



## Radiation Health Committee

### Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 15 March 2017
- Location:** Yarra Room, ARPANSA, 619 Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, VIC, 3085
- Chair:** Dr Roslyn Drummond
- Members:** Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (CEO of ARPANSA); Mr Keith Baldry (SA); Mr Noel Cleaves (VIC); Mr Simon Critchley (QLD); Ms Hazel Upton (WA); Mr Len Potapof (NSW); Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT); Dr Stephen Newbery (TAS); Ms Penny Hill (ACT); Dr Bruce Hocking (Member); Mr Robert Lyon (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative)
- Secretariat:** Dr Samir Sarkar
- Scribe:** Ms Fritzi Callaway
- Apologies:** Ms Hazel Upton, Dr Peter Karamoskos
- Invitees:** Mr Ryan Hemsley (ARPANSA) (for items 2.1 and 4.3)  
Mr Selva Kumar (ARPANSA) (for item 2.2 and the whole meeting)  
Dr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA) (for item 3.2)  
Dr Rick Tinker (ARPANSA) (for item 3.6 and the whole meeting)  
Mr Alex Kalaiziovski (ARPANSA) (for item 3.7)  
Ms Julie Murray (ARPANSA) (for item 3.10)
- Observers:** Dr Gillian Hirth (Chief Radiation Health Scientist – Radiation Health Services); Mr Jim Scott (Acting Chief Inspector - Regulatory Services); Dr Ivan Williams (Chief Medical Radiation Scientist – Medical Radiation Services); Ms Tone Doyle (Chief of Staff – Office of the CEO); Mr Duncan Surin (WA)

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#### 1. Introductions and Standing Items

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**Item 1.1 Welcome by the Chair** **Chair**

Chair called the meeting to order. The Chair welcomed the new member Ms Penny Hill from ACT. The Chair noted apologies from Ms Hazel Upton (WA) and that Mr Surin was attending as observer from WA. The Chair also recorded apologies from Dr Karamoskos.

**Item 1.2 Minutes** **Chair**

Members noted that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 November 2016 were confirmed out of session. Members agreed that future meeting minutes will reflect the important elements of the discussion without attribution, and that only when a vote was taken would members' names be recorded.

**Item 1.3 Action and Business Arising** **Chair**

Members noted that items in the action list have either been completed or are in the agenda.

**Item 1.4 Correspondence****Chair**

Members noted the following correspondence:

1. Mr Ross Bevan, ACT Health, notice of resignation from the Radiation Health Committee (RHC).
2. Outgoing letter to Mr Ross Bevan from CEO of ARPANSA thanking him for his contribution and wishing him well in his new position.
3. Outgoing letter to Mr Ross Bevan from the RHC Chair on behalf of the Members thanking him for his contribution and wishing him well in his new position.
4. Outgoing letter to Ms Nicole Feely seeking nomination from the ACT for the RHC.
5. Outgoing email to Ms Penny Hill, Instrument of Appointment to the RHC.
6. Outgoing email from ARPANSA to Mr Rees inviting him to be a member of the working group developing the guidance document to promote safety and positive health outcomes on the use of Intense Pulsed Light sources (IPLs) and lasers in the cosmetic and beauty therapy industry.
7. Outgoing letter to Stephen Willis, Office of Best Practice Regulation in regard to the RHC action following public comment on the consultation regulatory impact statement on the use of IPLs and lasers in the cosmetic and beauty therapy industry.

**Item 1.5 Public Interest Issues****Chair (Dr Karamoskos)**

The Chair deferred this item as the member representing public interests was an apology for the meeting.

**Item 1.6 Conflict of Interest Declarations****All Members**

Nil

**2. National Uniformity - Action**

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**Item 2.1 Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) Mission to Australia****Mr Hemsley**

Members noted the brief on the status of the International Atomic Energy Agency's IRRS Mission to Australia and that participating states and territories should preferably complete and submit their self-assessment to ARPANSA by end of July 2017.

