

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AUSTRALIA



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

2012 was a very active year and can be best summarised as one comprising change, challenge and opportunity.

Leadership and Governance

A number of key changes occurred in 2012 with regards to leadership and Governance.

In late March, Ron Hunt advised the Board of his intention to resign as CEO. An active recruitment campaign was undertaken and in September, Rachel Norris, commenced as our new CEO. Ron was with Occupational Therapy Australia for 5 years both pre and post its amalgamation as a single entity. He worked hard to coordinate the transition into this new era and paved the way for us work to begin as a national team.

Registration

Another significant occurrence was the advent of national registration on 1 July 2012, which provided an opportunity for the profession and a challenge for our Association: The challenge was to ensure that members maintained their membership despite the additional costs incurred with registration: For the first time, we knew the number of practicing occupational therapists nationwide: With over 15,000 registered occupational therapists nationally, the potential to increase membership is significant and this is a core strategic objective as we enter 2013 along with developing collaborative working relationships with the OTBA and OTC who are now key drivers in the development of professional standards in our profession. More than ever, we needed to demonstrate our relevance and value to our members and this was achieved with membership reaching 5177 by the end of the year. This was slightly down on 2011 numbers of 5300.

Professional Development

Of course the opportunity arising from registration pertained to professional development, which is an essential component for ongoing renewal of registration. It was therefore essential for us to develop a key role in the provision of ongoing professional development: By the end of 2012, a National professional development strategic plan and operational plan for 2013 had been developed and a National CPD manager appointed.

Occupational Therapy Australia Research Foundation

After many years of having a vision of developing our own Research

Foundation, the vision was realised and the Research Foundation launched at the 2012 AGM: A trust was established in May 2012. Monies allocated for research activities in various Divisions were consolidated and placed into a dedicated research foundation fund. After many months of planning the Foundation was also granted deductible gift recipient status – enabling all donations to the Research foundation to be tax deductible. The research foundation had become a reality, albeit on paper. It is now its own legal entity, managed by the Occupational therapy Australia Board who act as its trustees. The design of its organisational structure was also finalised and approved by the Board:

Our sincere appreciation must go to the dedicated work of a group of committed volunteers who formed the Research Foundation working party.

Professor Anne Cusick	Dr Annette Joosten
Deidre Morgan	Dr Elspeth Froude
Dr Jenny Ziviani	Dr Mandy Stanley
Professor Matthew Molineux	Assoc Professor Michael Curtin
Assoc Professor Tammy Hoffmann	

Our Voice

One of the many roles of Occupational Therapy Australia is to provide a voice to governments and other regulatory and policy entities on matters pertaining to the profession and the clients we serve.

During 2012, our voice was heard on many issues and these are identified on page 5.

Better Access to Mental Health

Occupational Therapy continued to assess applications for the Better Access to Mental Health Care Scheme. The only difference which occurred in 2012 was that it was no longer a requirement to be a member of Occupational Therapy Australia, since the advent of registration. All members are assessed for the scheme free of charge inclusive of the CPD audit, ie as a member benefit; non members are charged an application admin processing and servicing fee.

We continue to audit occupational therapists in the scheme for their compliance with the 10 hours CPD requirement and the ability to utilise the Scheme's Medicare rebates.

The total number of compliant providers since 2005 is 575; In December 2012 to further ensure that all records post unification of the Association were correct, a thorough review of all records was conducted spanning 2005 to 2012. The findings showed only 7% were no longer able to continue with the scheme.

Medicare Locals

The development of 61 national Medicare Locals has provided challenges as well as opportunities for occupational therapists to be more actively engaged in primary health care. During the latter half of 2012, work began to develop strategic partnerships with Medicare locals and in November, Occupational Therapy Australia was accepted to be a Tier 1 member of the Tasmanian ML.

Representation

During this year, over 40 members represented Occupational therapy Australia nationally on over 40 working parties, committees plus many others on local Divisional / State committees.

A summary of key activities can be viewed on page 19[iv].

Member Benefits

Apart from the intangible membership benefits described above pertaining to how we influence the development and reputation of the profession, we know members seek tangible benefits.

In 2012 a further three year agreement was signed with Aon, our preferred insurance broker. During this year, over 2000 members took up Aon insurance and we were able to negotiate: reduced premiums of 15%; increased access to a free legal hotline service from 15 minutes to 2 hours; Free 'run-off' cover – if occupational therapists retired, stop practising as an occupational therapist or moved from private practice to public practice.

In addition, we established an online research service page on the otaus.com.au website to assist members seeking new ideas and research being published around the world.

The page contains links to the Canadian, British, New Zealand and Australian Journals together with links to Google Scholar, PubMed and OTDBase an online indexing and search service that contains over 10,000 abstracts from more than 20 global OT journals since 1970.

Farewells and those we welcomed

The Board said farewell and thank you to Amanda Blayden, Dominic Tripodi (Vice President) and Thelma Burnett (WFOT delegate) and welcomed member elected Directors Chris Kennedy (Qld), Robyne Cottee (NSW) and National Advisory Committee Nominated Director Nicola Tuckwell (WA).

Lee Zakrsewski took over the reigns from Thelma Burnett as our

WFOT Delegate and commenced her four year term, with Dr Lynette Mackenzie accepting the role as WFOT first alternate delegate. We sincerely thank Thelma for her dedicated time in this role for many years.

We welcomed back Kim Mestroni as Membership Services Coordinator in the Victorian Division and welcomed Linda Ford as Executive Director NSW Division.

We also acknowledged the passing of some long standing members and their contribution to the profession and Association: Elaine Pearce [VIC], Duclie Goode [VIC], Ann Smidlin [NSW] Megan Gandfors [QLD] and Christina Boerema [SA].

