



New Zealand Orthopaedic Association

Level 12, Ranchhod Tower | 39 The Terrace, Wellington 6011

PO Box 5545, Wellington 6140

Phone: 04 913 9891 | **Fax:** 04 913 9890

www.nzoa.org.nz

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Associate Professor Sanjay Jeganathan
President
The Royal Australian New Zealand
College of Radiologists
Level 9, 51 Druitt Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000
AUSTRALIA
sanjay.jeganathan@ranzcr.com

Mr Duane Findlay
Chief Executive Officer
The Royal Australian New Zealand
College of Radiologists
Level 9, 51 Druitt Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000
AUSTRALIA
duane.findley@ranzcr.edu.au

Dear Sanjay and Duane

RANZCR: Ethical Referrals in Clinical Radiology Discussion Paper 26 August 2021

Thank you for meeting with Peter Robertson (Chair NZOA ACC & Third Party Liaison Committee), John McKie (NZOA President), Haemish Crawford (NZOA First President Elect) and myself on Friday 29th July 2022 by Microsoft Teams.

We were surprised to learn that our submission of 1st November 2021 on the draft RANZCR consultation document, *Ethical Referrals in Clinical Radiology*, had only just come to your attention. Now that you are aware of our views, we urgently seek your review and revision of this paper which we consider to be flawed.

In addition to those specific comments as outlined in our letter of the 1st November 2021, we also wish to comment on the papers used to support the assertions made in this document listed under Section 9 References:

6. Hillman B, Joseph C, Mabry M, Sunshine JH, Kennedy SD, Noether M. Frequency and costs of diagnostic imaging in office practices: a comparison of self-referring and radiologist referring physicians. *N Engl J Med* 1990;323: 1604-8.
7. Brian E. Kouri, R. Gregory Parsons and Hillel R. Alpert October 2002, Volume 179, Number 4 Physician Self Referral for Diagnostic Imaging: Review of the Empiric Literature *AJR*.
8. Hillman BJ, Joseph CA, Mabry MA, Sunshine JH, Kennedy SO, Noether M. Frequency and costs of diagnostic imaging in office practice-a comparison of self-referring and radiologist-referring physicians. *N Engl J Med* 1990;323: pp1604-1608.
9. Brian E. Kouri, R. Gregory Parsons and Hillel R. Alpert October 2002, Volume 179, Number 4 Physician SelfReferral for Diagnostic Imaging: Review of the Empiric Literature *AJR* <https://www.ajronline.org/doi/full/10.2214/ajr.179.4.1790843>

References 6 and 8 are the same, and references 7 and 9 are the same. We also point out that of these papers 6 (and 8) are historical (1990) and are largely irrelevant now with the modern use of imaging technology.

As we discussed, the NZ Institute of Independent Radiologists is referencing this discussion document as evidence to support their case at the Medical Council, the Commerce Commission, and ACC. This matter is therefore of considerable importance.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Pettett', with a horizontal line above the name.

Andrea Pettett
Chief Executive

Cc: NZOA Presidential Line
Peter Robertson