



Important Information Regarding Validated Statements of Accreditation

From 2005 the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) began issuing a validated Statement of Accreditation as the professional award. A validated Statement of Accreditation (VSoA) is one that bears an expiry date.

All Radiographers and Radiation Therapists who hold a validated Statement of Accreditation that is expired or who hold a Statement of Accreditation that does not bear an expiry date should read the following:

This cohort includes:

- All radiographers and radiation therapists who were members of the AIR at 31.12.2004.
- All radiographers and radiation therapists who gained a Validated Statement of Accreditation as the result of completing a PDY or intern year since 01.01.2005.
- Any radiographers or radiation therapists who have been issued with a replacement/duplicate Validated Statement of Accreditation for an earlier Statement of Accreditation or a Conjoint Board Certificate or Diploma, since 01.01.2005.
- Any radiographer or radiation therapist who was granted a Validated Statement of Accreditation as the result of a successful application through the overseas assessment process since 01.01.2005.
- Any radiographer or radiation therapist who was granted a Validated Statement of Accreditation through the Resumption of Professional Practice program since 01.01.2005.
- Any radiographer or radiation therapist who was issued with a Statement of Accreditation prior to 2005 and has not converted this document to a Validated Statement of Accreditation by successful completion of the AIR CPD program.
- Any radiographer or radiation therapist who was issued with a Statement of Accreditation prior to 2005 and has not converted this document to a Validated Statement of Accreditation by renewal of a Validated Statement of Accreditation.

Successful completion of the CPD program

Successful completion of the CPD program requires a participant to claim a minimum of 36 credits over the triennial period, with a minimum of 6 credits in any one year of the cycle, with the credits claimed from a minimum of two of the five CPD categories.

Members

To maintain membership of the AIR and its associated benefits, all members with the exception of Student, Retired, Associate and Life members, are required to successfully complete the CPD program. CPD credit claims can be made either by the online lodgement program or via the submission of a manual log.

Non members

Radiographers or radiation therapists who wish to maintain a VSoA, who are not members of the AIR will need to:

- Be enrolled in the non member CPD program and be regularly lodging credits to fulfil the requirements for successful completion of the AIR CPD program. CPD credit claims can be made either by the online lodgement program or via the submission of a manual log, or
- Pay the \$495.00 CPD assessment fee to have your CPD activities over past three years assessed to ensure that your portfolio content is equivalent to AIR CPD program requirements, or
- Be sponsored in the AIR CPD program by your employer as part of the corporate sponsorship program and meet the requirements for successful completion of the CPD program, or
- Become a member of the AIR. Amongst many benefits of membership such as professional indemnity insurance, members are also enrolled in the CPD program. When a person becomes a new member of the AIR, they will be issued a new VSoA with a three year life span. VSoA are issued to new members when they join because upon joining the membership a person agrees to abide by the Constitution, which states that you will participate in the mandatory CPD program.

The radiographer or radiation therapist whether a member or non member who has satisfied the requirements of the AIR CPD program will be issued with a current VSoA with an expiry date and the process of life long learning continues.

Why a validated Statement of Accreditation?

A VSoA indicates to employers and the public that the holder participates in life long learning. CPD is a process through which radiographers and radiation therapists maintain and develop skills to ensure that they retain their competence to practice safely, effectively and legally within their evolving scope of practice.

Requirements of Employers

In time employers may ask for a current VSoA when appointing radiographers or radiation therapists to positions or ask for evidence of participation in a CPD program. As the accreditation of both diagnostic imaging and radiation oncology practices increase so will the requirement for staff to undertake CPD as it will be a prerequisite for practice accreditation in both professions.

Requirements of Regulating Authorities

The regulating authorities within Australia and overseas may require a practitioner to hold a current VSoA for registration or licensing. The AIR recommends that you enquire with the registration and/or licensing body in your State as to their current requirements. These authorities may require evidence of participation in CPD to enable the maintenance of a registration and/or licence to be able to practice as a radiographer or radiation therapist.

What happens in subsequent years?

Each year as a triennium cycle concludes, radiographers and radiation therapists who:

- hold a Validated Statement of Accreditation expiring that year
- have successfully completed CPD in accordance with the AIR program requirements
- are Members of the AIR, or
are enrolled in the AIR CPD program under non-Member provisions, or
are enrolled in the AIR CPD program under an Employer Sponsorship agreement, or
are not enrolled in the AIR program, upon payment of a CPD Assessment Fee,

will be issued with a renewed Validated Statement of Accreditation.

Essentially, as the CPD programs continue to cycle through the years, each expiring group gaining their Validated Statement of Accreditation must provide the CPD evidence to support renewal.

I am going overseas to work, what is required of me?

If you are going to travel overseas, particularly to the United Kingdom or New Zealand, for a period of time and need to maintain credits for the CPD program, to ensure that you are eligible for a renewed VSoA, there are a number of options;

- Maintain your AIR membership as an overseas member and submit your CPD credits online for activities that you have participated in whilst overseas (in the UK or NZ).
- Maintain participation in CPD through the non member CPD program and submit your CPD credits online for activities that you have participated in whilst overseas (in the UK or NZ).
- Resign from the AIR in good standing by submitting a letter of resignation, then apply to join the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) in the UK or the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technology (NZIMRT) and maintaining your CPD participation through the SCoR 'CPD Now' program or the NZIMRT CPD program.
- If you are not currently a member of the AIR, you may still consider joining the SCoR in the UK or the NZIMRT in NZ and maintain your CPD participation through the SCoR 'CPD Now' program or the NZIMRT CPD program.

The AIR recognises the SCoR's 'CPD NOW' program and the NZIMRT CPD program as equivalent to the AIR CPD program for accreditation purposes. Practitioners who are working overseas and are members of the SCoR or the NZIMRT who successfully complete the professional bodies CPD program will be eligible for the issue of a renewed VSoA. Practitioners will be required to provide the AIR with evidence of membership with these organisations and certificates of participation in the CPD programs or a letter from the organisation when applying for a renewal of their VSoA.

If you have any further questions regarding your personal situation, please don't hesitate to contact Lori McLeod cpd@air.asn.au or call the AIR on (03) 9419 3336 to have your questions answered.

A Validated Statement of Accreditation Application Form is available for download from the AIR website. Visit www.air.asn.au and select 'Important Information regarding Validated Statements of Accreditation' or by contacting Lori McLeod the Professional Standards Manager cpd@air.asn.au