Recognition and Awards

During 2012, the WFOT celebrated its 60th anniversary. During this year, Freda Jacob, who was the first Australian delegate to WFOT was recognised for her outstanding commitment to the profession.

Honorary Life membership was conferred to Judith Trevan-Hawke for her long, sustained and exemplary contributions to the Association; The Sylvia Docker lectureship was conferred to Natasha Layton.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally and sincerely thank the staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year in developing a range of valued services to members: And to our many volunteers – who gave so much of their time both working in their Divisions and Nationally - our grateful thanks and appreciation for all you have done and continue to do to sustain and grow the Association.

NICOLE O'REILLY
PRESIDENT

RACHEL NORRIS
CEO

FINANCIALS

Income Statement

for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

	2011	2012
Revenue	3,725,979	3,224,586
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	(1,577,861)	(1,622,781)
Depreciation expense	(37,981)	(70,229)
Interest expense	(19,396)	(27,114)
Rental expense	(31,638)	(61,055)
Staff training and development expense	(15,927)	(8,149)
Consultancy fees	(123,727)	(174,634)
Journals and organisation dues	(246,897)	(232,290)
Marketing expenses	(44,112)	(28,172)
Conference costs	(507,024)	(295,174)
Continual professional development costs	(317,074)	(279,257)
Executive and staff travel	(117,916)	(153,829)
Office administration costs	(284,648)	(323,380)
Better Access Project costs	(45,043)	-
Impairment of investments	(8,656)	-
Sundry expenses	(100,216)	(115,236)
Net Current Year Surplus / (Deficit)	(137,961)	(192,223)

Other comprehensive income for the year:

Contribution to the OTA Research Foundation	-	(210,136)
Equity transfers from liquidated affiliated entities	1,712,865	96,696
Net gain on revaluation of property, plant & equipment	247,405	-
Total comprehensive income/(deficit) for the year	1,960,270	(113,440)
Total comprehensive income/(deficit) attributable to the entity	1,822,289	(305,663)

Balance Sheet

for the Year Ended 31 December 2011

	2011	2012
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,026,316	1,367,605
Sundry and other receivables	53,272	190,857
Other current assets	20,853	46,366
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,100,441	1,604,828
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	132,421	-
Property, plant and equipment	2,465,949	2,408,942
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,598,370	2,408,942
TOTAL ASSETS	4,698,811	4,013,770

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry and other payables	1,138,746	1,143,546
Provision for employer benefits	124,711	94,918
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,263,457	1,238,463
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	354,193	-
Provisions for employer benefits	23,175	22,983
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	377,368	22,983
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,640,825	1,261,446
NET ASSETS	3,057,986	2,752,323

MEMBER FUNDS

Accumulated surplus/(defecit)	(325,285)	(728,285)
Reserves	247,405	247,405
Equity transfers from liquidated affiliated entities	3,136,507	3,136,507
TOTAL EQUITY	3,057,986	2,752,323

The financial climate for 2012 was identified as one requiring careful and considered decisions with the introduction of National Registration, the transition of a new CEO for the Association and a non National Conference year all contributing to the bottom line.

The overall performance of Occupational Therapy Australia in 2012 shows a deficit of 197,903 which was 51,231 more than the predicted budget.

The main items to show a reduction in revenue included:

- Continuing Professional Development showed a variance of \$95,000
- A reduction in web advertising of \$30,000 from the budget
- A variance of \$18,700 in Aon commissions [renegotiated rates with Aon to help provide better value to members.

Together with an increase in expenditure to:

- Employment expenses, including consultant fees [\$14,000] and recruitment [\$45,000]
- Payroll Tax
- Council and Executive Travel

Membership peaked at 5291 in mid 2012 and finished the year with 5090 which means 200 members did not rejoin in the renewal period during June/July. This can be attributed to a number of factors including the start of National Registration; especially in NSW. The start of 2013 has seen this rise again and we hope to report stronger numbers in the coming

On a good note, ACT membership was the highest it has been in several years and QLD, VIC, NT and WA all increased membership over the year.

NSW	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Qld	Vic	WA
1266	381	114	103	69	1274	1683	200

For a full copy of the audited financial results please log on to our website at www.otaus.com.au/aboutus or contact Occupational Therapy Australia.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The National Advisory Committee [NAC] met on 4 occasions in 2012. The NAC farewelled from its membership Lee Zakrzewski [WFOT 1st alternate delegate], Alison Hopwood [TAS], Jeannine Millstead [WA] and Amanda Timmer [VIC]; all who contributed so much. It also welcomed Michelle Bissett [NSW] Lynette Mackenzie [WFOT 1st alternate delegate], Clarissa Adriel [TAS], Helen Margarta [WA] and Dina Waterson [VIC].

The NAC has had a very productive year with reviewing the terms of reference for the honours panel on request from the Board and supported the recommendation to disband the honours panel and distribute the various functions to other existing groups/

LOBBYING & ADVOCACY

Occupational Therapy Australia has an important voice to add to the current policy debates that affect the profession and our consumers / clients.

In the course of the year Occupational Therapy Australia has developed positions and strengthened its influence over a range of policy issues. Through these activities, the Association has contributed to the development of better policy outcomes for consumers, and improvements for members.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

Building on the work of the previous year, staff and members of the DVA members' reference group met with departmental officials and finalised a submission to the Department. The submission, which is available on the website, seeks changes that will better support Occupational Therapists who perform services for veterans, including:

- improvements in the rate of pay;
- better recognition of the time and expense involved in visiting veterans in their homes
- improvement to communication and "prior authority" requirements for certain conditions and interventions;
- more consistent advice from Departmental officials in response to questions from Occupational Therapists.

