



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RADIATION DOSE REGISTER

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ANRDR Fact Sheet

The Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR) was established in 2010 for the uranium mining and milling industry to ensure that records of a worker's radiation doses are maintained in a centralised register regardless of where the individual is working.

What is the Australian National Radiation Dose Register?

The ANRDR is an electronic database designed to collect and store radiation dose information for workers who are occupationally exposed to radiation. Currently the ANRDR is limited to workers in the uranium mining and milling industry, the mineral sands mining and processing industry and Commonwealth Government entities, however expansion of the ANRDR to include workers exposed to radiation in other industries, such as the medical and aviation sectors, is now being considered.

Workers can request a copy of their radiation dose history by completing a form provided on the ARPANSA website at www.arpansa.gov.au/Services/ANRDR/RequestHistory.cfm. The dose history report will contain all past doses received while working in applicable industries in Australia, and while registered with the ANRDR.

Who is managing the Register?

The Register is maintained and managed by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

Before the ANRDR

Prior to the commencement of the ANRDR, a worker's doses were assessed and recorded by an employer. Whilst this ensured that dose records were maintained at the worksite, there was no system in place to monitor the cumulative dose received by a worker who moved between different employers, industries or jurisdictions. The ANRDR has been developed to overcome this gap in the management of dose histories. Employers will still be required to maintain radiation dose records for workers in compliance with relevant State, Territory or Commonwealth laws, however there may also be a requirement to report dose records to the ANRDR.

Development of the ANRDR

The development of the ANRDR began as a result of a recommendation made in a report from the Uranium Industry Framework Steering Group in 2006.

Recommendation 12 stated:

"The Australian Government should work with relevant State and Territory governments to establish cooperative arrangements with industry to ensure that permanent records of the radiological dose history of uranium industry individuals are collected, maintained and retrievable."

As a result of this recommendation, the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (now the Department of Industry), and ARPANSA commenced development of the ANRDR.

The ANRDR was officially launched to the uranium mining industry in June 2011 following development of the Dose Register, including a tool for workers to request their personal dose history.

What data is ARPANSA collecting?

The ANRDR collects radiation dose information as well as some personal information so that we can confidently link the dose information with the correct worker.

There are different types of radiation, and different ways that radiation can interact with a person. The ANRDR will record information on the doses received from the different radiation types and the pathways through which they interact with the worker.

The personal information collected includes the worker's name, date of birth, gender, employee number, place of employment and employee work classification. This information is collected in order to ensure that doses are matched to the correct worker.

All personal information is handled according to the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth). Please refer to the ANRDR Privacy Statement (available from the ARPANSA website at www.arpansa.gov.au/Services/ANRDR/PrivacyStatement.cfm) for further information on the collection, storage and use of personal information.

How will the data be used?

The ANRDR data is used for maintaining a registered worker's cumulative dose based on data provided by employers. It will assist in minimising the possibility of a worker receiving a dose greater than the Australian dose limit while moving between employers and/or jurisdictions. Furthermore, it will ensure that dose records are maintained and remain retrievable in the long-term regardless of whether a worker changes employment, moves to a different State or Territory, or an employer holding a worker's records ceases to exist.

The data collected may be used to identify industry trends and comparisons across different work practices. This information will assist in informing better work practices and improve safety for occupationally exposed workers in Australia. The statistical data will not identify individual workers or employers registered with the ANRDR.

Further information

Further information about the ANRDR can be found on the ARPANSA website at www.arpansa.gov.au/services/ANRDR