



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 14 March 2018
- Location:** Yarra Room, ARPANSA, 619 Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, VIC, 3085
- Chair:** Dr Roslyn Drummond
- Members:** Dr Roslyn Drummond (Chair); Ms Fay Bellis (Public Representative); Mr Mark Carey (NSW); Mr Noel Cleaves (VIC); Mr Simon Critchley (QLD); Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT); Ms Penny Hill (ACT); Dr Bruce Hocking (Member); Assoc. Prof. Tony Hooker (SA); Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (CEO of ARPANSA); Dr Stephen Newbery (TAS); Mr Duncan Surin (Alternate, WA); Dr Joanna Wriedt (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative)
- Secretariat:** Dr Samir Sarkar
- Scribe:** Ms Fritzi Callaway
- Apologies:** Ms Hazel Upton
- Invitees:** Mr Ryan Hemsley (ARPANSA) (for items 2.1 and 4.2)
Mr Selva Kumar (ARPANSA)
Dr Fiona Charalambous (ARPANSA) (for item 2.3.1)
Dr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA) (for item 3.1)
Dr Rick Tinker (ARPANSA) (for item 3.3, 3.5 and 3.7)
Mr Alex Kalaiziovski (ARPANSA) (for item 3.8 and 3.9)
Mr Garth Sheehy, Ms Julie Murray (ARPANSA) (for item 3.10)
- Observers:** Dr Gillian Hirth (Chief Radiation Health Scientist – Radiation Health Services); Mr Jim Scott (Acting Chief Regulatory Officer - Regulatory Services); Dr Ivan Williams (Chief Medical Radiation Scientist – Medical Radiation Services); Ms Ryan Hemsley (A/Chief of Staff – Office of the CEO)

1. Introductions and Standing Items

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Chair welcomed new Members, Assoc. Prof. Tony Hooker (SA), Mr Mark Carey (NSW), Dr Joanna Wriedt (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative) and Ms Fay Bellis (Public Representative). The Chair noted apologies from Ms Hazel Upton (WA) and also noted that Mr Stuart Lillie (New Zealand), normally an observer, was unable to attend.

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

The Chair noted that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 15 November 2017 had been approved out of session.

Item 1.3 Action and Business Arising

Chair

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

Action Item 30: Dr Williams provided verbal update regarding ARPANSA's relationship with TGA and MSAC on radiation health issues.

Action 1: Dr Williams to review ARPANSA's current relationships with the TGA and MSAC, and explore options going forward and report back at the next RHC meeting.

Item 1.4 Correspondence

Chair

Members noted the following correspondence:

1. Email correspondence from Mr Simon Critchley, Queensland, to the RHC Chair related to structure of the Draft Industrial Radiography Code.
2. Letter from Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, to Professor Rob Davidson, Medical Radiation Discipline Heads Group, in relation to national uniformity of radiation protection legislation.
3. Email from the Secretariat to the RHC members notifying the publication of the RHC Statement on the new radon dose coefficients: implications for worker dose assessments on ARPANSA website.
4. Letter from the CEO of ARPANSA to Professor Rob Davidson, Medical Radiation Discipline Heads Group, regarding national uniformity of radiation protection legislation.
5. Sydney Industry and Fiona Charalambous, Science Officer Waste Safety ARPANSA regarding discussions during Edition 2 NDRP Consultation.
6. Letters from Professor Rob Davidson, Medical Radiation Discipline Heads Group, University of Canberra, to Ministers for Health regarding non-uniformity of radiation protection legislation.
7. Email from the Secretariat to the RHC members notifying the release of Industrial Radiography Code on ARPANSA website for public comment.
8. Email from Mark Carey, NSW, to ARPANSA endorsing the release of Emergency Exposure Guide for public comment.
9. Dr Sue Wareham, President, MAPW & Dr Margaret Beavis, Secretary MAPW, to the CEO of ARPANSA with a copy to the RHC Chair expressing concerns about the current NRWMF process and the expansion of production of nuclear medicine at the ANM facility for export markets.

