

The **future** of our profession



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

As we look towards a new decade, the Society is also looking at the future of our profession, with a focus on medical radiation science students across the country. The Board of Directors took a positive step in announcing that all students joining the Society could now do so free of charge. This initiative will bring a greater junior cohort to our membership and with it, new ideas, energy and outlook. We also hope those new to membership can contribute back to the Society by joining committees and

volunteering. The effect of this announcement was instant; already we have seen a huge growth in student memberships from 450 in December 2019 to almost 1000 by February's end and steadily climbing at the time of publication.

Coupled with this, we have made available a QR code for students to sign up easily online and also provided valuable new resources via our website to assist with negotiating APHRA registrations and finding employment. We are looking forward to working with the new student members throughout their university years and across their careers.

In February, a training weekend was held for members to become facilitators for Person Centred Care workshops across the country. The Person Centred Care workshop was run at ASMIRT-AACRT 2019 in Adelaide and at the 2019 Tasmanian Winter Education Weekend. The success of these workshops underpinned the initiative of the Society to train members to hold the workshops in their own states and territories. Keep an eye out for registration for the workshops in your area.

In advocacy news, ASMIRT participated in a call for submissions from Cancer Australia to help design a screening program to identify those most at risk of having lung cancer, before they develop symptoms. This should assist in minimising the harms of false positives and invasive follow up. Our detailed submission,

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incorporating professional and technical aspects of CT scanning of the chest, also included suggestions as to how a potential national screening program may be implemented. The Cancer Australia consultation inquiry is under the auspices of the Federal Health Minister, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, and the inquiry will report back to the Minister in October 2020.

I also had the pleasure of meeting via teleconference with representatives from the Community Health and Hospitals Program within the Department of Health to discuss the Regional Cancer Treatment Centres for Radiation Therapy initiative. Chief Executive Officer Sally Kincaid also joined the conversation, which was wide ranging and had a strong focus on issues of access, resourcing and equity for patients. These participations form just a small part of the ongoing advocacy work that the ASMIRT Board undertakes on behalf of you, our members, and our patients.

The ASMIRT-NZIMRT 2020 Conference is now only two months away, and embraces the theme of 'vision', with a focus on innovation, imagination and ideas. The preliminary program is now available at www.conference.asmirt.org/2020 so please use this opportunity and see what is on offer at our combined Australia and New Zealand conference. If you wish to take advantage of the registration pricing discount offered by early bird registration, a reminder that this closes 19 March.