



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 15 November 2017
- Location:** Wattle Room ARPANSA, Level 3 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda NSW 2228
- Members:** Dr Roslyn Drummond (Chair); Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (CEO of ARPANSA); Mr Keith Baldry (SA); Mr Noel Cleaves (VIC); Mr Simon Critchley (QLD); Mr Len Potapof (NSW); Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT); Dr Stephen Newbery (TAS); Dr Peter Karamoskos (Public Representative); Dr Bruce Hocking (Member); Mr Robert Lyon (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative); Ms Penny Hill (ACT); Ms Hazel Upton (WA)
- Secretary:** Dr Samir Sarkar
- Scribe:** Mr Garth Sheehy
- Apologies:** Nil
- Invitees:** Mr Ryan Hemsley (ARPANSA) (for items 2.1 and 4.2)
Mr Selva Kumar (ARPANSA) (for item 2.2, 2.3, 3.1)
Mr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA) (for item 3.1)
Dr Rick Tinker (ARPANSA) (for item 3.5, 3.8)
Mr Alex Kalaiziovski (ARPANSA) (for item 3.9)
- Observers:** Mr Stuart Lillie (NZ); Mr Jim Scott (Acting Chief Inspector - Regulatory Services); Dr Gillian Hirth (Chief Radiation Health Scientist); Dr Ivan Williams (Chief Medical Radiation Scientist); Mr Duncan Surin (WA); Mr Mark Carey (NSW Environment Protection Authority); Ms Rebecca Everett and Ms Gillian Shaw (Department of Health)

1. Introductions and Standing Items

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

Chair called the meeting to order. The Chair noted the participation of Ms Hazel Upton (WA) and Mr Duncan Surin in the meeting via telephone; and welcomed Mr Stuart Lillie back as an international observer.

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

Members confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 June 2017.

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

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

Item 1.4 Correspondence

Chair

Members noted the following correspondence:

1. Communication from Mr Simon Critchley regarding prosecution of a company after radiation injury.
2. Communication from the Secretariat requesting comments on the following two IAEA documents:
 - Arrangements for Public Communication in Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (DS475)
 - Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (DS 496)
3. Mr Jim Scott informed the Committee about an overexposure at ANSTO Health.

Item 1.5 Public Interest Issues

Dr Karamoskos

Dr Karamoskos advised Members of issues relating to the community consultation about the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in the Hawker area.

Dr Karamoskos advised Members of research into the potential occupational dose to eyes for radiologists that emphasises the need for practitioners to wear lead glasses.

Mr Baldry advised members of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission had received a public consultation award for its engagement with the indigenous community.

Item 1.6 Conflict of Interest Declarations

All Members

Nil

2. National Uniformity - Action

Item 2.1 IRRS Mission to Australia

Mr Hemsley

Mr Hemsley provided the Members with a verbal update on the status of the IRRS Mission to Australia.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has advised ARPANSA that the lead for the IRRS mission to Australia has been confirmed as the Head of the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, STUK.

The IRRS mission preparatory meeting is to be held in Vienna on 9-10 April.

Item 2.2 Roadmap for National Uniformity

Dr Newbery and Mr Kumar

Mr Newbery provided Members with a presentation on the National Directory for Radiation Protection (NDRP), aimed at achieving the objective of:

‘A seamless regulatory experience for the safe use of radiation’

The presentation provided a historical perspective on achieving a uniform approach to radiation regulation in Australia. The matters considered by the working group to make the National Directory for Radiation

Protection (NDRP) more effective were presented. They suggested that revision of the NDRP should consider:

- Agility by process
- Agility by reference
- Agility by maintaining currency with regulatory issue

Action 1: The working Group to continue consideration of models for uniform national regulation of radiation in Australia and to present their preferred model to RHC at the March 2018 meeting.

Item 2.3 **NDRP amendment 8**

Dr Newbery and Mr Kumar

Mr Newbery provided Members with a verbal update on the progress of NDRP amendment 8. The question of how to move this process forward to completion within an agreed timeframe was raised. It is planned to utilise recent lessons learned from in person consultation with several jurisdictions to improve the effectiveness of consultation, and to undertake visits to conduct one on one sessions with the remaining jurisdictions. It was agreed that the proposed 2nd Edition of the NDRP would be circulated out of session. NSW indicated it would provide a formal response to the NDRP draft already circulated. Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson indicated his desire to be involved as corresponding member of the working group.

