



Our ref:  
Your ref:

The Secretary,  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

1<sup>st</sup> April 2009

**RE: Senate Inquiry into National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Workers**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the National Registration Steering Committee for Medical Radiation Practitioners throughout Australia..

Medical Radiation Practitioners, currently, are required to be registered to practice in four states and two territories. They remain unregistered in New South Wales and South Australia.

As can be seen by the enclosed copies of media reports and the official submission to the AHWPC, patient safety remains at risk if NSW and SA are not incorporated into a national registration and accreditation scheme.

In recommending that medical radiation professionals be included in the national registration and accreditation scheme the Federal and State governments will

- (1) Secure public safety throughout Australia by managing risks associated with operating potentially hazardous ionizing radiation equipment and dealing with radioactive substances by maintenance of a high level of professional skills and standards in every state and territory
- (2) Increase workforce mobility by removing impediments for a flexible, mobile national medical radiation practitioner workforce
- (3) Assure equitable public access to quality health care by positioning the medical radiation practitioner profession to respond to the increasing scope for task substitution and development in health service delivery.
- (4) Ensure a consistency of standards in education and training of medical radiation practitioners

With respect to the terms of reference below I would refer you directly to the attached submission provided to the Australian Health Work Force Principles Committee.



Medical Radiation Technologists  
Board of Queensland

- a. the impact of the scheme on state and territory health services;
- b. the impact of the scheme on patient care and safety;
- c. the effect of the scheme on standards of training and qualification of relevant health professionals;
- d. how the scheme will affect complaints management and disciplinary processes within particular professional streams;
- e. the appropriate role, if any, in the scheme for state and territory registration boards; and
- f. alternative models for implementation of the scheme.

As representatives of communities in each state I am confident that the senators involved in this inquiry will ensure that the health and well being of their constituents will be foremost in their minds when they address the service standards and risks associated with the examination and treatment of patients by medical radiation practitioners.

Yours Sincerely

Wayne Nuss  
Chair MRTBQ



CM 29/11/08

# Locum was a fugitive

## Health register demanded

**Janelle Miles**  
HEALTH REPORTER

TOWNSVILLE Hospital's employment of a man on the run from NSW police has triggered calls for the fast-tracking of a national register of health professionals.

Ha Kyoon Jung, 52, was arrested on a NSW extradition warrant on Tuesday.

He had been employed in Townsville on a four-month contract as a locum radiographer since August 18 despite being the subject of a 13-month NSW investigation into the alleged indecent assault of two women on an X-ray table.

Queensland Health's Townsville district chief executive officer Mary Bonner said Jung was employed through Healthsite Recruitment and was not a State Government em-

ployee. She said Queensland Health had so far received no patient complaints about Jung.

The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission on October 14 found Jung had breached professional standards. It said Jung had asked the women, who required lower back X-rays in October 2006, to fully undress and lie in such a position that exposed their genitals.

"There was no clinical justification for this and, as a result, both clients suffered considerable distress and concern," an HCCC statement said.

The women complained to police and their cases were forwarded to the NSW health watchdog in September last year.

Jung this week remained registered to practise in Queensland by the state's

Medical Radiation Technologists' Board, which will discuss the case this month.

Queensland's Health Quality and Complaints Commissioner Michael Ward said a failure to share information was a major issue.

Australian Medical Association Queensland president Chris Davis said a national register of health professionals should be fast-tracked.

"If any significant findings against a health practitioner occurred, then it would be up to the one authority to take appropriate action instead of what seems to be the case here where the person has simply moved interstate."

A Townsville magistrate on Wednesday ordered Jung to be extradited to Sydney to face indecent assault charges.

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CM 28/11/08

# Police detain radiographer

**Janelle Miles**  
HEALTH REPORTER

A RADIOGRAPHER on the run from NSW police for allegedly indecently assaulting two women on an X-ray table was arrested this week after spending three months working at Townsville Hospital.

Ha Kyoon Jung, 52, had been employed as a locum radiographer on a four-month contract at the hospital since August. He was arrested on a NSW extradition warrant on Tuesday.

A NSW Health Care

Complaints Commission investigation completed on October 14 found Jung had breached professional standards by requiring two women to lie in positions where their genitals were exposed to him without clinical justification.

The HCCC notified NSW police and the Australian Institute of Radiography of its findings. But Jung continued to work at the Townsville Hospital for another six weeks before his arrest and was yesterday still registered to practise in Queensland by the state's

Medical Radiation Technologists' Board. A board spokeswoman said Jung's registration would be discussed in December.

"No urgent action is necessary prior to that meeting as the board has been informed the individual is in police custody awaiting extradition to NSW," she said.

Two women separately accused Jung of indecent assault and police forwarded the cases to the HCCC in September 2007.

A Townsville Hospital spokesman said yesterday

Jung had been employed through a private agency that supplied locums to fill temporary positions. "He's not employed by Queensland Health," he said.

Australian Institute of Radiography executive officer David Collier said Jung had not been a member of that organisation since 1997.

Australian Medical Association Queensland president Chris Davis said the case heightened the need to fast-track a national register of health professionals.

## Mum and dad thankful for hope