Results:

As a result of our work, there are already some improvements to "prior authority" requirements, and better communication with the department. While there is still some way to go, Occupational Therapy Australia is engaged with DVA to try to ensure a good outcome for veterans and Occupational Therapists which will ensure the profession is appropriately remunerated for work with this part of the community.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Occupational Therapy Australia has actively lobbied the Government to ensure that the profession's voice is heard by decision makers in the development of the NDIS, which will revolutionise the way that people with disabilities and their carers are supported.

Occupational Therapy Australia members approached staff to seek leadership in ensuring that the profession's views were communicated to Government, and a members' reference group was formed. These comprises recognised experts in various aspects disability services, members from the 4 launch sites (Vic, NSW, SA and Tas) for 2013, and other members.

Occupational Therapy Australia engaged with Government, officials and

committees. The NAC also recommended to the Board a collated honorary life membership process by amalgamating the various Divisions' honorary life membership processes. The revised Honorary Life Membership Award was endorsed by the Board.

One of the NAC's two core functions is to elect two board members to the OTA Board in May 2012. These were Nicole O'Reilly and Nicola Tuckwell.

The second core function is to conduct the Environmental Scan to advise the Board on opportunities and threats that may affect our profession especially with the changes in Government and funding directions. A thorough environmental scan document was completed and provided to the Board

other organisations to ensure that there was a good understanding of the role that Occupational Therapists currently play and could play under the new Scheme.

Outcomes:

- Rachel Norris (new CEO) and Karl met with Sen Jan McLucas (Parliamentary Sec for Disability Reform) in Sept and that meeting enabled us to take our discussion forward to a range of other settings.
- Rachael MacDonald represented Occupational Therapy Australia at meetings of the Expert Reference Groups on Workforce Capacity and Development and on Eligibility and Assessment.
- Rachel Norris and Karl met with National Disability Services in September last year.
- OTA submission on the Draft Definition of Necessary and Reasonable Care completed September 2012.
- Dina Watterson and Rachael MacDonald succeeded in getting Sen McLucas and Liz Cairns (then from PWC) to speak at the Victoria OTA conference in Melbourne in November.
- Occupational Therapy Australia submission on the Draft Bill completed January 2013.
- Rachel and Karl met with Senators from the Senate Community Affairs Committee in Feb 2013. We also met with Mary Hawkins and Dougie Heard from the NDIA (FAHCSIA) on the same day.
- Rachel and Karl met with Senator Mitch Fifield (Opposition spokesperson) in February.
- Rachel Norris gave evidence to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Bill in February.
- Occupational Therapy Australia completed submission on the draft Rules of the legislation in March 2013.
- Karl Charikar attended Treasury Lock Up for Federal Budget May 2013.

Results:

- Occupational Therapy is mentioned as a support in the Budget papers for the NDIS.
- Significant aspects of the legislation reflect the positions put by OTA.
- Planner roles at the NDIS Agency are clearly intended for allied health professionals, including Occupational Therapists, to fill.
- OTA will continue to work on the NDIS as it moves into delivery through the launch sites and becomes a national program in the coming years.

NDIS funding

Occupational Therapy Australia received funding from the Federal Government to develop a website which will assist consumers, carers and families to better understand how they can be supported by Occupational Therapists and other allied health professionals. The site – TherapyChoices.org.au – is a collaboration with other professions, consumers, carers and disability services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members in the different Divisions in assisting with this important task and encourage all members in their various areas of practice, who see opportunities or threats to our profession to contact their Division's NAC member at any time particularly around October, to inform the environmental scanning process.

In closing I would like to thank long term NAC Members for their commitment - Caroline Wake who has assisted in co-chairing the NAC as well as Lorraine Sager [NT] and Jan Yarrington [ACT].

CLARA CHAN NAC, CHAIR

REPRESENTATION

Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) National Professional Representatives have been effective as both ambassadors and early detectors of important change. Representatives have been involved in a significant number of activities on behalf of Occupational Therapy Australia during 2012. These activities are generally fall into one or more of the following groups:

- > Specialised and Sector peak bodies (often with the “ear” of Government)
- > Government reform agendas during 2012 (ageing, disability, mental health and primary health)
- > Consultation meetings for national projects (eg one off stakeholder workshops)
- > Organisations focussing on specialised multidisciplinary education and professional development
- > Specialist Non Government Organisations
- > Targeted external projects requiring occupational therapy input (eg clinical standards, guidelines etc)

A complete list of active work by National Representatives is available to members on the Occupational Therapy Australia website and is updated periodically.

More than 30 national representation activities remained active from the 2011 year. Additionally, more than 20 new activities were commenced during 2012. At the close of 2012 Occupational Therapy Australia was involved in more than 50 high level organisations / committees / projects at the national level through the work of professional representatives. This indicates an excessively busy period and an indication that external peak and specialist organisations and Government departments seek OTA expertise, professionalism and representation of member occupational therapists across Australia.

This important work is additional to specific lobbying activity by Occupational Therapy Australia which occurred in other areas as well as professional representation which occurred at a Divisional level.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Relationship development and management
Professional Representation efforts have enabled beneficial relationships to flourish with many organisations and influential individuals. Continued development of respect for OTA within the broader industry is evidenced by the ongoing requests for face to face involvement in committees and projects. This work contributes to OTA presence and standing in the industry, and therefore the appropriate promotion of occupational therapy as a profession, as well as identification of future opportunities for occupational therapy influence.

