



# Rural challenges

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

In this issue we take a look at rural and remote practice and hear from some of our members about the enjoyment and challenges they experience working across this vast continent.

ASMIRT's Rural and Remote Practitioner Advisory Panel Chair, Tom Randell, gives us an insight into what drew him to the beautiful Top End. For those who live in the capital cities, it is a unique glimpse into how our rural colleagues create a difference to their patients, without access to some of the things we take for granted in large city clinics and hospitals. He reminds us of the benefit of being a member of ASMIRT in connecting rural practitioners with their fellow radiographers.

In this issue we profile Kevin Robinson, founder of the charity Wings4Kidz. I had the pleasure of meeting with Kevin when he was a speaker at the ASMIRT annual conference in Canberra earlier this year. Wings4Kidz provides free specialist air and ground transport services for children living with serious and life-threatening illnesses who need to travel to major city-based hospitals for essential treatment from their homes in regional New South Wales. His enthusiasm for, and dedication to, this venture is inspiring, and brings to our attention the quiet achievers in the background making sure our patients can get to us for their treatment, no matter where they live.



**Bronwyn Hilder**  
ASMIRT President

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By the end of this year, every Australian will have a My Health Record, unless they choose not to. ASMIRT is working with the Australian Digital Health Agency to ensure our members are ready to answer questions from their patients about remaining in the My Health Record system. It is important that all ASMIRT members are fully aware of how the system works with medical radiation practitioners and allied health professionals and your Society is here to assist you with any questions you may have.

The My Health Record has the potential to provide comprehensive information for all Australians no matter where they are in the country. This could be a real advantage for rural and remote patients as they move between various health providers in country areas and

cities. It may also assist in reducing the duplication of imaging and other investigations, which will be a positive outcome for our patients.

Also in this issue we feature 'reflections' from two students, Jennifer Hanh and Kirra Ryan. Both found their rural placement experiences rewarding and challenged their beliefs about what rural practice could be.

We encourage all students to apply for a rural placement and experience the amazingly varied practice and strong learning that can be found working in rural and remote Australia.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Spectrum*. I look forward to discussing some of the many activities, both within ASMIRT and our profession, in the October issue.