



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 2-3 July 2019
- Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (2 July); 9:30 am to 3:00 pm (3 July)
- Location:** 15 Butterfield St, Herston, QLD 4006
- Chair:** Dr Roslyn Drummond
- Members:** Ms Fay Bellis (Public Representative); Mr Mark Carey (NSW); Mr Noel Cleaves (VIC); Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT); Ms Penny Hill (ACT); Dr Bruce Hocking (Member); Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (CEO of ARPANSA); Dr Stephen Newbery (TAS); Ms Hazel Upton (WA, via phone); Ms Amanda Fortanier (SA); Mr Simon Critchley (QLD); Dr Joanna Wriedt (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative)
- Secretariat:** Dr Samir Sarkar, National Codes & Standards Section, ARPANSA
- Scribe:** Ms Kathleen Coles
- Apologies:** Mr Critchley and Ms Fortanier
- Invitees:** Mr Ryan Hemsley (ARPANSA) (via video for items 1.7 and 2.4)
 Dr Sophie Dwyer (Queensland Health) (for item 2.1)
 Mr Bradley Schulz (Department of Health) (for Item 2.5)
 Dr Ivan Williams (ARPANSA), via video for Item 3.1)
 Dr Rick Tinker (ARPANSA) (for items 2.7.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 3.6)
 Mr Loch Castle (ARPANSA) (via phone for items 3.7 and 3.10)
 Mr Nathan Wahl (ARPANSA) (via video for item 2.2)
 Mr Selva Kumar (ARPANSA for items 2.3; 2.6; 2.7.2; 2.8; 2.9)
 Mr Chris Nickel (ARPANSA via phone for item 5.1.2)
 Mr John Templeton (ARPANSA) (via phone for item 3.5)
 Ms Paula Veevers (QLD, standing in for Mr Simon Critchley)
- Observers:** Dr Gillian Hirth (Chief Radiation Health Scientist – ARPANSA); Dr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA, Standing in for Dr Ivan Williams Chief Medical Radiation Scientist); Mr Jim Scott (Chief Regulatory Officer – ARPANSA), Ms Tone Doyle (Chief of Staff – ARPANSA)

1. Introduction and Standing Items

Item 1.1 Welcome by the Chair

Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order. On behalf of the RHC and other meeting participants, the Chair thanked Ms Paula Veevers for standing in for Mr Simon Critchley and hosting the meeting in Queensland.

The Chair also noted the apologies from Mr Critchley and Ms Fortanier.

Item 1.2 Minutes**Chair**

The Chair noted that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 12-13 March 2019 had been confirmed out of session and had been posted on ARPANSA's website.

Item 1.3 Actions and Business Arising**Chair**

All items were either completed or on the agenda for the current meeting except for item 22 on Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR) - awaiting advice from WA. Ms Upton advised that WA agreed, in principle, to use ANRDR as a central record keeping register and were considering ways to enact this.

Item 1.4 Correspondence**Chair**

The Members noted and discussed the following correspondence:

1. Letter (16 April 2019) from Dr Drummond, RHC, to Dr Allison, RHSAC, advising of the representatives from State jurisdictions to the RHSAC NORM working group;
2. Letter (2 May 2019) from the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Technology (ASMIRT) relating to replacement of the term "qualified expert" with the term "medical physicist" used in the draft Medical Exposure Code. RHC Response (20 May 2019) to the ASMIRT clarifying the basis of using the term "medical physicist";
3. Letter from Skills Australia (17 April 2019), regarding delisting the Graduate Certificate in Radiation Protection and the response from the RHC (24 April 2019) in this regard;

In relation to the correspondence from Skills Australia the RHC acknowledged the value of the qualification in radiation safety in fulfilling the role of Radiation Safety Officer. Considering that there is a small number of potential candidates wishing to enrol in such a course and the RHC is in the process of reviewing the competencies, based on the SkillsIQ course, it was agreed to send a response to SkillsIQ accepting delisting this course from the national system of the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC).

