



**The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP**  
**Assistant Minister for Health**  
**Member for Lyne**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

16 March 2017

### **Minister Gillespie discusses Australia's response to radiological emergencies**

Federal Assistant Minister for Health, Dr David Gillespie, today attended the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (RHSAC) meeting at Victoria's State Control Centre.

The RHSAC provides independent advice to the CEO of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) about radiation protection and nuclear safety.

The RHSAC is considering ARPANSA's capabilities and role in emergency preparedness and response to a nuclear or radiological event in Australia to ensure ARPANSA best meets its mandate to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation.

"Australia's ability to respond efficiently and effectively to a nuclear or radiological event is paramount. We need to consider what opportunities are available for ARPANSA to work with other stakeholders and I look forward to having these discussions with Council," Minister Gillespie said.

"ARPANSA, alongside the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, represent Australia in the World Health Organizations' (WHO) Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network (REMPAN). This network assists member states to build capacities for emergency medical and public health assistance to people who have received excessive exposure to radiation. I support the collaboration and engagement of stakeholders to further develop Australia's medical response if a radiological emergency occurred".

Dr. Roger Allison, Chair of RHSAC said, "we are honoured to have Minister Gillespie's input at this Council meeting at Victoria's State Control Centre, especially when we are discussing matters of national importance".

The RHSAC meets three times a year to discuss emerging issues and matters of major public concern relating to radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Further details about the RHSAC can be found at [www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au).

**For more information, contact the Minister's Office on (02) 6277 4960**