

Minutes

Radiation Oncology Working Group (ROWG)

Date: Wednesday 30 November 2022

Time: 9:30am to 11:30am

Location: Zoom

Chair: Claire Hardie, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua MidCentral

Attendees: Aaron Phillips, Radiation Therapist, Te Whatu Ora Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua MidCentral
 Aimee Bourke, General Manager, Auckland Radiation Oncology
 Andrew Cousins, Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist, Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury
 Brian Sheppard, Consumer member
 Cristian Hartoceanu, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Waikato
 Darien Montgomerie, Site Manager, Bowen ICON Cancer Centre
 David Peel, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua MidCentral
 India Mikaere-Girvin, Māori member
 Jamaine Fraser, Māori member
 John Childs, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland
 Jo Stafford, Consumer member
 Judy Moselen, Nurse Specialist, Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland
 Koki Mugabe, Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist, Te Whatu Ora Waikato
 Leanne Tyrie, Radiation Oncologist, Kathleen Kilgour Centre
 Lesley Long, Service/Operations Manager, Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury
 Louise Simonsen, Radiation Therapist, Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland
 Megan Purves, New Zealand Branch Manager, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)
 Natasha Chisholm, Nurse Practitioner, Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury
 Nichola Naidoo, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Capital, Coast & Hutt Valley
 Scott Babington, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury
 Shaun Costello, Radiation Oncologist, Te Whatu Ora Southern
 Viv Ali, Practice Manager, St Georges Cancer Care Centre

Apologies: Rose Simpson, Te Aho o Te Kahu
 Michael Taylor, Radiation Therapist, Te Whatu Ora Waikato
 Cushla Lucas – Te Aho o Te Kahu

Te Aho o Te Kahu: Dawn Wilson, Nisha Nair, Gabrielle Nicholson, Kirsty Malcolm, Kareen Grimshaw

Minutes: Amanda Wooding

Item

Minutes, actions, and review of the conflicts of interest register
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- The meeting opened with a karakia.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2022 were accepted as a true and correct record.
- The action register was reviewed. All actions were complete/progressing except for the Chair's action to contact the Clinical Leads of the public centres to determine if they would be willing to share their centre reports for the Prostate Cancer Registry Outcomes with Te Aho o Te Kahu. Chair to action following this meeting.
- The decision register was received and noted with no changes.
- The conflicts register was received and noted with no changes.

Radiation therapist advancing practice roles update

Te Aho o Te Kahu provided an overview

- Purpose is to gain a common understanding nationally of advancing practice roles.
- Aim is to provide departments with a guide that allows them to locally tailor advancing practice to their local service needs. Advanced practice internationally has been running for many years now and NZ can capture these learnings.
- Knowledge base requirements – a foundation of post-graduate study. Specific advanced practice papers that come out of Monash could be used. Health related papers required, but dependant on the specifics of the role.
- The draft document will be going out for consultation and Te Aho o Te Kahu has engaged with their internal equity team and MiRO, with equity woven through the document already to ensure all practice is culturally safe and responsive.

ROWG Discussion/Feedback:

Feedback and discussion on the presentation identified that post-graduate study could be undertaken as the role was being developed or with a person already in the role rather than a pre-requisite for this study to be complete prior to a person starting in the role. Radiation oncology SMOs are supportive of advancing the practice of radiation therapists to assist with the workload of radiation oncologists and the workflow in the departments, but there needs to be a determination and definition of the competencies required to undertake these advanced practice roles and that these competencies are achieved prior to a radiation therapist starting in an advanced practice role and maintained to ensure quality of care and clinical safety.

It was noted in the discussion that on review of the international experience of advancing practice roles and the benefits, that a further literature review was required to explore this further.

Question was raised as to what international evidence shows for improving outcomes for the indigenous populations and improving the workforce development of indigenous health professionals in the countries of which the advancing role has been introduced. This is being looked into and a response will be provided.

Cancer service planning update and discussion – Slides in meeting papers

Te Aho o Te Kahu provided an overview.

- A current technical state analysis has been completed.
- Replacement LINAC programme – documented LINAC replacements due and overdue around the country including service disruption experienced as a result of replacement work due to no vacant bunkers in public facilities.
- Additional capacity - Increasing capacity in Aotearoa is required including additional LINACs in the future. It's important to note the long lead in time for achieving the additional LINAC supply due to the need for additional bunkers/facilities to be built to accommodate them.
- Data on current LINAC capacity for each public centre was presented to the group for discussion.

Due to the need to increase capacity now and the inability to install additional LINACS quickly due to the need for additional bunkers, other methods of increasing capacity need to be considered in the short term and several options/scenarios were presented.

ROWG Discussion/Feedback:

It was acknowledged that many centres were already optimising their capacity as best they could and whilst some additional options could and would be considered by centres these changes may not be sustainable in the long term. There also needs to be consideration of how technology will change in the future. It was agreed there needs to be development of a model of care for the delivery of radiation oncology services in New Zealand and aim to standardise departmental workflow and operations with national oversight of waiting times etc.

The Model of Care is the next deliverable of the CSP programme and it was agreed with ROWG that a small interest group and workshop would be convened early next year to develop this work further and provided to the full ROWG quorum for feedback. An email will be sent out to introduce the Model of Care work and request involvement.

Other Business

[Te Pae Tata – Interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022](#) – paper for noting.

Next Meetings:

16 May and 21 November 2023, Rydges, Wellington Airport

Close

The meeting closed with a karakia at 1:30pm