

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

RADIATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1986

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

NO. 50 OF 1986

The amendments to the Radiation Ordinance 1983 (the principal Ordinance) alter the legislation in a number of ways. The principal Ordinance prior to the amendment only exempted from the requirement to be licence holders, radiation workers acting under the supervision of a licence holder who were employees of that licence holder. This result was not intended and accordingly the amendment to section 25 of the principal Ordinance now exempts all persons who are under the supervision or direction of a licence holder, although they may not necessarily be employed by that licence holder.

Amendment to section 39 of the principal Ordinance has strengthened the duties of the radiation safety officer. The intention of this amendment is to make it clear that radioactive sources are kept in a safe and secure place when not in use, and also that the radiation safety officers upon appointment record all radioactive sources coming onto or leaving the licensed premises. In addition the amendment requires monthly checks of radioactive sources as against the records kept and the reporting of any discrepancies to the licensee of the premises and to the Chairman of the Radiation Council.

The principal Ordinance sets out the matters to be considered in calculating the dose of ionizing radiation received by a person. Prior to the amendment the principal Ordinance only referred to occupational exposure received from any

radioactive source. Section 46 of the principal Ordinance has been amended to apply to radiation from both irradiating apparatus and radioactive sources. The principal Ordinance has also been amended to provide a different and more accurate and practicable formula, from that specified in the principal Ordinance, for calculating the dose of radiation a person receives over the period of a year, where that dose is only known for part of that year.

The principal Ordinance did not provide for remuneration by Radiation Council members who were not government employees. A new section 16A now declares the Radiation Council a prescribed authority for the purposes of the Remuneration Ordinance 1976, thereby allowing Council members who are not government employees to be paid for the performance of their duties as members of the Council.