It was agreed to discuss the letter from the Minister for Qld Health and Ambulance at the next Radiation Regulators Network (RRN) meeting.

Action 2: The letter from the Minister for Qld Health and Ambulance was referred to the RRN, for discussion at RRN's discretion.

Item 1.5 Public Interest Issues

Ms Bellis

Ms Bellis advised Members that there have been no public interest issues raised. Ms Bellis requested an update on the status of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF). Dr Larsson provided a brief update on the status of the NRWMF, in particular as related to community engagement and mentioned that ARPANSA would travel to Kimba, Quorn and Hawker (SA) the following week for community engagement.

Item 1.6 Conflict of Interest Declarations

All Members

Assoc. Prof. Hooker declared a potential conflict of interest as the principal investigator of two externally funded research projects. The Chair noted the information. No actual or perceived conflict eventuated during the meeting. Previously declared interests are kept by the Secretariat.

2. National Uniformity

Item 2.1 IRRS Mission to Australia

Mr Hemsley

Mr Hemsley provided members with a verbal update on the progress of the IRRS Mission to Australia noting that this matter was discussed in detail at the RRN meeting on 13 March 2018.

Action 3: Mr Hemsley to email RHC Members from State and Territory Jurisdictions with a summary of discussions and a list of actions that resulted from the RRN Meeting on 13 March 2018.

Item 2.2 Roadmap for National Uniformity

Mr Cleaves / Mr Newbery / Mr Kumar

Mr Cleaves summarised the Options Paper on National Uniformity. Mr Cleaves thanked Dr Larsson for the work being done by the Commonwealth. The Members noted the formation of the RRN.

Dr Larsson stated that he provided an overview of the RHC's works on national uniformity at an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) led by the Department of Health and also provided an overview of the discussions at the IDC. Members agreed that the Options Paper, following signoff from all parties, could be provided to the Department of Health and to the IDC.

Action 4: The Members endorsed the recommendations in the Options Paper in principle, subject to out-of-session amendments.

Action 5: Mr Kumar to circulate amended Options Paper out of session for Members endorsement by 29 March.

Item 2.3 NDRP 2nd Edition

Mr Newbery / Mr Kumar

Mr Newbery and Mr Kumar provided a brief on the draft NDRP 2nd Edition. Mr Newbery expressed their thanks to ARPANSA for facilitating the process and for Mr Kumar's time.

The Members agreed to seek out of session approval from the COAG Health Council for the NDRP 2nd Edition and for the RHC to be the approving authority of amendments to Part B, the Schedules and Annexes of the NDRP.

Action 6: Mr Kumar to arrange a one-day workshop to progress the NDRP 2nd Edition.

(After-note: The NDRP 2nd edition is being progressed through teleconferences)

Action 7: Mr Kumar to circulate amended NDRP 2nd Edition to the RHC for approval prior to seeking COAG Health Council approval out of session.

Action 8: The Members agreed to seek out of session approval from the COAG Health Council for the RHC to be the approving authority of amendments to Part B, the Schedules and Annexes of the NDRP.

Action 9: Members noted the formation of the Radiation Regulators Network

Item 2.3.1 **User Disposal Code**

Dr Charalambous

Dr Charalambous provided an update on the Code for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste by the User. Schedule 14 of the NDRP has been drafted as a stand alone Code with three general requirements. The requirements set out the disposal and discharge values for the disposal of radioactive material to landfill, and discharge into sewers and the atmosphere, below which no authorisation normally would be required, from the relevant regulatory authority, and below which disposal can normally be performed safely. There has been no material change compared to Schedule 14 of the current NDRP. Thus Edition 2 of the NDRP becomes a document with focus on policies and principles, and the new Code will be referred to in the schedule of the NDRP Edition 2, which is in preparation.

The Members endorsed the publication of Schedule 14 of NDRP as the Code for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste by the User.

Action 10: ARPANSA to publish the Code for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste by the User.

Item 2.4 **RHC Projects Update**

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar provided an update on the priorities and progress of the current RHC Projects.

