

Health Physicist

>>What is Health Physics?

Health Physicists apply the knowledge, skills and training acquired from a degree in physics to the way radiation may be used safely and responsibly in society.

The work of a Health Physicist covers many disciplines such as the measurement of the many forms of radiation (X-ray, radioactive materials, lasers and radio waves to mention a few), understanding how these forms of radiation interact with matter, particularly people, and applying standards and legislative requirements in order to ensure radiation is used safely.

Where do Health Physicists work in Tasmania ?

The Health Physics Branch, within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the *Radiation Protection Act 2005* and the *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006*. The health physicists are authorised officers under the *Radiation Protection Act 2005* and carry out quality assurance assessments and other surveillance and monitoring activities to ensure that the requirements of the Act are being met. They also participate in the assessment of licence applications, provide advice on all radiation matters and participate in the emergency response to incidents involving radiation.

Health Physicists' work covers all areas where radioactive material is used, such as dental surgeries, GP practices, private and public radiography services, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine in the health sector and , and education, mining, veterinary clinics and solarium services in other sectors.

How do Health Physicists work in DHHS?

Health Physicists are authorised officers under the *Radiation Protection Act 2005* and have a compliance and enforcement role under this Act. In this role, Health Physicists carry out audits of practices where radiation is authorised for use, for example, hospitals, industry and research institutions. Audits may involve examining the safety systems at the practice or performing measurements on radiation sources.

Health Physicists also provide advice to the government, agencies and members of the public on radiation safety matters and participate in national committees where radiation protection standards are set.

What qualifications are required to practice?

Recognised qualification from a tertiary institution

Useful links

<http://www.aip.org.au/>

<http://www.arps.org.au>

<http://www.arpana.gov.au>