**Item 2.2 Road map for National Uniformity****Mr Cleaves**

Mr Cleaves' presented a discussion paper on National Uniformity in the regulation of radiation practices in Australia. The paper indicated that despite the existence of the *National Directory for Radiation Protection* (NDRP) there are still factors that adversely impact businesses and individuals who operate radiation practices in multiple jurisdictions in Australia. These include wide variations in licensing structures, prerequisites for licences, and different regulators for radiation protection (from health, environment and mining portfolios). Members were asked to endorse a vision statement on National Uniformity and agree to further develop the options to redesign Australia's radiation regulatory system.

Members agreed to endorse the vision statement, subject to a slight amendment to insert the word, 'safe' before 'radiation practices'. The endorsed vision for national uniformity is: *Seamless experience for business and individuals conducting safe radiation practices across Australia.*

Members also agreed to the development of an options paper for the re-design of Australia's radiation regulatory system. Options include but are not limited to:

- Make the NDRP more effective
- Common laws (model or template legislation)
- Single law and regulatory system delivered by Commonwealth, State and Territory regulators
- A single national regulator.

Members agreed to further discuss the options at the RHC meeting in March 2018.

Members agreed to form a small group of radiation regulators as an interim measure to deal with outstanding and new mutual recognition problems.

**Action 1: Endorse the vision statement as amended (completed).**

**Action 2: Develop an options paper to redesign Australia's radiation regulatory system.**

**Action 3: Presentation of the options paper to the RHC and further discussion in March 2018.**

### 3. RHC Work Program

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#### Item 3.1 Project Update

Members noted the project update. All projects apart from NDRP Amendment 7 (User Disposal Code) were on today's agenda.

NDRP Amendment 7 is awaiting a response from the relevant NSW minister to be finalised. This matter has been outstanding since the last RHC meeting. The RHC member from NSW and the secretariat will liaise to expedite the matter.

Members also agreed to add another three projects to the list, namely, Amendment 8 to the NDRP (*inter alia* for the purpose of referencing the Planned Exposure Code), Review of Radiation Protection Series (RPS) 3, and an/the amendment to RPS 11.

**Action 4: Expedite the endorsement of NDRP Amendment 7 by the NSW Minister.**

#### Item 3.2 Medical Exposure Code (MEC)

**Mr Thomas**

Dr Thomas (ARPANSA) presented the agenda paper. Members agreed to provide feedback on the following by 13 April 2017:

- The accuracy of claims in the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) Preliminary Assessment and Gap Analysis
- Items on which specific comment is to be requested, when the MEC is circulated for public comment, which are to be included in an introductory letter.
- The draft Foreword for the MEC.

Members noted that if the OBPR does not accept the prepared preliminary assessment in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), then a Consultation RIS would have to be prepared before the MEC is released for public comment.

**Action 5: RHC Members to provide feedback by 13 April 2017.**

**Action 6: If RHC members' feedback on the preliminary assessment is positive, and the preliminary assessment is accepted by the OBPR, the MEC is endorsed to be circulated for public comment.**

**Item 3.3 Existing Exposure Guide**

**Dr Hirth**

Dr Hirth presented an update on the Existing Exposure Guide (EEG). Members discussed the appropriateness of a reference level of 6 mSv for aircrew. Members noted that International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP) *Publication 132* (2016) has proposed a reference level for aircrew between 5 and 10 mSv and a 6 mSv reference level was proposed based *inter alia* on the support from stakeholders.

Members noted that the public consultation on the EEG has just been completed on 10 March and agreed to consider the final draft of the EEG and public comments out of session. The final draft of the EEG and the public comments resolution table will be tabled at the next RHC meeting in June 2017 for approval.

**Action 7: Final Draft of EEG and public comments to be circulated to RHC out of session for feedback.**

**Action 8: Final draft of the EEG to be tabled at the RHC Meeting in June 2017 for approval.**

**Item 3.4 Emergency Exposure Guide**

**Dr Tinker**

Dr Tinker presented the Roadmap for Transition from RPS 7 to the new Emergency Exposure Guide.