3. RHC Work Program – Action

Item 3.1 **Medical Exposure Code (MEC)**

Mr Critchley / Dr Thomas

Dr Thomas provided a verbal update on the status of the Medical Exposure Code (MEC). He advised the Members that the MEC is currently out for public comment, closing on 25 May 2018.

Action 11: Dr Thomas to provide an update on the progress of the MEC at the July 2018 RHC meeting.

Item 3.2 **Emergency Exposure Guide**

Dr Hirth

Dr Hirth provided an update on the current status of the Emergency Exposure Guide. Dr Hirth advised the Members that the draft Emergency Exposure Guide will be made available for public comment next week for an extended period of three months. A stakeholder strategy will be implemented in order to engage and inform interested parties of the new Guide. Dr Hirth advised that the Working Group will contact all interested parties that have been identified to comment on the Emergency Exposure Guide.

Action 12: The Members noted the current status of the Emergency Exposure Guide.

Action 13: Dr Hirth to provide a detailed update on the Emergency Exposure Guide at the next RHC meeting in July 2018.

Item 3.3 **IPL Working Group**

Mr Critchley / Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker provided the Members with an update on the cosmetic laser and IPL advisory and guidance documents. The IPL Working Group and the ARPANSA Communications team have developed mature drafts of the guidance documents. Three products are now ready for publication on the ARPANSA website for stakeholder consultation. Dr Tinker advised that letters of engagement have been sent to the jurisdictions with a requested reply by 6 April 2018.

The Members noted that the guidance documents for the safe application of cosmetic procedures using lasers and IPLs and the ARPANSA advisory note are undergoing draft finalisation and will be placed on the ARPANSA website for public consultation.

Action14: Members noted the work done and requested a progress report on the progress of the incident reporting system as it is developed

Item 3.4 Review of RPS3

Mr Hocking

Dr Hocking provided an update on the review of RPS3 and advised that no further comments have been received on the revised concept draft. Dr Hocking advised that they are currently waiting for the revised ICNIRP guidelines to be published around June 2018 for public comment so its exposure limits can be considered for use in the concept draft. Dr Tinker advised the Members that there has been no progress on revising the suspended draft “Fundamentals in Non-Ionising Radiation” due to resource restrictions.

The Members noted the current status of the RPS3 review.

Action 15: Providing the Fundamental Principles as philosophy document is published, the Working Group will aim to have draft RPS3 document ready for the November 2018 RHC meeting.

Action 16: The Working Group will aim to have a mature draft of “Fundamentals in Non-Ionising Radiation” ready for the November 2018 RHC meeting.

Item 3.5 National Model for Public Information

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker provided a verbal update on the National Model for Public Information. The Radon Advisory was well received and Members commented on the ease of access, especially through twitter. The Members noted the current status of the National Model for Public Information.

Item 3.6 RHS 35 – Disposal Code

Dr Hirth / Dr Sarkar

Dr Hirth provided an update on the status of the Disposal Code. The draft Code was available for public comment from 21 December to 23 February 2018. The consultation was publicised by ARPANSA on social media (Facebook and Twitter). Key stakeholders were contacted by email and advised of the opportunity to provide comments. The Working Group will now review and respond to all comments.

The Members noted the current status of the Disposal Code.

Action 17: Working Group to provide an updated draft of the Code and the responses to the public comments at the July 2018 RHC meeting.

Item 3.7 Australian National Dose Register

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker provided a verbal update on the Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR). Mr Surin advised the Members that WA is supportive in principle of the ANRDR becoming an approved central record keeping agency for WA. WA is seeking further legal advice on this matter.

The Members noted the current status of the ANRDR.

Action 18: Mr Surin to report on progress at next RHC in July 2018.

Action 19: Dr Tinker to circulate draft Personal Radiation Monitoring Service (PRMS) document related to ‘minimum set of accreditation requirements for third-party service providers’ to RHC for review and discussion at the next RHC meeting in July with a view to progressing it further.