Decision 1: Accept that the Graduate Certificate in Radiation Safety qualification be delisted as an available training course from the national system of AISC.

Action 1: Chair to reply to SkillsIQ and Dr Newbery to assist the Chair in drafting the letter to SkillsIQ

After-note: On 5 July 2019, a letter from the RHC Chair was sent to SkillsIQ accepting their decision to delist this course from the national system of the AISC.

4. Letter (13 May 2019) from Dr Larsson, CEO of ARPANSA, to Ms Shaw, Assistant Secretary Regulatory Policy Branch, Department of Health, extending an invitation to attend the RHC as an observer;
5. Letter (18 April 2019) from the RHC to Ms Appleyard of Department of Health seeking support and cooperation in advancing the introduction of a national background checking scheme for individuals who deal with security enhanced radioactive sources and the response (27 June 2019) from Mr Boyley of Department of Health (covered under Item 3.7); and

6. Letter from the RHC (11 June 2019) to the Medical Radiation Practice Board providing the RHC's perspective on draft revised professional capabilities for medical radiation practice.

Item 1.5 Public Interest Issues

Ms Bellis

Ms Bellis reported that there were three overnight enquiries regarding the roll out of 5G network. Concerns were raised about radiation from 5G network and not enough had been done to inform the public.

Ms Doyle reported that there had been a significant increase of enquires about 5G on ARPANSA's social media platforms and there was a need to look for ways to address this issue.

Action 2: Agreed that Ms Bellis liaise with the Secretariat to develop responses to 5G queries.

Item 1.6 Conflict of Interest Declarations

All Members

Nil.

Item 1.7 International Liaison – Presentation on participation at IRRS Mission to Germany

Mr Hemsley

Mr Hemsley provided an update on Australia's participation in international activities. He informed that Dr Hirth had been elected as Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR); Dr Thomas as Chair of UNSCEAR's Medical group and Dr Lawrence as Member of UNSCEAR's Occupational Exposure Group.

ARPANSA is working on the National Report on the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), which will be submitted by August 2019. Once the National Report is submitted it will be placed on ARPANSA's website. The 8th Review Meeting of the CNS will be held in March 2020.

First Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management Working Group to Prepare the Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held during 16-18 July 2019 in Vienna and Australia put forward a number of proposals for the Extraordinary Meeting to be held in May 2020.

ARPANSA attended the meeting on Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Sources.

The Members considered that a summary report on attendance at international meetings and forums would be useful for effective information sharing, and requested Mr Hemsley to provide a written summary on attendance at international meetings.

Action 3: Mr Hemsley to provide a written update to the RHC on international information, such as upcoming ARPANSA travel and summaries of travel that has occurred since the last RHC meeting.

2. National Uniformity

Item 2.1 enHealth workshop, national uniformity strategy and implementation of the IRRS recommendations –presentation from Dr Sophie Dwyer

Dr Dwyer

Dr Dwyer described the work Qld was doing with enHealth, and informed that Qld representatives had been contacted by consultants regarding the enHealth SA workshop. She stated that the desire for a long term strategy for national uniformity had been acknowledged, and the inputs from stakeholders and the expectations from the workshop would be important for this strategy.

Dr Larsson highlighted that timely implementation of the IRRS recommendations would be a critical success factor and emphasised the need for concrete actions for implementation of the IRRS recommendations noting that the follow-up mission will take place in three years. Dr Dwyer agreed with Dr Larsson and was hoping that the task for implementation of these recommendations could be mapped to finalise the strategy to achieve the desired national uniformity outcomes.

