

The importance of engagement

I would like to use this message to say a big thank you to all the State Branch Executives and Board Directors who gave up a precious weekend in May to meet face-to-face in Melbourne for our annual meeting. It is regrettable we only manage to have this combined meeting once a year, however it is always where we get the best ideas and the best interaction between members about their Society.

We covered a lot of ground and I was able to report on promises made and delivered last year, including the provision of member badges, the development of a new website, the sale of our old office building and purchase of the new premises.

More importantly, I was able to show just how many stakeholders we engage with on a regular basis. These include, but are not limited to:

- › Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
- › Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- › Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology
- › Australian Radiation Protection And Nuclear Safety Agency
- › International Society of Radiographers and Radiologic Technologists
- › RT Round Table
- › Tripartite
- › Particle Therapy Group
- › International societies, such as the Society and College of Radiographers and the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology
- › Peak Imaging Coalition
- › Australian Sonographers Association and Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine
- › Allied Health Professionals Association
- › State and federal governments, chief allied health officers and universities.

And the most important of all our stakeholders, our patients.

I was also able to give an indication of where the Board and Secretariat's focus will be for the next 12 months and I hope to report back on the successful completion of these projects next year. This list includes:

- › The introduction of online exams and a possible expansion of exam delivery to other markets both in Australia and overseas

- › Stage two of the website and database
- › CPD project roll out
- › Panel/committee revision to be completed
- › Establishment of special interest groups and working groups around special projects.



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

We have already started on some of these projects and I am excited to report that the first trial of the online exams was a resounding success.

The revision or review of the panels was talked about widely at the conference, and the views of members have been sought in a variety of forums to date. We are still keen to hear your views on the subject. The review is being undertaken because we need to:

- › tap into broad member expertise in a more agile and technologically efficient manner
- › increase agility in responding to issues and policies
- › have greater access to member expertise
- › improve opportunities for members to engage.

The new structure will consist of four overarching 'expert committees' who will report to the Board:

- › Professional Standards
- › Membership and Advocacy
- › CPD
- › Research.

Each of these committees will connect with a number of sub committees and working groups which will be formed – and disbanded – as the need arises. Such a structure will allow ASMIRT to be far more nimble than we have perhaps been able to be to date. Turnaround time will improve and it will allow us to tap into a much broader specialty knowledge base for specific projects than we currently do. It is also a way for more members to be active in the Society as we call on their knowledge and expertise in the working parties. Interestingly, the first of these working groups is already being formed, with the Preliminary Image Evaluation Project Team underway.

The weekend was truly invigorating and the Board have come away brimful of ideas thanks to you, the members and your branch executives.