

An **evolving** world



As this is my last message as President, I would like to begin by thanking all those who have helped, assisted, guided and worked with me over the past four years. No one could have predicted the events that have occurred since I took over the reins as President, particularly that the world would be enduring a pandemic, now into the third year. I am grateful to the members for placing their confidence in me to lead the organisation, first in 2018 for the three-year period, and then in voting to extend my tenure by

another year in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. It has been an honour to be the President of ASMIRT and the knowledge and experience I have gained over this time has been invaluable. I could not have undertaken the role without the support of those around me and I am truly thankful for this. In my time serving on the Board of Directors and as President, I have seen how much time and energy is devoted to ensuring the ongoing success of the Society by the Secretariat, Board members, committee members, reference groups and working parties, state branches and members, and I would like to acknowledge their contributions.

The wish list of agenda items for my term as President included raising the profile of our professions, advancing our professional standards and growing our membership. In looking back over the past four years, I am able to see that progress has been made in all of these areas.

The review of the structure and function of the advisory panels has resulted in the ability of the Society to draw on the broad expertise of members in responding to the many consultation papers and developing policy documents for the Society in a range of areas. The Society continues to engage with a range of organisations and is recognised as the peak body for medical radiation practitioners by these groups and by state and federal governments.

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Equally, ASMIRT recognises the importance of leading and engaging in research, and after a review of our research scholarships has increased the amount available for research activities. The inability to hold face-to-face events over the past two years required ASMIRT to pivot to online education opportunities, and the success of the national conference and state branch seminars has been testament to the talents of the ASMIRT events team.

I am pleased to report that the membership of the Society has grown, and particularly so with respect to our student membership. Student numbers now sit at 1657, demonstrating considerable growth over the past several years. I have noted in a number of these messages that students are the future of our profession and I am excited to see how our Society and professions will grow and progress through their involvement, both before and after their graduation.

In an evolving world, medical radiation practitioners play an increasingly important role in the health care continuum. The professional body has a responsibility to step up to the challenges that this presents. As individual practitioners, our influence may be small. As a collective group we can and do have influence. Your Society is made up of its members, and with your active involvement in the Society and the professions, our goals will progress.

In handing over the reins to the Society's new President, Carolyn Heyes, I wish her every success knowing she is fully supported by the Secretariat and you, our members. I also look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual conference in Cairns later this month – our first face-to-face annual conference since 2019.