



## Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 17-18 November 2016
- Location:** QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Herston QLD 4006
- Chair:** Dr Roger Allison
- Members:** Mr Keith Baldry, Dr Jane Canestra, Ms Melissa Holzberger, Dr Carl Magnus Larsson, Ms Geraldine Robertson, Prof Pamela Sykes, Dr Melanie Taylor, Mr Simon Critchley, Prof Adele Green, Mr Frank Harris
- Secretariat:** Ms Kathryn Scully and Mr James Wheaton
- Invitees:** Dr Elke Hacker (QUT)      Dr David Whiteman (QMIR)
- Apologies:** Mr Niall Byrne
- Observers:** Ms Tone Doyle, Dr Rick Tinker, Mr Selva Kumar, Mr Robert Guilfoyle, Dr Gillian Hirth, Dr Ivan Williams (Item 6.1), Dr Marcus Grzechnik (Items 6.2-4)

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#### 1. Standing Items

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**Item 1.1    Opening of meeting** **Chair**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Members and observers. The Secretariat were requested to send a letter to former Member Dr Steven Skov to thank him for his service to Council.

**Item 1.2    Business arising from previous meeting and review of action list** **Chair**

The minutes from the June 2016 meeting were endorsed. All items on the action list were noted as either in progress or completed

**Item 1.3    Update from RHC and NSC** **Dr Larsson**

ARPANSA's CEO provided updates on the recent activities of the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) and the Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC). The scheduled 2018 Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission was discussed, with the CEO noting that Members may be called on to support the mission in the future. The CEO undertook to provide Members with a link to the NSC-endorsed Regulator Performance Framework (RPF) report once it is published.

**Item 1.4    Update from the Member representing the interests of the general public** **Ms Robertson**

The Member representing the interests of the general public noted that no correspondence from the public had been received since the June 2016 meeting. Ms Robertson raised an issue of concern: that errors are occurring when requesting Diagnostic Imaging. Since this was pertinent to Working Group 2 (Agenda Item 6.1), it was agreed to discuss this issue then.

## 2. Working Group 1

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### Item 2.1 Working Group 1: NRWMF

Ms Holzbreger

Council discussed its draft letter to the CEO, which expresses Council's view on ARPANSA's involvement with the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF). Discussion focused on Council's advice regarding ARPANSA's independence (both real and perceived) throughout the consultation and licencing processes. Members agreed that the Chair would finalise the letter and send a copy to the CEO out of session. Council's letter and the CEO's response will be published on ARPANSA's website.

## 3. Update on ARPANSA activities

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### Item 3.1 Update from the CEO

Dr Larsson and Ms Doyle

Ms Doyle explained that ARPANSA had been engaging with indigenous communities local to the proposed NRWMF site. The financial implications for ARPANSA of maintaining a presence in rural SA were discussed.

### Item 3.2 Update on Council Appointments

Ms Doyle

Ms Doyle confirmed that the Northern Territory Government was in the process of nominating a new Member to replace Dr Skov. She also confirmed that ARPANSA had begun advertising the two Member positions that are due to become vacant in April 2017.

### Item 3.3 International engagement

Led by Dr Larsson

Mr Harris shared with the Council his reflections following his attendance at a recent Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) meeting, where Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) was raised as a priority issue.

Mr Guilfoyle from ARPANSA attended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical meeting on the Draft Safety Guide for Arrangements for Communication with the Public during a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency. Mr Guilfoyle explained the meeting focused primarily on government communications following a nuclear event. After discussion turned to Australia's State emergency centres, Dr Canestra offered to arrange a tour of the Victorian State Crisis Control Centre for Council.

## 4. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation

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### Item 4.1 External speaker: New technology in the prevention of skin cancer

Dr Hacker

Dr Hacker, a researcher at QUT, provided a presentation to the Council which covered new technologies in the prevention of skin cancer.

### Item 4.2 Questions and discussion

Led by Chair

The Council discussed the benefits of allowing researchers access to some of ARPANSA's data, possibly through data.gov.au. Dr Hirth confirmed ARPANSA was already looking into this. Dr Hirth undertook to contact Dr Hacker after the meeting to discuss where ARPANSA and QUT could work together.

**Item 4.3 Herston Imaging Research Facility Tour** **Chair**

The Council was taken on a tour of the Herston Imaging Research Facility.