Item 2.2 Lessons learnt from Canadian regulatory framework for radiation protection and nuclear safety

Mr Wahl

Mr Wahl made a presentation on his visit to Canada as part of a research trip to document the Canadian system of nuclear/radiation regulation. The visit also included attendance at the annual Canadian Federal Provincial Territorial Radiation Protection Committee, which provided an opportunity to meet provincial and territory regulators, and explore the issue of uniformity of regulatory systems. Although there are minimal issues around the area of nuclear regulation with a single national regulator, Canada was facing a number of challenges in uniformity regarding aspects of radiation protection regulation. He highlighted the similarities and differences between the Australian regulatory framework and the Canadian regulatory framework. Details are described in the presentation and in the travel report, which were circulated to the Members. The Members noted the information regarding the Canadian regulatory framework for radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Item 2.3 RRN activity report

Dr Newbery/Mr Kumar

Dr Newbery and Mr Kumar presented the RRN activity report for the period of March 2018 to June 2019. Key aspects of the report included projects in progress, projects completed, equipment assessment through ARPANSA hosted approval template and areas for improvement. The following projects have been completed through the RRN:

- Preparation of a template for the publication of guidance for the application of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* based on the detailed guidance in the NSW EPA website.
- A coordinated process for new equipment approvals. This includes setting up an entry point for suppliers in ARPANSA's website to reduce red tape for suppliers.
- The RRN's project on 'OBPR Assessments' determined that although the OBPR's assessments are made under COAG guidelines, that does not mean that State and Territory governments may not require a separate regulatory impact statement (RIS) to be prepared. Following that determination, RRN Chair Dr Newbery scanned all jurisdictions legislation or policy on the requirement for

regulatory impact assessments where a national assessment has been done. The findings showed that many jurisdictions have provisions under which exemptions may be sought from doing a RIS where a national assessment has been done.

Details of the RRN activities are presented in Attachment 1 to agenda paper 2.3.

The Members noted the progress of the RRN activities, and congratulated the RRN for the work and agreed to the continuation of the work of the RRN.

Decision 2: The Members endorsed the continuation of the RRN under the current arrangements till 31 July 2020.

Item 2.4 IRRS Mission to Australia

Mr Hemsley

Mr Hemsley provided an update on the process and action plan for implementation of the IRRS recommendations and suggestions. He informed that the plan was taken to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and ARPANSA was currently working on the action plan. Mr Hemsley mentioned that ARPANSA-specific recommendations were already being considered and actioned. Mr Schulz indicated that the Department of Health was working with ARPANSA about oversight of enHealth of implementation of the IRRS recommendations. Dr Larsson stated that the governance structure on national uniformity needed to be established with urgency.

The Members noted the update on the IRRS mission action plan. Mr Hemsley undertook to provide the IRRS action plan and seek endorsement from each jurisdiction and report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Action 4: ARPANSA to develop the national IRRS action plan and seek endorsement from all jurisdictions via enHealth and report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Item 2.5 Governance arrangements and issues for national uniformity and upcoming workshop in SA

Mr Schulz

Mr Schulz informed that a 2-day workshop will be held in Adelaide organised by enHealth. The workshop's focus will be on a National Strategy related to national uniformity. A consultant, 1448 agency, had been engaged to prepare a paper for the workshop, and invitations had been sent out by enHealth to all members and ARPANSA. enHealth will send the agenda and meeting papers before the workshop in August 2019. The scope of discussion on national uniformity at the workshop will be based on discussions between the consultant and relevant stakeholders. Mr Schulz informed that the AHPPC had asked enHealth to report back in January 2020 on the outcomes of the workshop.

Dr Larsson and Dr Newbery emphasised the need for attendance of jurisdictional RHC members at the workshop. Dr Larsson suggested to progress the IRRS action plan and the NDRP 2nd edition to an advanced stage so that the workshop could be used as a good opportunity for concrete actions. Dr Drummond concurred with Dr Larsson about finalising the NDRP 2nd edition by RHC prior to the workshop.

It was agreed that the working group, formed at the RHC meeting in March 2019, would develop the agreed tangible measures of success in enacting the recommendations and suggestions from the IRRS

Mission Report and circulate the first draft before the workshop. These matters to be an agenda item for the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Action 5: Working group to develop the tangible measures of success for implementation of IRRS Report recommendations and suggestions, and circulate the first draft before the workshop.