Action 2: Dr Larsson to be included in the National Uniformity Working Group as corresponding member.

Action 3: The working group to complete visits to, and in person consultation with, the remaining jurisdictions

Action 4: All jurisdictions to provide feedback on the circulated draft NDRP to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Action 5: Revised Draft NDRP (amendment 8) to be circulated by mid-February 2018 to allow jurisdictions adequate time to consideration of the draft, prior to the March 2018 RHC meeting.

Item 2.4 **RHC Project Management Process**

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar proposed a more streamlined and efficient project management process by reducing the current 21 step process to 11 steps. Dr Larsson emphasised the importance of the assessment process in ensuring standards developed overseas are suitable for use in an Australian context.

Action 6: Members endorsed the proposed revised RHC Project management Process.

Action 7: ARPANSA to develop a process for assessing the suitability of international standards to apply to the risks and regulatory environment in Australia and hence their suitability for adoption within Australia. To be reported at the RHC in March 2018.

3. RHC Work Program – Action (cont.)

Item 3.1 Medical Exposure Code (MEC) and associated documents

Mr Simon Critchley

Mr Critchley acknowledged the contribution of Mr Paul Marks and Mr Peter Thomas. Mr Critchley advised that the changes agreed at the last RHC meeting had been included and all the comments had been addressed. Members endorsed the changes to the draft and the OBPR (Office of the Best Practice Regulation) Preliminary Assessment.

After note: On 20 November 2017, the OBPR advised that the Preliminary Assessment was acceptable and no RIS would be required.

Action 8: The OBPR Preliminary Assessment was approved and is to be submitted.

Action 9: The RHC approved the release of the draft Medical Exposure Code for public comment, if the OBPR agrees to the Preliminary Assessment.

Item 3.2 Emergency Exposure Guide

Dr Gillian Hirth

Drs Hirth and Tinker presented the update on out of session consultation on the latest draft of the Emergency Exposure Guide. Members were advised of the discussion of the draft guide at the meeting held in connection with an IAEA emergency preparedness workshop hosted by ARPANSA. It is planned to divide the document into three sections to aid understanding and useability by stakeholders. The committee endorsed this approach.

Action 10: The RHC approved the proposed plan to further development of the Guide

Action 11: Members agreed to review the final draft of the Emergency Exposure Guide out of session and consider its suitability for release for public comment out of session.

Item 3.3 IPL working group

Mr Critchley

Mr Critchley advised on behalf of the IPL working group that the current understanding of the potential magnitude of IPL incidents in cosmetic treatments is limited due to the non-harmonised approach for incident reporting requirements. To reduce this gap in knowledge a nationally uniform mechanism is required for reporting injuries resulting from lasers during cosmetic treatments. Logically this should be based at ARPANSA. It is noted that the existing Radiation Incident Register received no reports on IPLs and laser injury emphasising the fact that this information was not coming to the radiation regulators. It was agreed that ARPANSA would lead the development of a proposal to move forward for capturing incidents related to lasers and IPLs in cosmetic treatments. Members considered that it would be beneficial if ARPANSA, on behalf of the RHC, writes to relevant Health Jurisdictions to explore whether jurisdictional registers of such incidents are available. State/Territory would provide relevant contact details to the Secretariat. Dr Newbery suggested that it would be beneficial for the RHC to hear from a laser and IPL expert about cosmetic treatment incidents and the risk associated with such incidents. He suggested inviting a guest speaker on laser and IPLs to the RHC, and members agreed to that proposal.

Action 12: ARPANSA would lead the development of a proposal for capturing incidents related to lasers and IPLs.

Action 13: ARPANSA to write to the Health Authority and Consumer Affairs Department in each jurisdiction requesting what, if any, data they have on adverse effects of IPL and lasers in the cosmetic industry.

Action 14: Members to provide contact details of the relevant Health authority and Consumer Affairs Departments in their jurisdiction to the Secretariat within two weeks.