Item 3.8 **Proposed Code on industrial radiography licence conditions** **Mr Cleeves / Mr Kalaiziovski**

Mr Kalaiziovski presented a paper on the Code for Radiation Protection Requirements for Industrial Radiography, RPS C-4. Mr Kalaiziovski advised the Members of the response received from the OBPR on 27 November 2017 that included the following advice:

Based on the information provided, the OBPR agrees that at this stage the proposed changes to Radiation Protection Requirements for Industrial Radiography appear to be minor and therefore no further analysis in the form of a Regulatory Impact Statement is required.

A public consultation draft RPS C-4 was posted on ARPANSA's website from 9 January to 26 February 2018. A resolution table of Public Comments and amended versions of draft RPS C-4 were prepared and circulated for the committee's review.

The Members approved the Resolution Table of Public Comments.

The Members approved the draft RPS C-4 for publication.

Action 20: Dr Larsson to circulate approved draft RPS C-4 to Radiation Health & Safety Council Members for endorsement. The Secretariat will notify the RHC once the approved draft is published.

Item 3.9 **ISEMIR – Information System on Occupational Exposure in Medicine, Industry and Research** **Mr Kalaiziovski**

Mr Kalaiziovski made a presentation on the Information System on Occupational Exposure in Medicine, Industry and Research (ISEMIR). RHC Members discussed how the Australian Industry sector could contribute to the two specific topical areas of ISEMIR (Industrial radiography and Interventional cardiology) and the synergies with ANRDR. It was agreed that the RRN can encourage stakeholders to watch the video for improving their practices.

Action 21: Dr Hirth to explore the possibility and options of our current MoU with the IAEA, "Practical Arrangements between the IAEA and the ARPANSA on Cooperation in the Area of Developing Guidance Material to Support Safety Standards Applicable to the Uranium Mining and Processing Industry" and report back at the next RHC meeting in July 2018.

Action 22: The link to the ISEMIR will be posted on the ARPANSA website. The RHC will be notified once posted.

Item 3.10 **Radiation Security Background Checking Framework** **Mr Sheehy / Ms Murray/Mr Castle**

Mr Sheehy, Ms Murray and Mr Castle provided an update on the status of the Radiation Security Background Checking Framework in light of Code of Practice for Security of Radioactive. Members discussed the relevant issues in this regard including legislative changes in jurisdictions and agreed to progress the work on this framework by forming a working group.

Action 23: The Members agreed to form a Working Group to progress and finalise the Radiation Security Background Checking Framework process and explore options of implementation for the Committee's consideration. The Working Group will consist of Mr Carey (RHC Project Manager), Mr Cleaves, Assoc. Prof. Hooker, Ms Murray, Mr Sheehy and Mr Castle. The Working Group will report back at the next RHC meeting in July.

4. General Information Items

Item 4.1 RHC Terms of Reference for Meetings

Dr Larsson

Dr Larsson provided a verbal update on the RHC Terms of Reference (ToR) for meetings. Dr Larsson advised Members that the following terms were agreed to at the last meeting: jurisdictions will have the opportunity to host RHC meetings; jurisdictional members will fund their own travel; and ARPANSA will fund travel for non-jurisdictional members.

Members noted and endorsed the direction that amendment of the ToR is taking.

Action 24: Dr Larsson agreed to amend the RHC ToR to reflect the roles and expectations of the advisory bodies. This is to be completed out of session and the updated version to be circulated the RHC Members.

Item 4.2 Terms of Reference for Radiation Regulators' Network

Mr Newbery / Mr Critchley / Mr Cleaves

Mr Newbery provided an update on the RRN Terms of Reference (ToR) and provided a preliminary list of projects. The RRN agreed to meet on 2 May 2018 face to face following the NDRP Workshop in Adelaide on 1 May 2018. Dr Larsson suggested amending the ToR to include additional procedural items. Ms Bellis suggested incorporating the terms of the relationship between the RRN and the RHC into the ToR, possibly in the form of a preamble, highlighting that the RRN is not formally reporting to the RHC.