Professional leadership and influence
The crux of professional representation is significant occupational therapy contribution to and /or influence in new developments in health, disability and related fields and therefore representation of the collective membership. A critical example where this has occurred in the past 12months has been the increasing acknowledgement and request for input of OTA in many aspects of the Aged Care Reform – Living Longer, Living Better. Opportunity for a seat at the table to

JOY PENNOCK | SENIOR ADVISOR REPRESENTATION

provide clinically based advice to the Government in this area was enabled by OTA’s long term representation on the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA)

Member engagement and member benefit
Approximately 40 experienced members have engaged as OTA National Professional Representatives during the past two years. Many of these members have undertaken more than one representation activity. Positive feedback from the general membership indicates support for this work.

Member benefits of professional representation include:

- OTA “presence” and building reputation of the profession for its ability to positively contribute in high level discussion.
- Opportunity to influence developments and projects, using the knowledge base of occupational therapy to further the OTA mission
- Involvement in clinical guidelines and standards development
- Collective “lobbying” power through other peak bodies (eg Allied Health Professions of Australia, Mental Health Council of Australia, National Aged Care Alliance, National Primary Health Care Partnerships)
- Individual member benefits for the representatives through the development of nation-wide professional networks and contacts as well as career enhancing experience.
- Continued improved governance of representation efforts has lead to a resurgence of feedback to members by representatives

Strategic links
Broad and far reaching professional representation enables improved awareness of developments in key areas and “common threads” across representation areas which can be of strategic importance to OTA.

OUTCOMES

Significant OTA involvement has occurred in the follow developments through formal representatives on external organisations and committees:

- **Aged Care Sector (through the National Aged Care Alliance)**
 - ≥ Gateway development / advice to Government, Home Support Program, Home Care Consumer Directed Care, Specified Services Review, Agewell Campaign
 - ≥ Mental Health Sector (via Department of Health & Ageing projects)
 - ≥ National Practice Standards, National Recovery Framework, Health Workforce Australia Mental Health Workforce Strategy, collaboration guidelines in private sector, ATAPS
- **Driving & transport (though relevant transport organisations)**
 - ≥ Fitness to drive
 - ≥ Clinical Framework for the delivery of allied health services to injured people
- **Standards Australia**
 - ≥ Mobility products / assistive technology products standards
 - ≥ Access
 - ≥ Playground equipment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following members, office bearers and staff are thanked for their involvement, leadership and sharing of expertise

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AUSTRALIA BOARD

					
Nicole O'Reilly President	Peter Bothams Vice President	Jan Erven Vice President [Finance]	Domenico Tripodi Vice President resigned [23 6 12]	Thelma Burnett WFOT delegate resigned [23 6 12]	Therese Fitzpatrick

					
Imelda Todd	Jenny Ziviani	Robyne Cottee appointed [23 6 12]	Chris Kennedy appointed [23 6 12]	Nicola Tuckwell appointed [23 6 12]	Lee Zakrzewski WFOT delegate appointed [23 6 12]

STAFF

- NAT** Rachel Norris
Azzam Al-Ashi
Cheryl Bermingham
Karl Charikar
Helen Hendy
Marco Bello
Kelly Sinclair
Joy Pennock
Sadie Robertson
Julie Newton
Ron Hunt
Laura McMahon
Nina Thomas
Rachael Hewison
Soraya Dean
Karen Christensen

- NSW** Linda Ford
Michelle Reynolds
Sharna Dominish
Zorica Rapaich
Danielle Cummings
Berlos Davis

- QLD** Sonia Herbert
Julie Newton
Julie Caudell
Sarah Lawrence
Jaide Sara
Sharron Stapleton

- SA** Brian Whitford
Bec Raymond

- VIC** Paul Nicholls
Kim Mestroni
Rebecca Allen
Elaine Hutton
Duppy Critchley
Pam Papigiotis

- WA** Virginia Rogers

DIVISIONAL CHAIRS

- ACT -** Stephen Isbel
Sara Brito
- NSW -** Beth Gwalter
Lee Zakrzewski
- NT -** Julie Bromley
Julia Swenson
- QLD -** Kieran Broome
Geoff Lau
- SA -** Angela Berndt
- TAS -** Peta Raison
Chris Bryg
- VIC -** Susan Giles
- WA -** Jeannine Millstead

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Azzam Al-Ashi
Jan Erven
Chris Kennedy
Imelda Todd

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Clara Chan
Lee Zakrzewski
Alison Hopwood
Jeannine Millstead
Amanda Timmer
Michelle Bissett
Lynette Mackenzie
Clarissa Adriel
Helen Margarta
Dina Waterson
Caroline Wake
Lorraine Sager
Jan Yarrington

REPRESENTATION

- Clarissa Adriel
Rebecca Allchin
Karen Arblaster
Elizabeth Barnard
Dianne Berryman
Amanda Bladen
Anita Bundy
Libby Callaway
Karl Charikar
Valda Dorries
Marilyn Di Stefano
Ann Drew
Ros Eagles
Jan Erven
Ellie Fossey
Sue Giles
Louise Gustafsson
Christine Hindmarsh
Wendy Hudson
Ron Hunt
Trish Lapsley
Natasha Lannin
Natasha Layton
Kate Lhuede
Jeannine Millstead
Rachel Norris
Nicole O'Reilly
Sarah Patterson
Joy Pennock
Genevieve Pepin
Sylvia Rodger
Justin Scanlan
Louise Scanlan
Gordon Siebel
Penny Thomas
Robyn Thompson
Elvina Weissel
Lee Zakrzewski

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REFERENCE GROUP

- Carol McKinstry - Chair
Jan Erven
Elspeth Froude
Marion Gray
Natasha Lannin
Alison Wicks
Rebecca Singh
Julie Newton
Kate Delany
Karen Smith
Marco Bello

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Natasha Lannin - Chair
Lynne Adamson
Rachel Norris
Marco Bello
Carol McKinstry
Hugh Stewart
Brock Cook
Julie Newton
Brenton Kortman
Rebecca Singh
Tammy Hoffman