Item 2.6 NDRP 2nd Edition update

Dr Larsson/Mr Kumar

Mr Kumar described the purpose of the revised NDRP 2nd Edition that addressed 18 of the 19 recommendations and suggestions related to national uniformity. It was noted that Suggestion 1 (on national policy and strategy) was not addressed in the revised NDRP 2nd Edition. It was proposed that this suggestion is 'parked' until NDRP2 had been finalised and submitted for approval. A national policy and strategy may be a second step under the national uniformity umbrella and at a later stage reflected in the NDRP. In addition, it was noted that NDRP2 also addressed Actions 64 and 66 of Australia's National Action Plan for Health Security (2019-2023)

The Members went through the NDRP2 paragraph by paragraph and finalised the revised NDRP2. It was agreed to submit the NDRP2 to the COAG Health Council (CHC) through enHealth seeking their support.

Decision 3: Endorsed the 2nd Edition of the National Directory for Radiation Protection (NDRP2) as amended incorporating the IRRS recommendations and suggestions.

Decision 4: Agreed to submit the NDRP2 to enHealth to note and seeking their endorsement for submitting to Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) and CHC.

Action 6: Secretariat to submit the NDRP 2nd Edition to enHealth to note and seeking their endorsement for submitting it to AHMAC and CHC for approval.

Item 2.7 RHC Project update

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar presented an update on progress of the current RHC projects, which were discussed under relevant agenda items. The Members noted the status of the projects.

Item 2.7.1 Review of all RHC Statements

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker informed that the process of reviewing the RHC statements had started including identifying their importance, application and governance arrangement. The procedure for reviewing the RHC statements will be integrated into the procedures for managing the review of RPS and RHS documents. Dr Tinker will present an option paper on managing with the RHC statements at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Action 7: Dr Tinker/Secretariat to develop an option paper on managing the RHC statements and report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Item 2.7.2 RIS Project Report**Dr Newbery/Mr Kumar**

Mr Kumar presented the outcomes of the discussion with each jurisdiction's regulatory gatekeeper (equivalent of the OBPR) to understand their requirements for preliminary assessments or regulatory impact statements (RISs), provisions for exemptions from a RIS - where a national analysis is done, any requirements for impact assessment specific to each State/Territory for implementation of RPS Codes and Standards in each jurisdictions. Details of additional/special requirements of States and Territories for preliminary assessments or regulatory impact states were presented in Attachment 1 to agenda paper 2.7.2.

Mr Kumar recommended the use of State/Territory-specific requirements in preparing COAG preliminary assessments or RIS for RPS documents for review/revision and development of RPS documents and to incorporate these requirements into the existing RPS document development and management procedures. The Members considered the benefits of incorporation of these requirements and agreed to these recommendations.

Decision 5: Approved the use of the State/Territory-specific requirements (in addition to OBPR requirements) in preparing COAG preliminary assessments or regulatory impact statements for RPS documents.

Decision 6: Approved the incorporation of these requirements into existing procedures for the review/revision/development of RPS publications, including the new codes review methodology proposed in the 'RHC Agenda Paper – Item 2.8'.

Item 2.8 Trial of new method for content development using RHS 28**Dr Newbery/Mr Kumar**

Dr Newbery and Mr Kumar presented a new methodology for the development of content of a RPS publication using RHS 28 (Code of practice for the safe use of sealed radioactive sources in borehole logging) as an example. The methodology focusses on content development for practice-specific codes using a 'workbook' that will contain all relevant technical and regulatory information for a practice specific document. The practice-specific content will operationalise overarching requirements, which for most radiation protection codes are in the Planned Exposure Code (RPS C-1), which in turn reflects the requirements in IAEA GSR Part 3. The results of the trial are presented in Attachment 1 to the agenda paper 2.8. The Members discussed the advantage of the new methodology and the merit of the workbook, and noted that the proposed approach would be quite effective as the regulatory expectations are clarified upfront.

