

# A timely announcement



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As this is the last issue of *Spectrum* for the year, I would like to wish all members a safe and happy holiday season. This year has flown past and as I look back over the achievements of the organisation, I am reminded of the work done by all the wonderful volunteers around the country. Volunteers contribute to the Society in a range of ways, from participating in Lead Committees and Reference Groups, active involvement in their state branches, contributing to the running of local, state and national

education seminars and conferences, and representation to government. Their support of the organisation is invaluable.

A most timely announcement from the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA) coincided with World Radiography Day this year – the day we celebrate Wilhelm Röntgen's discovery of the X-ray. The MRPBA took the opportunity to release the revised *Professional capabilities for medical radiation practitioners*, highlighting a significant win for patient safety.

The revised professional capabilities, which come into effect from 1 March 2020, recognise “the various roles that a practitioner undertakes in practice including the professional role, the partner in care, the communicator and collaborator, the educator, and the medical radiation safety expert”.

The revised professional capabilities require medical radiation practitioners to ensure that “any identified urgent or unexpected findings are shared with and understood by, the appropriate person... for immediate and appropriate management of the patient”.

The focus of the capability is on communicating safely “when urgent or unexpected findings are identified”. The intent is not to impose an obligation on medical radiation professionals to

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make diagnoses, but they must “recognise and apply knowledge of normal from abnormal imaging appearances and relate those appearances to the patient's clinical history”. Furthermore, if they identify “medically significant findings on an image they must take appropriate and timely action”, as referenced in the context of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (Standard 6).

From the patient perspective this will ensure that medical radiation professionals who are obtaining images are required to pass on information about those images in the most timely, appropriate, safe and professional manner possible.

We commend the MRPBA for their work on these revised professional capabilities, and their increased focus and emphasis on patient safety. It is a win for all Australians and it is hard to argue with that.