



# Radiation Health Committee

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	11 March 2022
<b>Time</b>	1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
<b>Location</b>	Microsoft Teams Meeting
<b>Present</b>	Dr Roslyn Drummond (Chair), Carl-Magnus Larsson (ARPANSA), Glenn Riley (VIC), Mark Carey (NSW EPA), Bradley Feldtman (NT), Penny Hill (ACT), Simon Critchley (QLD), Stephen Newbery (TAS), Hazel Upton (WA), Daniel Bellifemine (EPA SA), Fay Bellis.
<b>Invitees</b>	Gillian Hirth, Ivan Williams, Jim Scott, Rick Tinker, Peter Thomas, Samir Sarkar, Nathan Wahl
<b>Absent</b>	Joanna Wriedt
<b>Secretariat</b>	James Wheaton

### 1 - Introduction

The Chair opened the meeting respectfully acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land, paying respects to their Elders, past and present.

No conflicts of interest declarations were noted, and the minutes of the previous meeting (December 2021) were noted, with any feedback requested within two weeks.

**Action:** Feedback on Dec 2021 minutes within 2 weeks.

### 2 - Member representing the public

A public enquiry regarding electromagnetic fields was noted as having been referred to ARPANSA's Talk to a Scientist team for a reply. No other issues were raised.

### 3 - Update from the CEO of ARPANSA

ARPANSA's CEO provided an updated, noting firstly ARPANSA's involvement in tracking the situation in Ukraine, including potential risks to the Chernobyl legacy site where cooling systems are being impacted although not critically.

RHC noted ARPANSA's consideration of a license decision on ANSTO's application to prepare a site for their proposed Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI) facility.

The CEO mentioned the Australian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS) conference, and the ARPS submission on the draft National Strategy for Radiation Protection, which discussed radiation protection responsibilities between various regulators and policy stakeholders.

#### **4 - Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) update**

ARPANSA and Department of Health (Commonwealth) representatives provided a brief update following the radiation-focused enHealth meeting on 23 February 2022.

It was noted that Associate Professor Sophie Dwyer, Chair of enHealth's Radiation Health Experts Reference Panel (RHERP) presented an update on RHERP's work plan and priorities at the enHealth meeting. These included: the National Strategy for Radiation Safety, enhanced uniformity of regulatory outcomes, and emergency management. It was noted that enHealth will be called on to provide more support to RHERP moving forward, to ensure the necessary changes are adopted across all the jurisdictions.

Other work at RHERP was noted as being good progress, including national licensing policy drafts and other work important to the Automatic Mutual Recognition process.

ARPANSA noted that the review of the Radiation Protection Series (RPS) Framework Review and enHealth-ARPANSA working agreement remain earmarked for out-of-session progress.

#### **5 - Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)**

The ACSQHC Director, National Standards Program, introduced the work of the Commission. The RHC discussed relevance between the Commissions approaches to national standards and relevant radiation standards for safety including the Radiation Protection Series.

#### **6 - Updated RHC Work Program**

The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the revised schedule of RHC work items, following discussions at the December 2021 RHC meeting, and an update on consultations for the draft NORM Dose Conversion Factor guide which will now progress to publication.

There was a request to include timeframes for each item on the RHC schedule of work items, based on any commitments or forecasts recorded in previous minutes.

The RHC discussed what stood as resolved positions based on historical minutes, noting that there was not always consensus. It was agreed that, while the CEO of ARPANSA can decide to use the advice of RHC in whatever form it takes, any recommendations (including to enHealth or elsewhere) should note any varied positions or views of RHC members.

**Action:** Provide comments on the updated RHC work program over next 2 weeks.

## **7 - Compliance Testing Standard**

The Secretariat gave a summary overview of the feedback received from public consultation on the draft multi-jurisdictional radiation apparatus testing requirements (the 'Compliance Testing Standard'). It was noted that there is a substantial amount of work to still be completed to review and consider the comments provided. However, a theme from the submissions was support for a national approach and uniformity in such standards.

## **8 - Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service (ACDS)**

The RHC heard an overview of the ACDS national data set and audit suite, including new audits being offered in the next financial year and ACDS governance arrangements.

The RHC broadly discussed service level costs, global harmonisation partners, and the future of regulation in clinical dosimetry.

## **9 - Meeting Close**

The Queensland representative noted appreciation to jurisdictional partners for recent assistance on regulatory matters around soil density gauges. The RHC discussed related access to ARPANSA resources for information, such as the IAEA, and duty officer contacts. It also discussed issues with how to license disposal, including probity and credentials of disposal pathways, so that there can be better coordinated between regulators. Thanks was noted for those who provided information on radium to go back to the IAEA for reuse or recycling. It was noted that the IAEA register is expected to remain open.

The Secretariat noted that meeting placeholders for the remainder of 2022 will be circulated after confirmation of new ARPANSA CEO.

The Chair noted that this would be the final RHC meeting for Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson as outgoing ARPANSA CEO. The Chair and various RHC members placed on record their thanks for Dr Larsson's long service and their well-wishes for his future.