It was proposed to incorporate the new methodology into the RHC's document development procedures and the Members agreed to that proposal.

Decision 7: Approved the new methodology for review of RPS codes.

Decision 8: Approved the incorporation of the methodology onto the RHC's document development procedures.

Item 2.9 Priority list for revision of RPS and RHS documents**Dr Newbery/Mr Kumar**

Mr Kumar and Dr Newbery presented the priority list for review of RPS and RHS documents, which was included in Attachment 1 to the agenda paper 2.9. They informed that the priorities for the review of RPS and RHS documents were discussed and agreed at the April 2019 RRN teleconference. The Members noted the content developers for the RPS and RHS documents.

The content developers will prepare the RHC Project and Document Plan (PDP) and form their own working groups, which must include at least one industry representative. The PDP will be sent to the RHC Secretariat to include in the RHC project register. The target date for completion of the first draft of the content of the codes is March 2020, which was agreed by the Members.

Following content development, the code will be drafted by policy writers or professional technical writers/editors using the content that has been developed and agreed to by the RHC. Concerns were raised whether the committee would be able to approve all the drafts documents if they were successfully completed by the first meeting in 2020, and the cost of using professional writers after approval of the drafts. Dr Larsson suggested to consider each document on a case by case basis and to explore the cost consideration once codes get to draft stage in March 2020. The Members agreed to discuss the budgetary matter for policy or professional technical writers at the RHC meeting in March 2020.

It was agreed that ARPANSA's Codes and Standards Section will monitor and report progress of the content development to the RHC.

Decision 9: Agreed the prioritisation for revision of RPS and RHS documents in Attachment 1.

Decision 10: Agreed that the content developers will prepare and send a Project and Document Plan to the RHC Secretariat, and form a working group as they deem appropriate.

Decision 11: Agreed that the deadline for developing the first draft of the content for each code (and associated guide, where applicable) will be the first RHC meeting in 2020.

Decision 12: Agreed that ARPANSA's National Codes and Standards Section, through the RRN, monitors and reports progress of content development to the RHC.

Action 8: Issues, including budget, regarding drafting the Code by policy writers or professional technical writers, will be discussed on a case by case basis at the RHC meeting in March 2020.

Action 9: Content Developer to form working group and prepare the Project Document Plan and send to the Secretariat.

Item 2.10 Development of procedures for managing the review of RPS and RHS documents and for Prioritisation of revision of such documents

Dr Sarkar

Considering the progress of works in a number of areas including use of new methodology for the development of code, prioritisation for review of RHS and RPS documents and review of RHC Statements, Dr Sarkar stated that the procedures for managing the review of RPS and RHS documents would be

developed taking into account the progress in the aforementioned areas. He indicated that a progress report on development of procedures for managing the review of RPS and RHS documents and prioritisation of such documents would be provided at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Action 10: Secretariat to provide a report on the development of procedures for managing the review of RPS and RHS documents and for prioritisation of revision of such documents at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

3. RHC Work Program

Item 3.1 Guidance for implementation of the Medical Exposure Code (MEC)

Dr Thomas

Referring to the PDP, Dr Thomas sought feedback from the Members on the 'Guidance for implementation of the Medical Exposure Code'. He advised that the proposed document would be a RPS document. Dr Newbery advised that his team undertook a mapping exercise on the MEC against the IAEA Specific Safety Guide: Radiation Protection and Safety in Medical Uses of Ionizing Radiation (SSG-46), and he would share the results of that mapping exercise with ARPANSA. Mr Cleaves suggested to use the template for practice specific RPS documents that was discussed under Agenda Item 2.8. Mr Cleaves also indicated that Victoria would participate in developing the proposed document.

Action 11. Tasmanian and Victorian representatives to send the practice specific template, using IAEA Specific Safety Guide SSG-46, for Medical Exposure Code to Dr Thomas, and Dr Thomas to report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Item 3.2 Governance and administrative plan for the online glossary

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker informed that he would undertake a gap analysis of glossaries of various RPS documents starting with the glossary of the Emergency Exposure Guide. This will help to develop the governance process for the online glossary for all RPS documents. The priority of publishing the online glossary will be synchronised with the priority of review of RPS documents.

