



Radiation Health & Safety Advisory Council (RHSAC)

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 5-6 June 2017
- Time:** 12.00pm-5.00pm (day 1) and 9.00am-4.00pm (day 2)
- Location:** 619 Lower Plenty Rd, Yallambie (Melbourne) VIC 3085
- Chair:** Dr Roger Allison
- Members:** Mr Keith Baldry, Dr Jane Canestra, Ms Melissa Holzberger, Dr Carl Magnus Larsson, Mr Niall Byrne, Prof Pamela Sykes, Dr Melanie Taylor, Mr Simon Critchley, Prof Adele Green, Mr Frank Harris, Dr Hugh Heggie
- Apologies:** Ms Geraldine Robertson
- Secretariat:** Mr James Wheaton, Mr Nathan Wahl & Mr Ben Paritsky
- Invitees:** Dr Marcus Grzechnik, Mr Ryan Hemsley, Dr Rick Tinker, Dr Ivan Williams, Ms Kathryn Green, Mr Alan Mason
- Observers:** Ms Tone Doyle

1. Standing items

Item 1.1 Meeting open and confirmation of minutes Chair

The chair welcomed all attendees and introduced Dr Hugh Heggie, Nominee of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, attending his first meeting since appointment. The Chair noted that 'Chatham House rules' apply to Council discussions.

Item 1.2 Business arising and review of action list Chair

A status on Action Items was provided and it was noted that all items are now up to date with the exception of one: the draft Roles and Expectations of Advisory Bodies document.

Item 1.3 Update from RHC and NSC Carl-Magnus Larsson

ARPANSA's CEO provided an update on recent activities of the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) and the Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC). RHC topics included the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS); a roadmap to national uniformity; agreement to progress National Directory for Radiation Protection (NDRP) Amendment 8; the draft Existing Exposure Guide; a national model for public information; and a regional workshop for Australasia on General Safety Requirements (GSR) Part 7. NSC topics included the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

(NRWMF); the *Regulatory Guide: Applying for a licence for a radioactive waste storage or disposal facility* and the *Information for Stakeholders: Radioactive Waste Storage and Disposal Facilities*; and Regulator Performance Framework (RPF) revised measures against Key Performance Indicators; and public consultations for the licence decision on ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) Facility.

Item 1.3.1 Information session on RHC options to achieve an improved system of national uniformity

Carl-Magnus Larsson

Members were provided with an overview of the RHC agreement to work towards a national uniformity vision of a 'Seamless experience for business and individuals conducting safe radiation practices across Australia'.

Action: it was agreed that Council should draft a letter of support to the CEO of ARPANSA stating its support for national uniformity to progress.

Item 1.4 CEO update on the activities of ARPANSA

Carl-Magnus Larsson

ARPANSA's CEO updated Council on the finalisation of the Corporate Plan for 2017-2021, noting the agency faces constrained resources so its priorities must be clear. Key areas of priority were highlighted including Ultraviolet (UV) protection; the installation of a new linear accelerator; public consultations for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility; preparation and self-assessment ahead of the IRRS mission; and development and implementation of an Integrated Management System.

Item 1.5 International engagement update

Ryan Hemsley

Council was provided with an update on Agency international travel. It was noted that two ARPANSA staff members have been elected to the positions of Vice-President and rapporteur to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. It was also noted that ARPANSA led the Australian delegation to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in April 2017, and that Dr Gillian Hirth is Australia's representative and rapporteur for the 64th and 65th Sessions of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

Item 1.5.1 Upcoming international meetings or events

Ryan Hemsley

It was noted that one ARPANSA staff member would be attending a World Health Organisation (WHO) national advisory committee as part of the WHO InterSun programme. No other specific upcoming international meetings were raised or noted. The Chair sought further information on ARPANSA participation in meetings and conferences relevant to non-ionising radiation.

Item 1.6 Report from member representing the public

Chair

Members noted statistics on the number of public enquiries received by ARPANSA. Members also noted the report from the member representing the public (not present at this meeting), and discussed the role of the representative of the public in responding to queries from the public. It was agreed that technical queries should be referred to ARPANSA for reply.

Action: prepare an operational roadmap on how to respond to public enquiries received directly, and include this information in the draft Roles and Expectations of Advisory Bodies document.

2. New items to consider

Item 2.1 Presentation: 'NORM' radiation protection

Frank Harris

Members were presented with a summary of radiation protection issues around naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). Members considered International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) activities on NORM issues and discussed the regulatory role of ARPANSA for NORM and the value of a risk-based regulatory approach to NORM issues.