Action 15: Dr Newbery to advise the Secretariat about the guest speaker on laser and IPLs.

Item 3.4 **Review of RPS 3**

Dr Hocking

Dr Hocking provided an update on the progress of the concept draft of the revised RPS 3. It was agreed that the revision of the document be continued noting that the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines will be published in mid-2018. In addition, Dr Hocking informed the members that in the past the ICNIRP glossary had been less than clear regarding the applications of occupational and community exposure limits, and that this development in Australia may be a constructive contribution to the new guidelines. Dr Larsson invited members to consider the 'Fundamentals' as a way to move forward regarding justification and optimisation of exposures. It was agreed that members would provide feedback by February 2018 out of session.

Action 16: Members to provide feedback on the concept draft by February 2018.

Action17: The working group to review and revise the suspended existing draft "Fundamentals in Non-Ionising Radiation" for the RHC to consider in 2018.

Item 3.5 **National Model for Public Information**

Dr Tinker

Members noted that the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has recently re-evaluated the dose coefficients for radon progeny and intends to publish *Publication 137, Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides: Part 3 (OIR Part 3)*, which includes the revised dose coefficients, in early 2018. It was agreed to publish an advisory on radon dose coefficients as well as a RHC statement after publication of OIR Part 3. Members were request to provide editorial comment on the draft RHC Statement within one week.

After note: Following the meeting, Members provided comment on the draft RHC Statement that the first paragraph needed to be rewritten.

Action 17: The RHC approved the Advisory Note on "New Dose Coefficients for Radon Progeny"

Action18: The RHC approved publishing the new advisory and RHC statement incorporating updated radon dose coefficients after publication of IRCP 137, OIR Part 3.

Action 19: ARPANSA to revise the first paragraph of the RHC Statement.

Action20: Relevant jurisdictional Regulators to hold a teleconference to discuss local communication strategies.

Item 3.6 RHS 35 – Disposal Code**Dr Hirth and Dr Sarkar**

Dr Hirth provided an update on the Disposal Code including the transition roadmap (gap analysis) from RHS 35 to the Disposal Code. Members were informed that the OBPR has decided that there is no need for a consultation RIS.

Action 21: The RHC approve the draft Disposal Code (RHS 35) to be sent out for public consultation.

Item 3.7 Revision of RPS 11**Mr Critchley and Mr Cleaves**

Mr Cleaves informed on the progress on the review of RPS 11. Recent changes to the national threat alert level categories are not consistent with those used in RPS 11 Code of Practice. Revising RPS 11 by adopting the new threat level categories requires some additional text changes of the advice provided in RPS 11 to clarify the procedural security outcomes a person dealing with Category 1, 2 and 3 radioactive sources would be required to achieve under the new threat level scale. The planned extensive gap analysis of RPS 11 based on NSS11 has not yet begun due to delay in publication of NSS11. The working group are considering a way forward.

Item 3.8 Australian National Dose Register**Dr Tinker**

The Australian National Dose Register (ANRDR) is expanding with a vision for being the long term storage and maintenance of the dose records of all occupationally exposed employees in Australia. Members discussed the benefits of the ANRDR as a central record keeping agency. It was indicated that the system could be designed in such a way that State/Territory regulators are able to interrogate this system as well as enter data..

Action 22: The RHC approved the ANRDR as a Central Record Keeping Agency as noted in Code of Radiation Protection for Planned Exposure Situations (RPS C-1); WA abstained

Action 23: WA to advise the Secretariat of their decision regarding ANRDR by 15 December 2017.

Item 3.9 Proposed Code on industrial radiography licence conditions**Mr Kalaiziovski**

Mr Kalaiziovski briefed the Committee on the Industrial Radiography Code including the resolution of the comments made by members and the OBPR Preliminary Assessment. After discussion, members agreed to send the draft for stakeholders' comments. Mr Critchley stated that Qld would provide feedback on the draft code to the Secretariat in a week time, particularly if there was anything in the draft that in a major way would affect the industry. Members also agreed to the preliminary assessment that regulatory impact for compliance with the proposed code is low. The document will be sent out for stakeholders' comment if the OBPR does not require a RIS.

