



the peak body and leading voice
for sonographers

Media release

27 March 2015

Call for urgently needed legislated registration for sonographers

Yesterday, an accredited medical sonographer appeared in the Downing Centre Local Court, New South Wales, on charges for allegedly indecently assaulting three women while giving them ultrasounds at a Sydney clinic.

Dr Stephen Duns, CEO of the ASA, has said, "While the alleged offender is an accredited medical sonographer, this case highlights the fact that there is no legislated registration for sonographers and the URGENT need for a system of registration. Currently only academic qualifications are accredited and the profession is not registered. This potentially means that a crime can be committed, the perpetrator jailed and then continue to practice after their release from jail.

"Every week thousands of mothers and vulnerable people, such as those suffering cancer, are benefiting from ultrasound and they deserve to be protected with a legislated registration process.

"For the government, this highlights the risk they are exposing the public too by failing to implement professional registration and legislative acknowledgement of the profession. We would like to point out that sonography is the only medical diagnostic profession that is not registered and the community should be horrified that this profession is not registered. For the safety of the public, we encourage all patients receiving ultrasound medical imaging to ensure their sonographer is an ASA accredited practitioner.

"Notably, it is our expectation that all of our members behave in a completely professional manner; however, we need a way to deal with those who fall short of the expectations of the profession."

The ASA have been contacted by the relevant authorities and continue to provide support for the best outcome in this appalling and most unfortunate situation. The matter is due to return to court in June.

Finally and importantly, the ASA would like to express our shock at this alleged behaviour and sincere feelings for the victims – no-one should have to experience indecent sexual behaviour – and to assure them that such behaviour is never acceptable and is contrary to the high standards expected of ASA accredited practitioners, as stated in our *Code of Conduct* and *Standards of Practice*.

As the peak and leading body for the sonographers, the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) guides the advancement of the profession to ensure the community has access to quality sonographic services.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Stephen Duns, CEO, please contact Stuart Giles, Head of Marketing & Business Development, on 03 9552 0011.

About the ASA

The ASA is the peak body and leading voice for sonographers with over 3,800 members. The ASA guides the advancement of our profession to ensure the community has access to quality sonographic services.