Action 12: ARPANSA to undertake a gap analysis of the glossaries of various RPS documents and report the progress at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Item 3.3 Cosmetic laser and IPL injury register

Dr Tinker

The Members discussed the regulation of laser and it was noted that only three jurisdictions regulate laser. Mr Cleaves stated that he undertook surveys on cosmetic laser and IPL with a focus on cosmetic laser. He had also reviewed statistics from the Victorian Health Commissioner Department and there were 103 complaints in three years. He stated that more information would be needed to develop regulatory documents in this area. Mr Carey added that options for managing hazard needed to be identified and NSW did not regulate this industry. However, he pointed out that NSW Department of Fair Trading received a large number of complaints in cosmetic services, and were considering the provision of self-regulation applying industry code of practice. Dr Newbery indicated that enHealth and AHPPC were interested in this area, and considering the size of the industry self-regulation would be a practical approach. Dr Larsson

suggested that the governance process the RHC was discussing for national uniformity would be useful in this regard, and the RHC should be the technical lead for the enHealth pathway.

It was agreed that the RHC be kept posted on IPL and cosmetic laser incidents.

Action 13: ARPANSA and relevant jurisdictions to keep RHC informed about IPL and cosmetic laser incidents.

Item 3.4 Review of RPS 3, regulation of RF and mapping exercise of non-ionising radiation regulation in Australia

Dr Hocking/Dr Tinker

Review of RPS 3

Dr Hocking said a final version of the ICNIRP standard was awaited and this delayed completion of RPS3.

It was noted that for the revision of the RPS 3 the new methodology template for practice specific RPS document would be used. This methodology highlighted the difficulty of identifying a regulator to enforce the proposed safe working practices on RF sites such as roof-tops.

The Members considered that developing a communication strategy would help to improve the understanding of regulatory expectations noting that Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has the primary responsibility for telecommunication regulation. Recent public enquiries related to 5G were noted. These are being handled at jurisdiction level and will not await the communication strategy.

Mr Kumar briefed on the OBPR preliminary assessment of RPS 3.

The Members asked whether the revised RPS 3 would be a Standard or Code. Dr Tinker stated that the working group would come up with the options whether RPS 3 would be a Standard or Code.

The Members highlighted the impact of RF exposure to workers in the plastic welding industry and defence and the potential for overexposure. Comcare relies on RPS 3 to demonstrate protection of Defence workers.

Action 14: Working group to consider whether RPS 3 would be Code or Standard and report at the RHC Meeting in November 2019.

Action 15: Working group to continue to work on communication strategies for public and scientific audiences and report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Regulation of RF and mapping exercise of non-ionising radiation regulation in Australia

Dr Hocking and Dr Tinker summarised the report on Mapping of Non-ionising Radiation Regulation in Australia which was the first stage of the project re the adequacy of regulation of NIR. The report outlines the definitions and regulations of non-ionising radiation (NIR) across all jurisdictions. The report also includes a summary of NIR risks and relevant international/Australian guidelines and standards. The report

indicates which regulators have responsibility for enforcement of these standards. Dr Tinker undertook to forward the MRI Safety Guidelines published by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

Acknowledging the importance of the results of the mapping exercise the Members suggested to validate (with all jurisdictions) the report on mapping of non-ionising radiation regulation and publish this as a Technical Report. The Members also suggested to share the Executive Summary of the report of mapping with enHealth for discussion at the workshop in Adelaide.

After-note: On 31 July 2019, Secretariat circulated the draft ARPANSA technical report on the Mapping of non-ionising radiation protection in Australia and the MRI Safety Guidelines to the Members.

Action 16: ARPANSA to validate (with all jurisdictions) the report on mapping of non-ionising radiation regulation and publish as a Technical Report.