RESEARCH FOUNDATION WORKING PARTY

- Michael Curtin - Chair
Anne Cusick
Annette Joosten
Deidre Morgan
Elspeth Froude
Jenny Ziviani
Mandy Stanley
Matthew Molineux
Tammy Hoffmann

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- National registration – The Association worked closely with OTBA and AHPRA to ensure smooth implementation and that our members received the appropriate information.
- The ACT Division has developed a 12month CPD calendar for members. This is increasing all the time with links now to external providers such as ACT Mindfully, University of Canberra and Compass Consulting. As a division are working closely with our new National CPD manager to engage both national and local presenters in a variety of mediums, to develop more e-learning opportunities. Also to develop communication with other local associations and partners to provide PD ops, sponsorship and reciprocal support.
- Building strength and peer support through our divisional council through roles such as Employment Liaison Officer and the upcoming new grad/student representative.
- Successful Occupational Rehab Forum in Aug 2012 in conjunction with the NSW division. Member feedback has led to further PD 'Motivational Interviewing' with Stan Steindl on the 28th June 2013.
- 6th Occ Science Symposium at the University of Canberra, demonstrated the passion, research and collaboration between differing areas of Allied Health particularly within the OT community.
- Mentorlink, a national program of Association peer support is being looked at by the division to see if we can make a unique ACT connection – ACT specific peer support in all areas of the workforce.
- OT Week in October 2012 was very well attended, our breakfast the best yet and the Bunning's Initiative started in the NT was a great success with a full roster at Bunning's Belconnen store. The division also spoke at the All OT meeting and has recently spoken to students at the University of Canberra.
- We are also looking towards promotion of the profession, one step is membership to the state's Medicare Local. Our organizational membership (with voting rights) will offer us the chance to stand alongside other peak bodies in Canberra.

HELEN HENDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACT DIVISION

NEW SOUTH WALES

2012 was, of course, memorable for National Registration. The forms, the requirements, the fear. The Association, Nationally and State, was there - providing support and advice, arranging information sessions, advocating with AHPRA. We made it.

State Forum 2012

We had lots of positive feedback for this event which centred around our unique contribution to health care through our focus on occupation, on how people live and enjoy life. Our keynote speakers were Gail Whiteford and Lindy Clemson who both inspired us to take occupational seriously.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and expertise to make the State Forum held in November at Technology Park, Redfern, happen. Not an easy job. Great venue, interesting and inspirational presenters and an excellent networking opportunity.

Welcome to New Graduates

The Association has continued in its support of students with Newington staff distributing and presenting information for final year students and at orientation for new students. The Association annually recognises final year students with the NSW Prize for Excellence in Clinical Practice.

This prize is awarded to the final year OT student who is assessed as the most excellent in field work practice. The winner receives a free membership to Occupational Therapy Australia until the end of June 18 months from their graduation.

The winners in 2012 were:

- » Sarah Alchin from University of Sydney;
- » Emma Bartley from University of Newcastle;
- » Stephanie Carmen from Charles Sturt University ;
- » Amanda Vella from University of Western Sydney.

Membership

Membership has been a rollercoaster over the 2012 period. The Association membership peaked at 1769 at the end of the membership year (June 2012) and dived to 1092 in July 2012. Membership has steadily increased over subsequent months with now just over 1400 members. Over a ten (10) year period, membership steadily decreased with a slight increase over the last two (2) years.

And now some of the 2013/2014 plans;

- » Local Representation and lobbying. A focus for 2013 will be with the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS).
- » A diverse CPD program that complements the National CPD plan and will assist occupational therapists in meeting registration requirements
- » Supporting students and new graduates.

LINDA FORD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NSW DIVISION

NORTHERN TERRITORY

- The NT Division has developed a 12 month CPD calendar for members. External providers such as ACT Mindfully and Compass Consulting are now available at member rates. As a division we are working closely with our new National CPD manager to engage both national and local presenters in a variety of mediums, to develop more e-learning opportunities particularly for those therapists that work remotely or would like to engage with the profession outside of work hours. Also to develop communication with other local associations and partners to provide CPD opportunities, sponsorship and reciprocal support.
- OT Week in October 2012 'Occupation Is What We Do!'- OT of the NT award was given to the very dedicated Claire Pilkington during our breakfast. Held at Cornucopia it was the largest yet and members enjoyed the engaging and enthusiastic guest speaker Angela Lockwood. Two sites were also chosen for the NT Bunning's initiative now in its second year. Thank you to all those who took part. A dinner in Alice Springs and a fund-raising sausage sizzle lunch at the Royal Darwin hospital completed the activities.
- CPD – March began with a series of popular and well attended Home Mods and ramp workshops presented by Liz Ainsworth. June 2012 was a very exciting month and brought together therapists from near and far to celebrate the profession. The Northern Territory Conference, Participation in Action and the preceding workshop presented by Ian Davey gave all the opportunity to extended and develop their practice. Much work was completed by the Conference Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee. Sunset Sessions continued throughout the year on a variety of topics and our first Sunset Session mini trade expo took place in November 2012.
- Our first leadership and management SIG began in November 2012. With a variety of presenters and topics they plan to continue into 2013.

HELEN HENDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NT DIVISION

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland division has had another fantastic year in 2012, starting off with the relocation to new premises at Coorparoo. Membership is continuing to gradually increase, whereby currently 46% of registered Occupational Therapists in Queensland are members of our Association. Initiatives such as our final year student / graduation gift promotion, two year new graduate membership and the refer a friend promotion have further assisted in engaging Occupational Therapists with the Association.

