



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Recent experience and possible development in TSO contribution to public outreach; an Australian perspective

**Ian Graham
ARPANSA**

ARPANSA Objective

ARPANSA's legislated objective is:-

To protect the health and safety of people
and to protect the environment from the
harmful effects of radiation

ARPANSA Functions

- Advise Government & community about radiation protection and nuclear safety
- Represent Australia in international forums
- Undertake research and services for radiation protection
- Promote national uniformity in radiation protection
- Independent regulator of use of radiation and nuclear technology

History

- Australian Research Laboratories
- Nuclear Safety Bureau
- Merged as ARPANSA 1998
- Scientific Branches provide TSO functions
- Not nominally a TSO
- Scientific Branches provide support for Regulatory Branch

Organisation Structure



Regulatory Branch

- Nuclear Safety Reactors
- Nuclear Safety Non-reactors
- Radiation Safety
- Policy and Source Security
- Standards Development & Committee Support
- Regulatory Systems

Advisory Committees

- Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council
- Radiation Health Committee
- Nuclear Safety Committee

General Public Outreach

- Advice to Minister/Government
- Media response and releases
- Legislated Advisory Committees
- Public - media, website, guidelines codes, standards, conferences, forums
- Industry/professional - guidelines, codes, standards, conferences, forums
- Coordination, support State/Territory jurisdictions and stakeholders

Legislated Public Outreach

- Reports to Parliament
- Exemption notices for facility licence
- Notice of application for facility licence
- Notice of application for nuclear installation licence and call for public submissions

Areas of “TSO” Contribution to Public Outreach

- Scientific information and expertise
- Scientific services
- Support for regulatory branch

Examples of “TSO” Services to Public Outreach

- Daily regional UV index on website
- UV swing tags for clothing
- Australian National Dose Register for uranium mining workers
- Personal radiation monitoring service
- Australian diagnostic reference levels for CT
- Calibration hospital therapy reference dosimeters
- Monitoring EMF from power lines
- Monitoring RF EMR

Types of “TSO” Information for Public Outreach

- Comprehensive website
- Multiple fact sheets on ionising and non-ionising radiation
- Wide range of medical and industrial radiation safety and security codes
- Advice/information to Ministers and in response to political inquiries
- Public advice/information for press release or response to inquiries

“TSO” Support for Regulatory Public Outreach

- Confidence in regulator scientific expertise
- Monitoring for radioactive contamination atmosphere, water, food, human body
- Monitoring for nuclear activity contamination including decommissioning
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Scientific support for special inspections
- Active contribution to ANSN and other regional support initiatives for radiation safety and security

Recent Issues Involving “TSO” public Outreach

- Use of solaria
- Advice related to Interphone Study
- Location of mobile phone transmitters
- Cancer clusters suspected of radiation origin
- Radiation transport incidents
- Radioactive waste contamination sites
- Airport body scanners