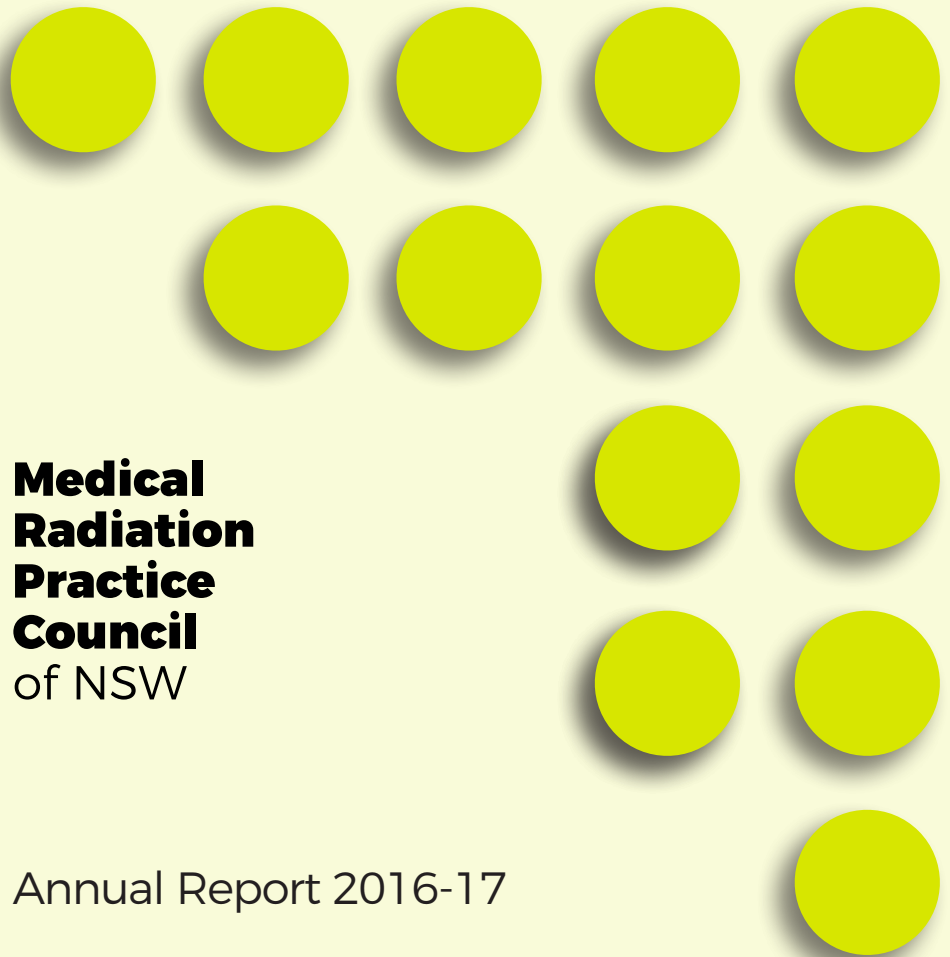




**Medical  
Radiation  
Practice  
Council**  
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



# President's Message



**Medical  
Radiation  
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of NSW

On behalf of the Medical Radiation Practice Council of New South Wales (Council) I am pleased to submit the Council's Annual Report for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

The Council has now submitted five Annual Reports and in its sixth year of regulation has noted an increase in activity of complaints, monitoring, hearings and assessments. Despite this increase in activity, medical radiation practitioner complaints are still at a relatively low volume.

The past financial year has seen a number of achievements for the Council that I would like to highlight:

- Review of our financial statements has highlighted a number of efficiencies that have been achieved in undertaking our regulatory role of protecting the community. This has enabled us to make a further reduction in fees in 2017 for NSW Medical Radiation Practice registrants to \$145.
- The Council continues its contribution to inter-council research and education and liaison with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and other regulatory bodies to achieve the requirements of National registration.
- Strategic priorities for 2018 have been set around education relating to key trends emerging in complaints management in New South Wales.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the significant contribution of Margaret Carmody over the last five years as she concludes her time on the Council. Margaret has been a key member of the Council and her commitment has assisted the Council in its deliberations. Her sensible and informed advice on nuclear medicine and general professional practice placed the Council in a strong position to protect the public when managing complaints about the performance, health and conduct of registered medical radiation practitioners.