We are continuing to support our membership in acquiring the mandatory 30 hours of CPD via a range of delivery methods. These included; traditional full day and two day workshops, webinar presentations, and two hour taster styled events. The training room has been well utilized by our local interest groups, and the introduction of online registration for attendance at interest group meetings, has assisted members in recording their valuable CPD hours.

A highlight of the 2012 calendar was the State Conference Navigating Change in an Ocean of Opportunity and promOTing better living expo, held in Cairns in September. The event included a public expo with trade displays and stage presentations by visiting and local OTs including Dr Kieran Broome, Kerry Stingel, Stephanie Whiteside, Christine Coop and Delwyn Sheehan. Also featuring in the program was special guest speaker Paul de Gelder. This event garnered publicity in print and broadcast media and was positive promotion of the OT profession. The expo also included pre-conference workshops on Evidence Based Stroke Rehabilitation, Child Motivation and Advocacy.

The two-day conference program included keynote speakers Clarissa Adriel and Dr Charles Christiansen, guest speakers, soap box and paper presentations. The conference was one of the most successful hosted by Queensland division and had close to 200 attendees. As well as attracting a great number of Far North Queensland OTs, delegates travelled from within Queensland and interstate to participate. The venue proved to be ideal, with training rooms and trade space and the entertainment options were well received.

Overall, 2012 saw a pattern of expansion in the Queensland division's CPD program and planning for 2013 sees this pattern continue. Member's demands for relevant CPD continue to be explored and the program is gaining greater diversity and opportunity. Thank you to the divisional council members, for their ongoing support of operational staff and significant contributions to our local division; Dr Kieran Broome, Clara Chan, Jodie Booth, Kerry Garbutt, Kimberley Strahan, Sue Smith, Adam Lo and Louise Mander.

SONIA HERBERT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, QLD DIVISION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The 2nd Combined State Conference and Country Forum was held in Murray Bridge and was an outstanding success. The theme of “A Bridge to Wellbeing” was threaded through the activities and the presentations with enthusiasm and creativity. We thank all who attended and volunteered, especially the OTs from Murray Bridge and other committee members. Special thanks go to Mandy Seyfang who chaired the organising committee and provided outstanding leadership.

Our special interest groups continue to meet and work on each of their particular lobbying and CPD activities. Brian supports each group in different ways, depending on need. This year was very busy as the groups worked on proposals to utilise funds from the outgoing South Australian Registration Board as well as a number of new projects

Our Continuing Profession Development committee, led by Carmen Burgess and supported by OTAL-SA staff, provides a program that continues to go from strength to strength. The committee meets mainly in the second half of the year to ensure the CPD calendar arrives in January. The calendar is derived from feedback from members from various sources, including but not limited to, the evaluation forms of each of the previous events. Events regularly are full, with some oversubscribed.

Locally, our marketing efforts in the period of this report have been excellent. Kara Story and Elissa Nieass have held the position of marketing coordinators for a couple of years with Elissa ceasing in the role during September 2012.

During 2012, marketing and student representatives promoted OT to students and parents at a high school careers night, sharing experiences of practice and university studies.

OT week 2012 was a huge success with a fabulous combined country state forum. Congratulations to all involved. There were a diverse array of speakers including Carmen Gloria de las Heras who travelled from Chile to join us over a 4 day period. Thank you for the support provided towards her expenses by the Department of Health and Country Health SA.

At the conference the Associations two main awards were presented, Contribution to the Profession to Susan Gilbert Hunt and the Innovation award to Kobie Boshoff for her work with children’s centres. We congratulate these two OTs and thank them for their impact on the profession. We also received the report from Anita Maywald who received the Research Award the previous year. This award is only presented every other year.

BRIAN WHITFORD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SA DIVISION

TASMANIA

- The TAS Division has developed a 12month CPD calendar for members. As a division are working closely with our new National CPD manager to engage both national and local presenters in a variety of mediums. We also plan to develop more e-learning opportunities for those members who work remotely or wish to access out of hours PD opportunities. Currently member rates are applicable to both ACT Mindfully and Compass Consulting. This year we are also looking other local associations and partners to provide CPD opportunities.

- As a Division we are pleased to have four members onboard each bringing their own area of practice such as mental health, private practice, rehab and knowledge about asylum seekers and refuge settlement. We say a fond goodbye to Becki Giles, Alison Hopwood and lastly the experienced and engaged Peta Raison. Each member has provided the Divisional Council with much dedication, expertise and direction.

- We also gained tier one membership to the single Tasmanian Medicare Local in June 2012, this provides the Division with voting rights and links within the allied health community. After further talks with Mark Broxton Director Clinical Services at Tasmania Medicare Local in November, calls were sent for a representative on the primary health care strategic advisory council. We would like to welcome Cindy Hollings who will report to the Divisional council as a project officer. Amrita Sinha, a divisional councillor is also a member of the ML Steering committee. We welcome any member expressions of interest for small project officer or research roles, let us know what you are interested in and wish to pursue.

- Increasing links with in-services at both Launceston General and the Royal Hobart hospital. We are also pleased to be working with the very active Northern OTs Groups or NOTs. These additional services really help to provide a varied and diverse experience of CPD within Tasmania.

- A successful OT Week in October 2012 included breakfast and a presentation from Clarissa Adriel in Hobart, Lunch in Burnie and cupcake delivery and lunch in Launceston.

- Several CPD events were well received, they included a full day workshop with Michelle Bihary (Professional Resilience workshop) held in May 2012. In September 2012, Doing Well- Right Together, Dancing to the Music of Possibilities – Webinar streamed live from the University of Canberra. The speaker Frank Kronenberg the founder of Occupational Therapists without Borders. Lastly in November, Ted Stephenson’s national tour came to Hobart. Many members commented on the quality and value of his presentation on Constraint Induced Movement Therapy.

