



26 August 2021

Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson
CEO
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
619 Lower Plenty Road
YALLAMBIE
VIC 3085

Re: Recommendations from Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (Council), in relation to personal or other occupational (non-clinical) uses of laser technology.

Dear Dr Larsson,

The Council has considered the role the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) should play in advancing the research into the safety around accidental exposure to lasers from personal or other occupational (non-clinical) uses in Australia. The Council agreed to recommend to you that:

- it would be valuable for ARPANSA to support an emerging issues paper to be submitted for peer review that could inform further consideration at a later point.
- there is sufficient anecdotal evidence for concern, to justify ARPANSA taking immediate actions including having some conversations with other government partners to hear their views on the topic and how progress can be made in laser safety.
- ARPANSA contact the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) to discuss the possible reporting of incidents to gather more data.

The Council discussed that it could be helpful for ARPANSA to contact other regulators as well as state and territory stakeholders in the short term, to test the appetite for further regulatory actions in relation to lasers.

The reporting of public safety issues to gather data on incidences was raised as an area for possible influence generally. However, the Council also suggested that ARPANSA look at the benefits of conducting a public awareness campaign aimed at the two main sectors of consumers the Council felt are most at risk: trades people and children in the home.

Kind regards

Dr Roger Allison (Chair)