Action 17: ARPANSA to share the Executive Summary of the report of mapping with enHealth for discussion at the workshop in Adelaide.

Action 18: ARPANSA to circulate the MRI Safety Guideline, published by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

Item 3.5 WG update on discrepancies between RPS 20 and IAEA GSG-1

Dr Sarkar/Mr Templeton

Dr Sarkar and Mr Templeton presented the revised draft RPS 20 (RPS G-4) by addressing the discrepancies between RPS 20 and IAEA GSG-1. A revised draft has been prepared that is in line with the international standard. The Members noted that the revised guide provided upper boundaries for intermediate level waste and exempt waste for better clarity and to keep consistency with the international standard. Regarding the impact on mining and milling industry the Members were informed that this aspect was beyond the scope of this document and Radiation Protection Series 9 (Code of Practice and Safety Guide: Radiation Protection and Radioactive waste management in Mining and Mineral Processing) was applicable to this area.

The Members approved the revised RPS 20 for stakeholder comment subject to OBPR preliminary assessment.

Decision 13: Approved the revised draft RPS 20 (RPS G-4) for stakeholder comment subject to OBPR preliminary assessment.

Action 19: Secretariat to circulate the draft RPS 20 (RPS G-4) for stakeholder comment subject to OBPR preliminary assessment.

Item 3.6 Australian National Radiation Dose Register – purpose, long-term vision, ownership and governance arrangements

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker presented a summary of the report prepared by the ANRDR working group. The Members suggested to give due consideration to the privacy and security issues. Dr Tinker highlighted that the dose register portal would offer information on trend analysis of the dose. The Members considered the merit of the recommendations made by the working group for establishing an independent advisory board and for developing guidance for regulators, and accepted these recommendations. However, the Members noted that the terms of reference (ToR) and membership of the Advisory Board needed to be developed, and advised the working group to report at the RHC meeting in November 2019. Dr Larsson suggested the ToR of the Advisory Board should be subject to the agreement of the RHC.

Decision 14: Approved the establishment of an ANRDR advisory board.

Action 20: ANRDR working group to develop the ToR and membership of the Advisory Board and report at the RHC meeting in November 2019.

Action 21: ANRDR Advisory Board to develop guidance for regulators to facilitate national implementation of the ANRDR.

Item 3.7 Radiation Security Background Checking Framework

Mr Carey/Mr Castle

The Members discussed the response from the Department of Health to the RHC in relation to Security Background Framework. Considering the importance of this matter Dr Larsson stated that he would discuss this matter further with the Department of Health and inform the RHC of the outcomes of discussion.

Action 22: The CEO to discuss the response to the RHC related to Radiation Security Background Framework with the Department of Health.

Item 3.8 Guide: Closure Criteria for Mines

Mr Feldtman

Mr Feldtman advised that this project had been suspended since a guide on closure criteria for mines was already available. The Members noted that RPS 9 was under consideration for revision and the IAEA Draft Safety Guide DS459, Management of Residues Containing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material from Uranium Production and Other Activities, was in publication.

It was agreed to suspend the project on development of Guide: Closure Criteria for Mines acknowledging that closure criteria for mines will be addressed in the revised RPS 9.

Decision 15: Agreed to suspend the project on development of Guide: Closure Criteria for Mines.

Item 3.9 Accreditation of Personal Dosimetry Service Providers**Mr Cleaves**

Mr Cleaves provided an update on the Dosimetry Service Providers (DSP) Accreditation System. He informed that the draft guidelines were circulated to the ANRDR working group for comment and recommendations. The draft guidelines had been updated incorporating feedback from the working group. A recommendation in the feedback was that the guidelines be sent to the DSP for feedback and consultation, which would commence as soon as possible. The Members noted the progress on the DSP Accreditation System.