Members agreed that they will be contacted for 'out of session' comment to review the draft Emergency Exposure Guide. Once comments have been reviewed and 'out of session approval' obtained, the draft Emergency Exposure Guide will go out for public consultation.

Dr Larsson agreed to take on the role of Project Manager.

**Action 9: The Emergency Exposure Guide to be circulated to RHC 'out of session' for review and possible approval to be circulated for public consultation.**

**Item 3.5 Intense Pulse Light Working Group**

**Mr Critchley**

The background, summary of issues and the way forward relating to the early draft 'Guidance for the use of IPL and laser devices in the beauty therapy and cosmetic industry' were presented to the Committee.

Members noted that the draft guidance for users and service providers is in a "Question and Answer" format to facilitate easy communication. Members also agreed that there is a need to ensure that the guidance document is easy to understand and disseminated using a variety of methods, including social media.

Members approved the "Question and Answer" format for the guidance material and agreed to review and comment on the guidance document out of session. It was agreed to allow full development of the guidance, to finalisation of the project, to proceed without the need for further formal approval by the RHC.

Members also asked ARPANSA to develop the options for recording and reporting incidents involving cosmetic IPL/laser treatment. A status report will be submitted to the next RHC meeting in June 2017.

**Action 10: Develop options for recording and reporting incidents involving cosmetic IPL/laser treatment and submit a status report at next RHC meeting in June 2017.**

**Item 3.5.1 Technical Report on Public Submission**

**Dr Tinker**

Members noted that the analysis of public submissions on the consultation regulatory impact statement (RIS) on the use of intense pulsed light (IPLs) sources and lasers for cosmetic or beauty therapy will be published as an ARPANSA Technical Report in March 2017 and circulated to RHC members.

**Item 3.6 National Model for Public Information**

**Dr Tinker**

Dr Tinker advised the Committee that ARPANSA is seeking to have a nationally uniform approach to providing information to the public on radiation protection. There is a wealth of expertise in ARPANSA and in the state and territory regulatory agencies. Providing consistent and well-articulated radiation safety and radiation health information to the public across Australia is important. This will require the skills of both scientific and community engagement experts.

Members agreed to form a 'public information working group' comprising representatives from Victoria, South Australia, ARPANSA, and the RHC Chair.

**Action 11: Form a working group to develop a national model for provision of information to the public on radiation issues.**

**Item 3.7 Proposed code on industrial radiography licence conditions**

**Mr Cleaves**

Members noted that the proposed code will be ready by the next RHC meeting in June 2017. It was clarified that the decision to prepare a code instead of model licence conditions was for practical reasons as a code would be incorporated in to the NDRP and generate national uniformity whereas model licence conditions would not necessarily do this.

**Action 12: Draft the code on industrial radiography licence conditions to be tabled at next RHC meeting in June 2017.**

**Item 3.8 Review of RPS 3**

**Mr Hocking**

Mr Hocking (Project manager) briefed members that he was working with ARPANSA staff to ensure that international developments including International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines are taken into account. A working group will be formed in the next few months with representation from representative stakeholders.

**Action 13: Progress work on review of RPS 3.**

**Item 3.9 Radiation Health Series (RHS) 35 – Disposal Code**

**Dr Hirth & Dr Sarkar**

Dr Hirth presented an overview of work on a code for the disposal of solid radioactive waste in Australia. Work on revision of RPS 35 had been suspended some time ago. RHS 35 had been inadvertently withdrawn from the ARPANSA website, but now reinstated. It was now timely to recommence work on revision of RPS 35. There was some concern regarding resourcing for the development of a new code. Members considered that given the current proposal for a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) the review of RHS 35 is timely. It was noted that RHS 35 is currently in use in WA. A few members queried why the replacement to RHS 35 has to be a code and not a guidance document. It was

clarified that the analysis for the OBPR preliminary assessment would lead to a determination of whether the replacement for RHS 35 would be a code or a guide. Members agreed that a work-plan to finalise this project, including a draft of the code, and a preliminary assessment for the OBPR is circulated out of session for RHC consultation.

