresses through the RHC.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gillian Hirth AO

CEO of ARPANSA