03/3/4/2

2nd April 2003

MRA Review
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

Attention: Ms. Maggie Eibisch

Dear Ms. Eibisch,

RE: SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE TRANS TASMAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT (TTMRA) BY THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF RADIOGRAPHY

Exemptions and Exclusions to Mutual Recognition:

The Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) has previously made several submissions regarding the workings of TTMRA. The AIR brings to your attention, the issue of "back door entry" of non New Zealand trained Radiographers acquiring NZ accreditation. These radiographers hold qualifications which are not acceptable for normal entry and employment in Australia yet subsequently seek Australian accreditation under the TTMRA.

The AIR requests that:

1) The TTMRA be restricted for Registration of Professionals to those whose qualifications have been gained in Australia or New Zealand

OR

to residents of more than 3 years in New Zealand who have documented three years' full time equivalent clinical experience in NZ.

2) All other applicants to apply for assessment of their qualifications by the relevant assessment authority.

3) All New Zealand applicants must comply with the requirements under Mutual Recognition of Australian Regulatory Authorities in regard to recognition currently used by Australian Graduates and Overseas Graduates who wish to be employed in Australia.

4) This Institute recognises NZ Graduates from Medical Radiation Science Programmes conducted in NZ - and will continue to do so, provided graduates apply for the AIR Statement of Accreditation which is issued to all Australian Graduates when they have successfully completed their courses in Australia.

5) The anomaly related to exemption of Medical Practitioners under TTMRA be addressed in this review as the reasons for the exemption do not appear to be valid and if this exemption is to continue, other groups be able to apply for exemption based on the reasons outlined above.

In the last 12 months, the AIR's Overseas Qualifications Assessment Panel (OQAP) has rejected two applicants holding valid NZ Registration as their qualifications (diploma level) did not meet the Australian Degree level standard and the post graduate clinical experience did not overcome this deficit.

Yours faithfully,

KATHLEEN NAGLE
PROFESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICER

cc: Council
cc: OQAP Chairman