

Just as we strive to minimise people's UV and Asbestos exposure, ARPANSA's goal should be to minimise people's exposure to radiation and radioactive particles. The best way of doing that is by minimising the production of long-lived radioactive waste. Where is most long-lived radioactivity produced in Australia? ANSTO.

Workers have to handle radioactive waste, there is the risk of extra Gamma radiation exposure and the risk of inhaling or ingesting radioactive particles. Often a dental X-ray is equated with inhaling or ingesting radioactive particles. This is extremely misleading and dishonest. Inhaled or ingested particles could remain in a person for many years, creating a much higher long-term risk, especially to the young. There is also the risk of radioactive waste contamination if an accident occurred during transportation.

New techniques have been developed to create medical isotopes that do not involve creating nuclear reactor waste. For example, Canada's research work using Cyclotrons to produce Technetium 99, North America's move to linear accelerators. The Netherlands is doing promising work with electron accelerators.

ANSTO has the high security and space for storing the nuclear waste it has created. Creating a new repository will only encourage them to produce more waste at taxpayer's expense. If a new repository had to be created, it needs to be away from rail and port facilities, otherwise nuclear proponents will be lobbying hard to evolve the repository into an international nuclear waste repository. The bottom of Radium Hill mine would have plenty of space for ANSTO's nuclear waste, as long ANSTO was actively transitioning to cleaner particle accelerators for doing its work.