Item 3.10 Sealed Source Register**Mr Carey/Mr Castle**

Messrs Carey and Castle provided an update on the work undertaken by the Sealed Sources Register working group and presented the Base Analysis for the National Sealed Source Register. The working group proposed a staged approach that includes purpose, scope and delivery options, stakeholder identification and consultation, exploring technology option, analyses of regulatory impact including cost implications for the government and the community and by whom costs are to be borne. The Members suggested to ensure that all jurisdictional requirements are appropriately considered. The Members approved the Base Analysis for the National Sealed Sources Register, which is stage 1 of the Analysis Framework.

Decision 16: Approved the Base Analysis for the national sealed source register.

Item 3.11 Amendment to the dose limits in the Planned Exposure Code based on the IRRS recommendations**Dr Larsson**

Dr Larsson presented the dose limits for age group of 16 years to under 18 years in the draft amended Planned Exposure Code based on the IRRS Recommendations. The draft amended Planned Exposure Code incorporating the dose limits for age group of 16 years to under 18 years was circulated to the Members out of session and a number of comments were received. The draft amended Planned Exposure Code was updated addressing the comments received from the Members. The Members considered that the impact of the amended dose limits was very low and this amendment brought the Code in line with the international standard. The Members also noted that the amended Code will be subject to the OBPR preliminary assessment. The Members approved the amended Planned Exposure Code, RPS C-1 (Rev.1) subject to the OBPR clearance.

Decision 17: Approved the amended dose limits in the Planned Exposure Code, RPS C-1.

Action 23: Secretariat to check the preliminary assessment with the OBPR for amendment to the dose limits in RPS C-1.

4. General Information Items

Item 4.1 Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) Update

Dr Wriedt

The NSC meeting was held on 21 June 2019. Dr Wriedt informed that the NSC noted the draft ANSTO Health Action Plan and its desired outcomes. The Action Plan remained under review by ARPANSA. She also informed that the Chairperson of ANSTO Board met with the NSC, which provided an opportunity for engagement between the Board and the regulator. The NSC was provided with a brief overview of the safety culture self-assessment recently undertaken by the Regulatory Services Branch of ARPANSA, and the action plan for addressing the recommendations from this assessment. The committee reviewed the plan and endorsed the approach taken.

Dr Wriedt also informed that the NSC was requested to make comments on the national report on the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). She informed that during the NSC meeting ARPANSA was informed of a contamination incident at the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) facility. Dr Larsson informed that the contamination incident resulted in extremity doses to two operators that, judged from preliminary assessments, likely exceeded the statutory limit.

5. Closing

Item 5.1 Any other business

Chair

Item 5.1.1 IAEA draft documents

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar provided an update on the status of the publication of the IAEA documents. He informed that the IAEA Safety Glossary 2018 had been published. It was noted that some of the IAEA documents were in very advanced stage of the publication process and these documents would be useful in the review and development of RPS documents.

Item 5.1.2 Australian Radiation Incident Register (ARIR)

Mr Nickel

Mr Nickel presented a potential system for collection of event information from users and pass on such information to the regulator. A group of peak professional bodies in the field of radiation oncology (RANZCR, ACPSEM, ASMIRT) are seeking to develop a national database for collection on adverse incidents in radiation oncology and sought collaboration with ARPANSA in this project. The proposed system would use the architecture of the ARIR. The project plans to develop a portal for national user submission of incidents to the ARIR. Following any review or actions this information would then be collated into the ARIR for further analysis and information sharing. The database would need to be capable of interfacing with other databases (hospital reporting and local regulator systems). He described the potential benefits of the proposed system, particularly as a single site of reporting. Mr Nickel recommended that the RRN act as the facilitator to progress the proposal. Amendment of the ARIR may be required to progress the project. The Members suggested to clearly scope out the stakeholders involved in the reporting process. It was agreed that the RRN could act as the primary contact to progress the proposal to amend the ARIR.

Decision 18: Agreed that the Radiation Regulator Network (RRN) could act as the primary contact to progress the project.

Item 5.2 Next Meeting – November 2019

Chair

The next RHC meeting will be held in Canberra. Details of the meeting will be circulated in due course.