**Item 4.4 External speaker: Melanoma and keratinocyte cancer: update on UVR-related aspects of prevention** **Prof Whiteman**

Prof Whiteman from QMIR provided a presentation on the health impacts of UV exposure, including preventable melanoma. New research on UVA and UVB was presented.

**Item 4.5 Questions and discussion** **Led by Chair**

The Council acknowledged the opportunity-cost of investing in prevention rather than treating skin cancer.

**Item 4.6 UVR strategy** **Dr Tinker**

Dr Tinker presented ARPANSA's UVR strategy, and highlighted priority areas such as a sunscreen testing service. Dr Hirth also shared that ARPANSA is investigating new technology to incorporate into its UV monitoring network. The Chair called for volunteers to establish a UV strategy working group. Dr Green and Mr Critchley volunteered, with Dr Canestra to determine her involvement out of session. Dr Hirth and Dr Tinker would provide support on behalf of ARPANSA.

## **5. ARPANSA website**

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**Item 5.1 ARPANSA Website architecture input** **Mr Guilfoyle**

Members participated in 'card sorting' exercises to provide information on how users of ARPANSA's redesigned website may logically use and present information. Members were requested to complete any unfinished exercises out of session and forward the links to interested parties.

## **6. Working groups**

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**Item 6.1 Working Group 2: ACDS Audit Schedule 2017** **Chair**

Additional Dr Williams was congratulated on the success of the ACDS, and his efforts with regards to the setting of the audit schedule for 2017. Dr Williams noted the potential for the ACDS, including overseas.

The Council discussed possible causes of inappropriate requests for imaging, including what Guidelines and Decision Support Tools are available for the professionals who request imaging. The Council considered the value of discussing this problem with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) ) and Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP). It was suggested that inviting Professors Tracey Goergen and Richard Mendelson to the next meeting to add to this discussion may be valuable. The Council agreed to replace Dr Skov (resigned Sept 2016) in this working group and consider the group's next steps at the next Council meeting.

**Item 6.2 Working Group 3: Linear No-Threshold (LNT - working paper) Mr Harris**  
**Working Group 3: Example of misuse of LNT, ALARA and ARPANSA documents Prof Sykes**

The draft letter of advice to the CEO of ARPANSA regarding LNT was discussed at length. Dr Canestra will further draft wording, with Dr Larsson to also provide his thoughts. The Council agreed to approve the final version at the next meeting, if out of session consensus is not reached.

Prof Sykes shared a case study where an ARPANSA document, which had used information based on the LNT model, had been interpreted in a manner not intended by the document. This highlighted the importance of placing statements using LNT in ARPANSA documents in perspective of known risk, so that they would not be misinterpreted in a court of law.

**Item 6.3 Working Group 4: Paper of reference levels endorsement Prof Sykes**

The Council discussed reference levels that would serve as guidance for optimisation of protection in an emergency situation, rather than 'limits'. The Council discussed a proposal to set the reference level at 50mSv, which is consistent with the current dose for evacuation actions. It was agreed that, as the original rationale for the use of 50mSv was not known, a justification would still need to be provided regardless of whether the reference level remains the same, is increased or is decreased. The working group agreed to present the final paper at the next meeting.

**Item 6.4 Action item 18: Review of working groups Dr Hirth**

Dr Hirth's request to defer update to next meeting was approved by Council.

## 7. Other business

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**Item 7.1 Planned exposure code Dr Larsson**

The Council endorsed the planned exposure code with minor edits, including changing the reference to 'radiation management committee' on page 16 and adding an additional paragraph before paragraph 2.2.1 relating to optimisation.

**Item 7.2 Wi-Fi in schools update Dr Tinker**

Dr Tinker provided an update of the Wi-Fi in schools program, confirming it was a measurement study, rather than a health study. Noting that the typical exposure levels in the classroom were 0.0002% of the RPS3 level, Dr Tinker said that the results will be published in an academic journal.

**Item 7.3 Upcoming meetings – location and dates Chair**

The Council agreed to hold three meetings in 2017, over the following dates:

- 16 -17 March
- 5-6 June
- 16-17 November

The March meeting may be held at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, to best encompass a visit to the Victorian State Crisis Control Centre.

## 8. Meeting administration

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### Item 8.1 Review of Action List

Chair

Members agreed the actions arising from the meeting.

### Item 8.2 Close of meeting

Chair

The Chair closed the meeting.