Council will be assisted in the future by the appointment of Justine Trpezanovski as a nuclear medicine practitioner member of the Council, effective 1 July 2017 for a three year term. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Justine and look forward to a productive year in 2018.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the Health Professional Councils Authority for its assistance and support throughout the year. The Council's co-regulatory work with the Health Care Complaints Commission continues to be collaborative and rewarding and the Council looks forward to another year working together in the interest of community safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Vitucci', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Tracy Vitucci**

President

Medical Radiation Practice Council of New South Wales

## Regulation of Medical Radiation Practitioners in 2016/17

# Summary overview



**29**

### New complaints received during the year related to

Conduct – 16  
Performance – 8  
Health – 5  
2 complaints were mandatory notifications



**5,217**

### Registered Medical Radiation Practitioners in NSW

2.5% more than the previous year  
33.3% of Medical Radiation Practitioners in Australia  
0.5% of Medical Radiation Practitioners in NSW had complaints made about them – 24 practitioners



**34**

### Complaints managed

5 open at start of year  
29 received during the year  
3 immediate actions including reviews  
4 assessments and hearings concluded  
20 closed during the year  
14 open at year end  
3 active monitoring at year end



**20**

### Outcomes for closed complaints\*

9 no further action  
6 discontinued  
3 no jurisdiction or referred  
1 conditions on registration  
1 counselling

\* A complaint may have more than one outcome

### **Council Communications**

The Medical Radiation Practice Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with medical radiation practitioners and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation including workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

### **Council Members**

Six members sit on the Medical Radiation Practice Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

Registered medical radiation practitioner members:

- Ms Tracy Vitucci MBA, MHSM, B App Sc (MedImaging), DMU, Grad Dip Ultrason, FIR, AF, ACHSM
- Dr Karen Jovanovic HScD, MMedSc, Grad Dip Clin Epid, DCR (T)
- Ms Margaret Carmody A Dip Med Rad (NM), BMed Rad Sc (NM)
- Ms Sheryl Foster MHSc (MRS)

Legal member:

- Mr Hugh Macken BA, LLB, LLM

Community member:

- Mr Warren Stretton FAICD, FCPA, FCIS, FGIA, FTI, FAMI CPM

Ms Tracy Vitucci is appointed by the Governor as President of the Medical Radiation Practice Council.

Dr Karen Jovanovic is appointed by the Governor as Deputy President of the Medical Radiation Practice Council.

### **Executive Officer**

Ms Myra Nikolich is the Executive Officer for the Medical Radiation Practice Council. The Executive Officer leads a team of four who work directly with the Council.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

### Council Meeting Attendance

The Medical Radiation Practice Council met 11 times during the year.

#### Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Ms Tracy Vitucci – President	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Dr Karen Jovanovic – Deputy President	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Ms Margaret Carmody	9	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Ms Sheryl Foster	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Mr Hugh Macken	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Mr Warren Stretton	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018

\* Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

### Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Medical Radiation Practice Council appointed one Impaired Registrants Panel during the year.

#### Impaired Registrants Panel

The Impaired Registrants Panel (IRP) deals with matters where a registered health practitioner has a physical or mental impairment that affects, or is likely to affect their capacity to practise safely.

An IRP consists of two or three people who may or may not be Council members. At least one member must be registered in the same profession as the practitioner who is subject of the complaint and at least one panel member must be a medical practitioner. Panel members are selected from a pool of people who have undergone probity checks and are experienced in working with practitioners who have health problems.

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### Impaired Registrants Panel

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#### Membership – Non Council Members

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Mr Sandy Brown

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Mr Darrin Gray

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Dr Michael Diamond – Medical Practitioner

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#### Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Medical Radiation Practice Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

#### Meetings and Events

The Medical Radiation Practice Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

#### Medical Radiation Practice Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
Meeting with National Board	Ms Tracy Vitucci	Participant
	Ms Myra Nikolich (HPCA)	Participant

#### Overseas Travel

The Medical Radiation Practice Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

#### Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

### Education and Research Account

The Medical Radiation Practice Council maintains an Education and Research account to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

### Financial Management

The Medical Radiation Practice Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

<b>Accounts Performance 2016/17</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	390,748
Operating expenditure	127,011
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
<b>Net result</b>	<b>263,737</b>
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>1,628,838</b>

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$53,718.

The Medical Radiation Practice Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

<b>Budget 2017/18</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	357,616
Operating expenditure	270,062
<b>Net result</b>	<b>87,554</b>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.