

# Welcome to the second ARPANSA NDRLS newsletter for 2018

This edition includes your annual reminder to submit your 2018 multi detector computed tomography statistics (MDCT) data before the end of year shutdown and a few updates on what has been happening at ARPANSA.

## Imaging dose meter calibration

ARPANSA has recently established a calibration facility covering the full range of the IAEA RQR, RQA and RQT standard X-ray beams ([a paper describing the process is available](#)).

These beams allow us to calibrate the responses of dose meters over the range of diagnostic beam energies. If you would like any of your dose meters calibrated contact us at [ndrld@arpansa.gov.au](mailto:ndrld@arpansa.gov.au).

## MDCT news

### Submitted data

The use of the NDRLS continues to grow, with another 64 facilities registering so far this year, bringing the total number of facilities involved to over 600. ARPANSA thanks you all for participating. The more sites actively involved, the more representative the derived national DRLs and thus the better suited they are to support optimal care for patients.

So far this year around 1950 surveys have been completed, 600 more than at the same point last year. This is still well short of the 2500 surveys that eventually rolled in last year, which represented scans from over 47 000 patients – the last few weeks of December are always busy at the NDRLS!

A summary of the data submitted to the NDRLS during 2018 will be added to ARPANSA's [MDCT statistics](#) website early next year. It will be the first comparison against the new DRLs; an analysis will be provided later in the year.

### Paediatric DRLs

The MDCT liaison panel will convene next year to review the current MDCT paediatric DRLs. ARPANSA has compiled a report for the panel that takes into account the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection ([ICRP 135](#)) and the European Commission's paediatric DRL guidelines ([RP 185](#)).

### 2018 data collection close off

There will be a brief service interruption on the morning of **7 January 2019** while ARPANSA conducts the 2018 close off. Open surveys with less than 10 patients will be locked and no FRL report will be generated. Surveys with 10 or more patients will be closed and an FRL report will be generated as per usual.

ARPANSA closes from 24 December – 2 January (inclusive), during which time the NDRLS hotline and email service will be unattended and we will not be able to reset your passwords.

## Other news

### Medical Exposure Code

Progress on the new *Code for Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure* continues with another draft of the code completed. The latest version addresses the comments submitted during the public consultation period earlier in the year. The next step is a return to the [Radiation Health Committee](#) for approval of the revisions.



*Juan-Carlos Lentijo (Deputy Director General, IAEA), Minister Bridget McKenzie, Carl-Magnus Larsson (ARPANSA CEO), and Petteri Tiippana (IRRS Team Leader) at the IRRS opening ceremony.*

## **IRRS mission**

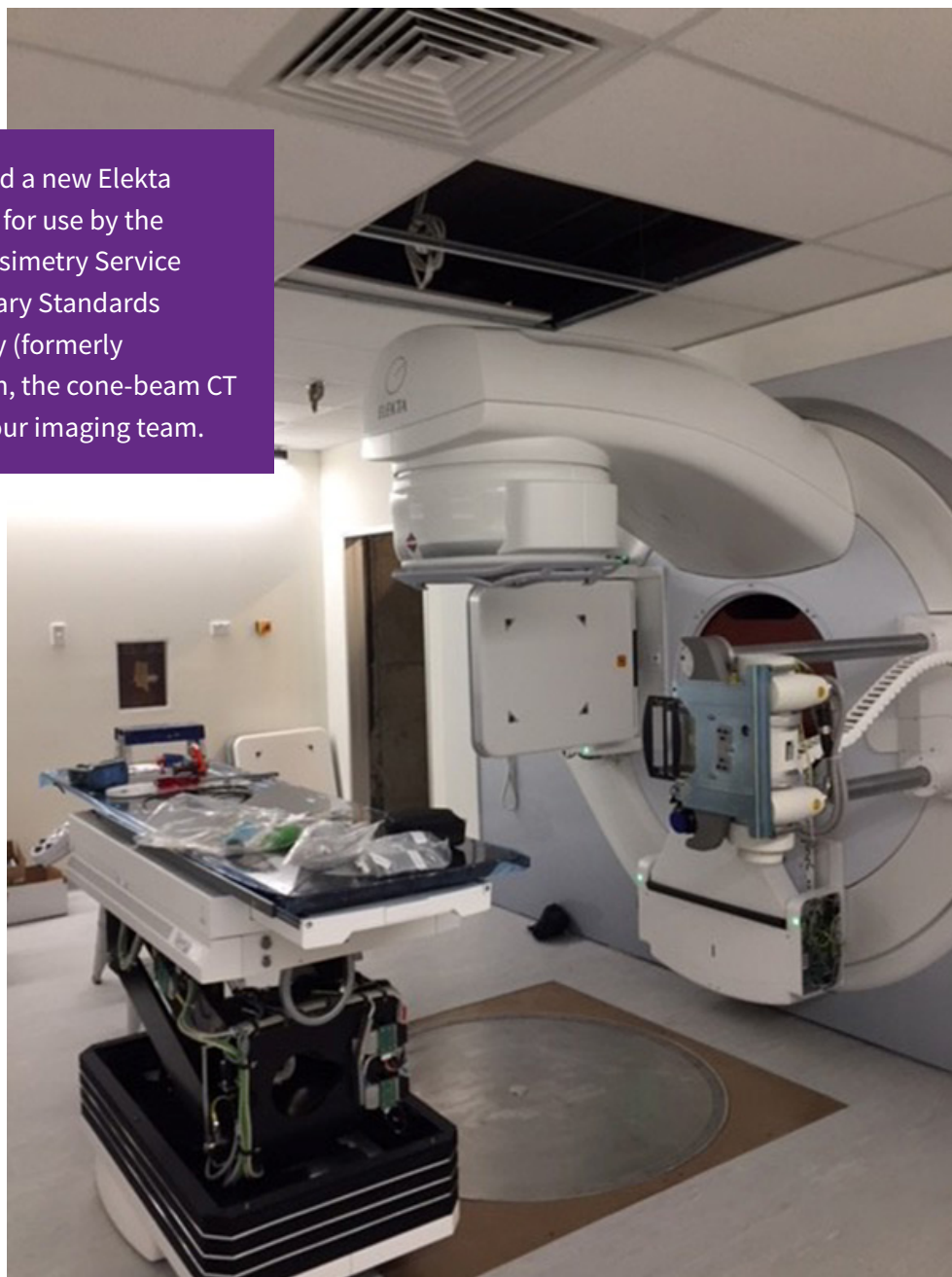
A team of representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently visited ARPANSA as part of an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission. The review looked at Australia's radiation regulatory framework (which includes [RPS 14](#)) and compared it to the IAEA safety standards. The IRRS met with numerous ARPANSA staff, representatives from state and territory regulators and even conducted site visits (including at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne).

This is the first time that all the state and territory jurisdictions have been directly involved in an international peer review of Australia's radiation regulatory structures. It is hoped that over time, the actions arising from the report will lead to greater national uniformity in radiation protection, including in the medical sphere.

The IRRS mission team have provided a draft report to ARPANSA and the final version will be made available to the public in 2019.

## New linac

ARPANSA has acquired a new Elekta linac. While primarily for use by the Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service (ACDS), and the Primary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (formerly Radiotherapy) section, the cone-beam CT will be of interest to our imaging team.



## Contact us

Our website now has a direct link to the NDRLS MDCT login page.

If you have any queries, we would love to hear from you using the contact methods below.



[arpansa.gov.au/ndrls](https://arpansa.gov.au/ndrls)



[ndrld@arpansa.gov.au](mailto:ndrld@arpansa.gov.au)



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