HELEN HENDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TAS DIVISION

VICTORIA

The success of any professional association is determined by the level of involvement and participation of its members and the clarity of focus on core business. It is pleasing to be able to report that, on both of these measures, 2012 was a most successful year.

Throughout the year, we maintained our focus on the key objective that underpins our existence – the provision of quality member services – and all contributors have worked extremely hard to achieve successful outcomes. We have continued to expand membership and member services, to develop resources and to promote the work of the Association. We have concentrated our focus on ensuring that services, advocacy and offerings that are developed and implemented are of maximum benefit to members.

Membership

The final Victorian membership number for 2012 was less than 1% fewer than the number recorded for 2011 – 1694 members by the end of the year represents the second highest membership figure in Victoria the history of the association. The number of Victorian members constituted 33% of the total number of members of Occupational Therapy Australia.

The inclusion of Victorian occupational therapists in the national registration scheme from 1 July 2012 is expected to have a significant impact on both the Victorian division and the wider Association in 2013.

Professional Development

A diverse offering of association-conducted programs was provided in 2012, catering to many different areas of practice as well as levels of experience.

The major event of the 2012 calendar was the State Conference, ‘Reality in Practice’, held at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, in November.

Over 200 delegates came together to hear from the inspiring key note and invited speakers and to share the realities of everyday practice with fellow occupational therapy colleagues.

The 2012 Victorian Conference included concurrent oral presentation sessions and designated poster sessions which were very popular and well received by both poster presenters and delegates. We also conducted very successful discussion forums about the key issues; the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Future Directions of Occupational Therapy. Both sessions stimulated very insightful and useful discussion for those who attended.

PAUL NICHOLLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIC DIVISION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2012 was a great year for the WA Division of Occupational Therapy Australia. Some of the highlights for the year included:

- The establishment of the Freda Jacob Award, a national biennial award for occupational therapists who contribute significantly to the profession nationally and internationally with their vision, advocacy and innovation. The first recipient of this award in 2012 was Freda Jacob herself.

- During Occupational Therapy Week the division celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. A dinner was held with special guests on the evening being those who have contributed to the Association locally, nationally and internationally. In attendance were the five West Australians who have been Australian delegates to the WFOT; Freda Jacob, Joanna Barker, Carolyn Webster, Jeannine Millsteed and Thelma Burnett. Our keynote speaker for the evening was Marilyn Pattison, Executive Director of the WFOT who delivered an address on the development of the WFOT over 6 decades.

- The WA Division had a number of representatives who contributed to national committees and working parties on behalf of the Association, this included:

- o Marilyn Pearce, for Veterans’ Affairs
- o Penny Thomas who contributed to a number of national and state-based mental health projects
- o Joanne Ende represented WA on the NDIS working party
- o Wendy Hudson contributed to the National Aged Care Reference Group.

- At a state-based level our representatives included:
 - o Jeannine Millsteed on the Curtin University Clinical Advisory Committee
 - o Gail Nesci on the ECU Consultative Committee
 - o Thelma Burnett represented the division on both the WA Allied Health Alliance and the Medicare Locals working party.

- The final membership numbers for 2012 exceeded expectations for the year with 206 members by the end of December.

- The success of the division for 2012 relied heavily on the activities of the volunteers who worked tirelessly on the divisional council on top of their other professional commitments and helping to develop a successful CPD program on behalf of the WA members. Thanks go to: Jeannine Millsteed (Chairperson), Helen Margaria (Deputy Chair), Thelma Burnett (Treasurer) and the Divisional Council: Nicola Tuckwell, Annette Joosten, Angus Buchanan, Gail Nesci, Lucy Liongue and student representatives Karen Motta and Lynne Duthie.

JEANNINE MILLSTEED
DIVISIONAL CHAIR, WA DIVISION

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2012 CPD continued to be managed by all states individually. The Professional Development Coordination Group (PDCG) had regular meetings to look at the coordination and harmonisation of procedures and processes across CPD with Occupational Therapy Australia.

Rachel Norris, CEO, organised for a face to face meeting in December 2012. The goal of these meetings was to develop a CPD Strategic and Operational Plan. All CPD staff, Executive Directors, Divisional Councils and Board members provided feedback into the plan. The CPD Committee was formed at these meetings and replaced the PDCG. The CPD Committee has increased scope for strategic initiatives. The CPD Committee also has a role to assist the National CPD Manager in the delivery of the CPD Strategic plan.

At the end of 2012 Rachel Norris appointed Julie Newton in a temporary role of National CPD Manager. This role will oversee the implementation of the National CPD operational plan and coordinate all national tours / events, ensuring that educational and commercial objectives are achieved.

In 2013 the CPD Committee will continue to focus on delivering the CPD plan and increasing CPD opportunities for all occupational therapists within Australia.

JULIE NEWTON
NATIONAL CPD MANAGER

AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY JOURNAL

2012 Results

- > Established and new markets served by securing reach and revenue while opening up new audiences
 - ≥ Australian Occupational Therapy Journal is available in 4,564 institutions worldwide via the Wiley-Blackwell collection licence
 - ≥ 56% of Australian Occupational Therapy Journal's individual institutional subscriptions are currently managed under licences globally. Australian Occupational Therapy Journal achieved an overall renewal rate of 98.2% compared with an average renewal rate of 95% for our Health Sciences journals.
 - o Australian Occupational Therapy Journal is now available in 3,317 institutions in the developing world via philanthropic initiatives
- > EBSCO & OVID
 - ≥ There are 4,672 institutions accessing the journal through EBSCO
 - ≥ There are 6 institutions accessing the journal through OVID
- > Usage of online content
 - ≥ Full text downloads for Australian Journal of Occupational Therapy Journal increased from 231,103 to 251,145, a rise of 9%
- > Impact Factor
 - ≥ Our 2011 Impact Factor was 0.677.
- > Publication times
 - ≥ The average publication time for Australian Occupational Therapy Journal is now 58 calendar days from receipt of accepted manuscript to EarlyView publication, compared with 79 in 2011