Members noted and agreed in principle to endorse the RRN ToR once amended. Members also noted the draft work program of the RRN.

Item 4.3 International Liaison

Mr Wahl

Mr Wahl provided the Members with a verbal update on ARPANSA's International Engagement activities including the following:

IAEA Safety Standards Committee – new cycle

Appointments for the next 3-year cycle.

- Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC) - Vaz Mottl rep, Francesca Wigney alt
- Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC) - Alex Kalaiziovski rep; Fiona Charalambous and Maddison Shaw alt
- Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) - Samir Sarkar rep; Julia Carpenter alt
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPreSC) - Marcus Grzechnik rep; Scott Muston alt
- Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) - John Templeton rep; Keith Dessent alt

Recent/Upcoming Delegations to ARPANSA

- Thailand delegation – including their National Security Council Advisor and Office of Atoms for Peace staff. Covered radiological security and emergency response
- Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) to visit ARPANSA the following week to discuss waste management, safety standards (specifically GSR Part 3) and ACDS. They will also be visiting Ranger Mine and OPAL reactor while here.
- Indonesia's BAPETEN to visit ARPANSA in April to discuss transport safety/security.

Outgoing Delegations

Sixth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention

- The Australian Delegation comprises ARPANSA, ANSTO, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and the Mission in Vienna.
- Dr Geoff Williams and Dr Fiona Charalambous, both from ARPANSA will be co-vice president and rapporteur, respectively.

Next month, Dr Larsson will be attending the Commission of Safety Standards (CSS) meeting.

5. Closing

Item 5.1 **Any other business** **Dr Drummond**

Item 5.1.1 **Changes to the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2018**

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar provided an update on the changes to the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2018 and presented the table of changes between the 2012 and 2018 editions of SSR-6 for consideration by the Members. He advised the Committee that SSR-6 2018 Edition is expected to be published in June 2018. Dr Sarkar advised that he would provide a progress report on the revision of RPS C-2 incorporating SSR-6 2018 Edition.

The Members noted the changes between SSR-6 2012 Edition and 2018 Edition.

Action 25: Members approved the revision RPS C-2 adopting SSR-6 2018 Edition.

Action 26: Members approved the consequential revision of the associated guide.

Action 27: Dr Sarkar to provide a progress report on the revision of RPS C-2 at the next RHC meeting in July 2018.

Item 5.1.2 **Comment on IAEA draft documents**

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar advised the Members that the IAEA NST050 - Preparation, Conduct and Evaluation of Exercises for Detection of and Response to Acts Involving Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control security document is currently open for comment on the ARPANSA website.

Item 5.1.3 **CT Diagnostic Reference Levels**

Dr Thomas

Dr Thomas provided an update on the Adult (15+ years) MDCT Australian Diagnostic Levels. He advised the Members that the new DRL's should take effect from 1 July 2018 and that there would be a period of transition until 1 January 2019. Dr Thomas advised the Committee that the transition period would be conveyed once the new DRLs have been published.

Item 5.1.4 **Closure criteria for mines**

Dr Larsson

Dr Larsson presented the draft Terms of Reference to provide Australian Guidance on Radiological Considerations on Closure, Handover and Post Closure Monitoring and Surveillance of Practices.

Action 28; A Working Group be established to develop a scope of work and draft the Terms of Reference for a working group to develop Australian Guidance on Radiological Considerations on Closure, Handover and Post Closure Monitoring and Surveillance of Practices.

The Working Group consists of Mr Feldtman (project manager), Assoc. Prof. Hooker and Mr Cleaves. Mr Feldtman will nominate a participant from DIPR, Assoc. Prof. Hooker will nominate someone from SA and Mr Cleaves will nominate someone from VIC. All nominations to be forwarded to the Secretariat by 23 March 2018.

After-note: Following the meeting, the Secretariat received the nominations from NT, SA and VIC.

Item 5.2 Next Meeting 18 July 2018

Dr Drummond

The next RHC meeting will take place in Hobart on 18 July 2018.

The meeting closed at 4:30pm.