Action: establish a working group with a view to providing guiding instructions to the CEO of ARPANSA.

Item 2.2 Existing Exposure Guide

Rick Tinker

Council was presented with a summary of the draft Guide for Radiation Protection in Existing Exposure Situations (RPS G-2) to be presented to the Radiation Health Committee for endorsement. While the RHC approval had not yet been received (the RHC would meet on 7 June), members were asked to indicate whether they would endorse publication of the Guide (assuming no or only immaterial changes requested by the RHC). Members were requested to respond within a week.

Item 2.3 How ARPANSA uses and communicates data

Keith Baldry

Members noted that there are strong reasons to understand what is available to gather, analyse and make use of data now and in the future. Members received a brief summary with examples of how ARPANSA currently uses data, an overview of ARPANSA's digital strategy, and an introduction to communicating information during a crisis.

Action: Circulate links to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) draft General Safety Guide DS475: 'Arrangements for Public Communication in Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency' and IAEA Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPReSC) website.

Item 2.4 Discussion: What advice can Council give on communication and digital strategies?

Chair

RHSAC discussed various ideas on how ARPANSA might improve its communication and digital strategies.

Action: Establish a new working group to consider the use of data and digital strategies in ARPANSA.

3. Working Groups

Item 3.1 WG1 – NRWMF community engagement

Carl-Magnus Larsson

Members received an update on developments on the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF). It was noted that a two sites at Kimba, SA have been nominated for the proposed NRWMF, and ARPANSA continues its community engagement activities with a third visit occurring in June 2017. ARPANSA also released a regulatory guide on the safety requirements for a waste facility.

Item 3.2 WG2 – Medical Radiation**Ivan Williams****Item 3.2.1 Consider ‘Imaging wisely’ and ‘imaging gently’****Ivan Williams**

Council was presented with a comparison of two US publications (‘Imaging Wisely’ and ‘Imaging Gently’) with similar information available in Australia. Council noted concerns raised previously by the Member representing the public that radiation doses to the Australian public may be increasing due to unnecessary diagnostic imaging. Members also raised anecdotal evidence of an appetite for electronic decision support assistance at the point of use, noting that end users such as general practitioners and junior hospital staff are more likely to be in decision making positions for orders of diagnostic imaging.

Item 3.2.2 ARPANSA’s role in promoting education and training (safety) for imaging**Alan Mason**

Council was provided with an overview of ARPANSA’s current activities and material used to promote education and training of diagnostic imaging safety. Members provided verbal feedback on ARPANSA’s approach, the language in the published material, and other possible ways to achieve behavioural change.

Action: Circulate ARPANSA publication “Having a Scan? – A Guide for Medical Imaging”.

Item 3.3 WG4 – Emergency Exposure Situations**Marcus Grzechnik**

Council was presented with proposed areas of interest for Working Group 4 to consider. These included how to strengthen emergency preparedness and response arrangements to a radiological emergency, the development of a communications strategy for a radiological emergency, and planning for medical response networks. A new working group task was established to develop a communications strategy to focus on where ARPANSA fits into the national or jurisdictional arrangements and the role it would play in a nuclear or radiological emergency.

Action: Develop a communications strategy – considering the role ARPANSA plays in a national context.

Item 3.4 WG6 – UV working group**Rick Tinker**

Council discussed ARPANSA’s unique opportunity to influence UV protection behaviours and outcomes in Australia. The working group presented possible projects for consideration and RHSAC resolved that the working group should concentrate on the development of research and protection services and public health messaging.

Actions: Develop the business cases for the proposals in research and protection services and public health messaging for RHSAC consideration.

Item 3.5 News media perceptions of radiation and ARPANSA**Niall Byrne**

RHSAC held a question and answer forum with invited journalists to discuss how ARPANSA and radiation is perceived in the media. Members discussed opportunities for ARPANSA to enhance its media messaging and the importance of ARPANSA providing a credible voice in its scientific role wherever interest groups dominate public discourse. The importance of maintaining trusted relationships with media was noted. Members discussed the broad context of ARPANSA’s role to provide information on radiation risks in society, and how media may influence behavioural change. The advantages of involving the media early in a public consultation process were also discussed.

Action: Future RHSAC meetings to include a new standing agenda item: Communication / Media report.

Item 3.6 Other business

Chair

The Chair thanked Stephen Solomon, retiring Principal Scientific Advisor to the CEO of ARPANSA, for his long and distinguished service to RHSAC.