Action 24: Queensland jurisdiction to provide their feedback within the week

Action 25: The RHC approved the draft Code Radiation Protection Requirements for Industrial Radiography to send out for public comment if the OBPR accepts the Preliminary Assessment.

4. General information items

Item 4.1 RHC Administrative and Financial arrangements

Dr Larsson

Dr Larsson presented proposed administrative and financial arrangements for the RHC including change in meeting duration, frequency and location of the meetings, and financial support for attending the RHC meeting. Members discussed the implementation of the proposed Administrative and Financial arrangements for meetings over the next triennium 2018-2020. Members considered reducing the frequency and possibly extending the duration of the meeting to include re-establishment of a Radiation Regulator's Forum (RRF)/ Radiation Regulators' Network (RRN) so that the regulators will have adequate opportunity to discuss relevant regulatory issues. It was agreed that Dr Larsson would develop the terms of reference (TOR) for the revised arrangements for the RHC meetings and Mr Critchley would develop the TOR for RRN.

Action 26: Dr Larsson to draft new terms of reference for the RHC meetings for discussion at the March meeting

Action 27: Mr Critchley to draft new terms of reference for Radiation Regulators' Network for discussion at the March meeting.

Item 4.2 Report from the Nuclear Safety Committee

Mr Lyon

Mr Lyon provided members with a verbal update on the activities of the Nuclear Safety Committee including the NSC advice on regulatory assessment of ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Operating Licence Application and validation of the Regulator Performance Framework.

Item 4.3 International Liaison

Mr Hemsley

Mr Hemsley provided members a verbal presentation via teleconference on ARPANSA's international engagement activities including the Office of the CEO's engagements at the IAEA General Conference, regional safety and security activities. Members were informed of up-coming engagements with Singapore (NEA); and Indonesia (BAPATEN).

Item 4.4 Next triennial RHC Membership

Dr Larsson

Dr Larsson advised the Committee of the new RHC membership for the next triennium pending consultation with the RHSAC (Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council).

Dr Drummond (Chair) and Members thanked the outgoing members Mr Baldry, Dr Karamoskos, Mr Potapof, and Mr Lyon for their service and comradery on the RHC.

5. Closing

Item 5.1 Any Other Business

Chair

Item 5.1.1 Timely verification of import permit licence by State and Territory regulators

Dr Sarkar

Dr Sarkar informed members of the need for timely verification of import permit licence by State and Territory regulators. Pressure on services due to a reduction in staff and administrative issues such as paperwork not signed by the person licenced to receive an import of a radioactive source contribute to the timeframe for giving regulatory approval. This was identified as an issue for discussion at the RRF.

Item 5.1.2 Comments on IAEA draft documents

Dr Sarka

Members were reminded to provide comments on the following IAEA documents, which were circulated in August and September 2017 respectively:

- Arrangements for Public Communication in Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (DS475)
- Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (DS 496)

Members were informed that the new edition of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (SSR-6) is expected to be published in 2018. Dr Sarkar was requested to provide a comparison of the changes between the current Transport Regulations and new edition of the Transport Regulations.

Action 28: Dr Sarkar to provide members with a comparison table of the proposed changes to the Transport Regulations at the next RHC meeting

Item 5.1.3 Relationship with TGA and MSAC

Dr Newbery suggested that RHC could play an important role, through ARPANSA, in raising safety and effectiveness of medical technologies and products involving radiation. This includes communication and/or liaising with MSAC (Medical Services Advisory Committee) and TGA. Dr Ivan Williams will provide an update regarding the relationship between the RHC and the TGA and MSAC on radiation health issues at the next meeting.

Action 30: Dr Williams to update the RHC about the relationship with TGA and MSAC on radiation health issues.

Item 5.1.4 Caesium Industrial Irradiators

Members were informed of the phasing out of Caesium Irradiators in industry in some jurisdictions.

Item 5.1.5 Mobile CT scanner

Members were informed of the introduction of a mobile CT Scanning unit in Victoria. The CT scan was installed in an Ambulance dedicated to treatment of stroke patients.

Item 5.2 **Next Meeting**

Chair

The next meeting will be on 13-14 March 2017. Location and venue for the next meeting to be determined.

Meeting closed at 4:30 pm.