It was agreed that the scope of this Code was to cover all forms of disposal of solid radioactive waste not just “near surface” disposal.

Mr Feldtman agreed to be the Project Manager for development of this document.

**Action: 14: Current Revised Draft of RPS 35 and Preliminary assessment for the OBPR to be circulated out of session.**

#### Item 3.10 Advice on RPS 11

Ms Murray

Ms Murray briefed the meeting based on the agenda paper. The Australian government had adopted a new National Terrorism Threat Advisory System (NTTAS). The revised threat levels and terminology rendered the terminology in RPS 11 out of date. Members agreed that there is a need for the reference to Threat Levels in RPS 11 to be replaced with the new National Terrorism Threat Advisory System implemented by the Australian Government. Members noted ARPANSA’s advice that the OBPR is likely to view the proposed amendment as machinery in nature.

Members also noted the progress of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA’s) Nuclear Security Series (NSS) 11 and agreed that an RPS 11 working group comprising Ms Murray, Mr Critchley and Mr Cleaves will consider how and when RPS 11 will be revised in line with NSS 11 by next RHC meeting in June 2017. Members discussed an issue regarding the need for transport security plans under RPS 11. The question is how often such a plan needs to be re-assessed by an accredited assessor, given that each assessment can cost about \$2,000. It was agreed that the RPS 11 working group will consider the matter.

**Action 15: Amend the terminology in RPS 11 to be consistent with NTTAS terminology.**

**Action 16: A working group to assess options for revision of RPS 11 in light of new international publications on security. A report on progress to be given at RHC meeting in June.**

## 4. General Information Items

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#### Item 4.1 Report from the Nuclear Safety Committee

Mr Lyons

Mr Lyon briefed members on the proceedings of the last Nuclear Safety Committee meeting held on 10 March 2017. Highlights included a tour to the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) Facility currently under construction, the expected ANM operating licence application and review of the Regulator Performance Framework.

#### Item 4.2 International Liaison

Mr Hemsley

Members noted the ARPANSA Overseas Travel Reports.

## 5. Closing

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### Item 5.1 Any Other Business

Chair

1. Dr Hirth informed the Committee that ARPANSA would be hosting the IAEA Regional Workshop from the 2 to 5 October 2017 in Melbourne and strongly encouraged Australian participation. The national workshop will run over 4 days with ARPANSA hosting the final day. Attendees will include key Australian stakeholders and representatives from emergency services.

2. A presentation by Mr John Ward (ARPANSA) on status of submission of radiation incident data by the jurisdictions to the ARIR.

#### **Action 17: Jurisdictions to address timeliness of incident reporting to the ARIR**

Dr Solomon (ARPANSA) made a presentation on the issue of radon levels in caves, which is relevant to tour guides working in caves. He said the issue arose largely from the change in dose coefficients by the ICRP. He suggested that further work on this issue could also be used to develop a national radon strategy, including ways to deal with radon in dwellings. Members noted the presentation and ARPANSA's clarification that the issue of radon in underground mines is being dealt with by ARPANSA in consultation with stakeholders. Members stressed that dose measurement and communication of risks to the public and occupationally exposed persons needed to be handled sensitively to avoid producing unnecessary fear.

Members agreed that ARPANSA will initially develop a report on the health and regulatory implications of the changed dose coefficients and circulate it to all regulators before the Committee considers the next steps in relation to a national radon strategy. Members also agreed to form a working group to develop measures to deal with radon in caves. This working group will comprise representatives from VIC, NSW, TAS and the Commonwealth.

**Action 18: ARPANSA to develop a report on the health implications arising from the ICRP change in dose coefficients for radon and circulate this to all regulators.**

**Action 19: A working group to develop advice on measures to address radiation protection of workers in caves.**

### Item 5.2 Next Meeting

Chair

The next meeting will be on 7 June 2017.

The meeting ended at 3:15 pm.