



# A robust society

Welcome to the August issue of *Spectrum*, your member magazine.

It has been another busy month for ASMIRT. A number of submissions were made by the Society, including responses regarding sonography services to the Senate Inquiry into the Availability and accessibility of diagnostic imaging equipment around Australia; to the Medical Services Advisory Committee with respect to proton therapy; and to the Medical Benefits Schedule review committee on proposed changes to item numbers for radiation oncology. It is important that the Society formally responds to the issues that will affect our members and, importantly, our patients. The formulation and completion of such responses would not be as robust without the input of our members, particularly those members sitting on our many advisory boards who provide valuable information to the Board.

Speaking of members, this issue of *Spectrum* features an interview with Dr Georgia Halkett. Georgia sits on the ASMIRT Board of Directors as our Western Australia representative. In the Q&A-style interview Georgia speaks about her involvement with the Society and highlights the importance of research in the medical radiation professions. One important focus of Georgia's research has been patients' experiences of receiving radiotherapy, which culminated in the development of an intervention to assist radiations therapists in preparing patients for treatment.



**Bronwyn Hilder**  
ASMIRT President

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Also in this issue we feature an article on the proposed changes to our advisory panels. As part of the ongoing review of the Society, the Board committed to a re-evaluation of the structure and purpose of the advisory panels. An initial workshop and discussion with panel members at ASMIRT in March set the Board on a proposed pathway; this was then refined at the State Branch Executives meeting in May. The Board welcome questions and feedback from members as we move forward. Please send your queries and comments to our Executive Officer Sally Kincaid at [execoff@asmirt.org](mailto:execoff@asmirt.org)

As we head towards the latter part of the year, keep an eye out for news about ASMIRT/AACRT 2019, which is being held in conjunction with the Asia-Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists. As this is an international conference, there will be many opportunities to showcase the great work done in Australia to our colleagues both here and those from overseas. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the conference in Adelaide in March.