

RADIOGRAPHERS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2007

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Dr Len Notaras Chairman
Mr Mark Palmer
Mr Roger Weckert
Mr Rama Genga

BOARD SUPPORT

Ms Jill Huck Registrar
Ms Colette Pethick Policy & Research
Ms Sally Forrstrom Complaints
Ms Julie Burrows Registrations

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2007, an exciting and challenging year is anticipated.

This and future Newsletters will provide ongoing feedback in relation to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), National Registration and Accreditation model.

COAG plans to commence the new arrangements for regulation and accreditation of 10 professional groups in July 2008. These health professions are as follows:

Medical Practitioners; Chiropractors; Dental (Dentists, Dental Specialists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Prosthetists); Nurses & Midwives; Optometrists; Osteopaths; Pharmacists; Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Psychologists. Some consideration is currently being given to the inclusion of other professions.

At this point in time it is projected that Radiographers, Occupational Therapists and Aboriginal Health Workers will continue to be regulated under current Northern Territory legislation.

The Chairs of the Northern Territory Boards listed above (with the exception of podiatrist as this profession is not regulated in the NT) have forwarded a submission to COAG Health Working Group and the NT Government.

Minister Abbott's speech on Friday 16 February indicates the Commonwealth's

support for a model that includes profession specific national Boards.

The Board has been disappointed with the number of registrants who have allowed their registration to lapse and have practised unlicensed for a period. Should you find yourself in this situation, it is in the best interest of your clients, yourself and your employer to rectify the situation immediately.

It is in your best interest to ensure you keep your annual practising certificates (APC) in a secure place and check it for the following:

- the date on which your APC expires;
- the accuracy of information on your APC.

Please contact the Board immediately if the details on your APC are incorrect.

Please contact the Board if you have items of interest you would like the Board to address in Newsletters. The Board encourages you to share this Newsletter with your colleagues and employer.

Dr Len Notaras
Chair

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The following policies have been revised and are available on the Board's website: www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards

The website provides access to the following:

- Applications for registration;
- Policies and Guidelines;
- Board contact details, and
- The register of radiographers (at a given date).

KNOW YOUR ACT

Practising Unlicensed
s8 (2) of the *Radiographers Act* a person shall not carry out a radiographic procedure unless he/she is a registered radiographer holding a current practising certificate.

RADIOGRAPHERS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2007

The Board continues to be concerned that radiographers have been found to be practising unlicensed in the Northern Territory.

Important Information for Radiographers and Employers re Practising Unlicensed

From time to time persons found to be practising unlicensed have expressed frustration and have accused the Board of being too bureaucratic in its approach. However, it is important for people to understand that practising unlicensed is a breach of the *Radiographers Act*. Practising unlicensed may also affect your indemnity arrangements, access to Medicare rebates (as applicable), and cause the practitioners professional embarrassment and to be in breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

Section 52 of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* makes it an offence, in trade or commerce, to engage in conduct that is either misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive. Pursuant to section 6 (4) (b) of this Act, the promotional activities of professionals are included and therefore it is possible for a person who unlawfully uses the title of radiographer to be prosecuted for breaching this section through the use of a title, which either misleads or deceives the public or is likely to mislead or deceive the public.

S 18 Offences in relation to practice

- (1) A person other than a registered radiographer shall not:
- (a) take or use the title of radiographer;
 - (b) represent themselves in any way as being a radiographer; or
 - (c) do or suffer any act or thing from which it can be reasonably inferred they are, or are acting as, a radiographer.
- (2) Subject to this Act, a person shall not carry out a radiographic procedure unless –
- (a) they are a registered radiographer holding a current practising certificate; and
 - (b) the procedure is carried out at the direction of a registered medical practitioner.

S 19 Persons exempted

- (1) A person who is undergoing an approved course of training in radiographic procedures may carry out a radiographic procedure but only at the direction of a medical practitioner and –
- (a) under the supervision of a person who is a registered radiographer holding a current practising certificate; or
 - (b) in accordance with a permit granted under section 20 (1)

S 20 Permit for specific radiographic procedures

- (1) The Board may grant to a person a permit to carry out radiographic procedures specified in the permit.

STATISTICS

Registrations as at 28 February 2007

104 Radiographers were registered in the Northern Territory.

S20 Permits

161 health practitioners (chiropractors, dentists, dental specialists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, medical practitioners, registered nurses and PDY1 radiographers), currently hold a permit to conduct radiographic procedures in the Northern Territory.

Professional Conduct

The Board has no formal complaints before it at this time.

CHANGED YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS RECENTLY?

Please let us know **in writing** (via post, email or fax) if you have changed your name or professional or personal address.

OUR ADDRESS IS:

Radiographers Board of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 4221 DARWIN NT 0801
Telephone: +61 8 8999 4157
Fax: +61 8 8999 4196
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www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards

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