10. Most Downloaded Articles 2012

Rank	Authors	Article Title	Vol	Iss	No. of Accesses
1	S Bennett, JW Bennett	The process of evidence-based practice in occupational therapy: Informing clinical decisions	47	4	1,473
2	Y Thomas, M Gray et al	Homeless adults engagement in art: First steps towards identity, recovery and social inclusion	58	6	1,339
3	S Rodger, J Ashburner et al	Helping children with autism spectrum disorders and their families: Are we losing our occupation-centred focus?	57	4	1,289
4	AA Wilcock	Reflections on doing, being and becoming*	46	1	1,237
5	CA Unsworth, A Baker et al	Development of a standardised Occupational Therapy – Driver Off-Road Assessment Battery to assess older and/or functionally impaired drivers	59	1	1,173
6	F Graham, S Rodger, J Ziviani	Coaching parents to enable children's participation: An approach for working with parents and their children	56	1	1,165
7	S Keesing, L Rosenwax	Is occupation missing from occupational therapy in palliative care?	58	5	1,033
8	T Schmid	Meanings of creativity within occupational therapy practice	51	2	1,025
9	BP Velde, J Cipriani, G Fisher	Resident and therapist views of animal-assisted therapy: Implications for occupational therapy practice	52	1	943
10	E Innes	Handgrip strength testing: A review of the literature	46	3	915

ELSPETH FROUDE
AOT JOURNAL EDITOR

WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

This report presents significant events and activities undertaken by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in 2012 and those that specifically involved the Australian delegate and alternate delegate.

30th WFOT Council Meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan in March 2012 and was attended by all three delegates from Australia. Our 2nd alternate also being the WFOT Executive Director. There was a focus day on the day prior to the commencement of the meeting with the main work of that day being the WFOT Strategic Plan 2013 – 2018. Some of the items covered during the 5 day council meeting were:

- Position Statements that have been developed and endorsed, include environmental sustainability (sustainable practice in occupational therapy), competency, core sets / ICF, occupational science, activities of daily living, vocational rehabilitation and universal design.
- 2018 WFOT Congress will be held in Capetown, South Africa.
- Expanding strategic partnerships with WHO – developing guidelines on rehabilitation
- Supporting the production, dissemination and use of the WHO/World Bank: World Report on Disability and Rehabilitation
- Development of Master Plans on Human Rights and on Mental Health
- Continuation of the Human Resource project with next survey in 2014
- WFOT 60th Anniversary and World Occupational Therapy Day
- Development of a WFOT 60th Anniversary and World Occupational Therapy Day
- Development of a social media strategy
- Project Plans were developed and reviewed for new and as well as ongoing projects including the revision of WFOT Minimum Standards for Education of Occupational Therapists (2002) that will include a Human Rights focus; specialist competency; methodology for reviewing constitutions for new associations applying for WFOT membership.

• Associate members were admitted – Romania, Armenia, Tunisia, Trinidad & Tobago.

The Council Meeting and the accompanying social program were both very well organised by the local Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association. Professional visits to 3 health sites were arranged for delegates to showcase occupational therapy in Taiwan. All events were supported by a large group of student volunteers.

The Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Regional Group (APOTRG) took the opportunity to meet for a General Assembly and dinner. Thelma Burnett as deputy chair conducted the meeting.

Thelma Burnett will continue working on the Competency project with the Standards and Quality Program. Lee Zakrzewski is working on projects in the Promotion and Development Program.

WFOT Delegate & Alternate Delegates 2012 - 2016

At the Occupational Therapy Australia AGM in June a change in WFOT delegates took place.
 Lee Zakrzewski – WFOT Delegate
 Lynette Mackenzie – 1st Alternate Delegate
 Thelma Burnett – 2nd Alternate Delegate
 Marilyn Pattison continues as Executive Director of WFOT.

WFOT 60th Anniversary

At the Annual General Meeting of Occupational Therapy Australia, Thelma Burnett, included as part of her WFOT Delegate's report, a summary of the contribution Australia has made to the WFOT over the past 60 years. Australia was one of the ten associations to become members of WFOT in 1952 and in 1954 had three representatives present at the first council meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. Since that time Australia has had at least one representative at council meetings.

Jo Barker from Western Australia who was WFOT President 1986 – 1990 was present at the AGM this year. The other Australian who was WFOT President 1998 – 2002 is also from Western Australia. Currently Marilyn Pattison from South Australia is the Executive Director of WFOT. This position while honorary has an enormous workload. Australia has hosted two WFOT congresses – 1990 in Melbourne and 2006 in Sydney.

A 60th anniversary poster was produced through sponsorship and was displayed at many conferences around the world and in Australia during 2012.

World Occupational Therapy Day is celebrated on the 27th October of each year. It provides an opportunity to promote and celebrate the global profile of our profession. In 2012 the WFOT partnered with www.promotingot.org to support the Occupational Therapy Global Day of Service (OTGDS) which also took place on the 27th October. This provided an opportunity for occupational therapists and students to volunteer their time and expertise to local communities.

WFOT photo competition

In 2012 a photograph competition was launched by WFOT to capture the work that occupational therapists do around the world. The theme for entries is: "All in a day's work". Digital images from a range of Occupational Therapists' work areas such as practice, education, research, and management, involving engaging others in occupation and promoting occupational therapy will be used for World Occupational Therapy Day in 2013.

LEE ZAKRZEWSKI
WFOT DELEGATE