Occupational Therapy Australia

Member Code of Conduct 2025



Occupational Therapy Australia

Introduction

Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) is the peak national member association for occupational therapists in Australia. OTA represents the continually evolving occupational therapy profession. Our vision is to empower occupational therapists and their communities so that people are engaged in occupations that bring meaning and purpose to their lives, fostering health, wellbeing participation and inclusion. Our purpose is to protect and progress occupational therapy in Australia. We strive for excellence, increased collaboration and inclusion and forecast a future where occupational therapy continues to make a profound impact.

The Purpose of the OTA Code of Conduct

The OTA code of conduct sets out the values and the standards of conduct and behaviour expected from OTA members to protect the reputation of the association.

OTA acknowledges the moral responsibility of occupational therapists to clients, families, colleagues and communities they work with and serve and the varied systems they work within. All members must be aware of the expected standards of their conduct.

This code outlines the circumstances under which disciplinary action may be taken against members and what those actions may comprise.

This code of conduct applies to all OTA members. A member means a member of the Association pursuant to clause 7 of the OTA Constitution.

Complementary Codes

This code sits alongside other codes that support occupational therapists to work fairly, justly and ethically.

OTA members are also bound by the OTA Code of Ethics that requires members to discharge their duties and responsibilities, at all times, in a manner which professionally, ethically, and morally compromises no individual with whom they have professional contact, irrespective of that person's position, situation or condition in society. The Code of Ethics is founded on the bio-ethical principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, honesty, veracity, confidentiality, justice, respect and autonomy.

Registered occupational therapists in Australia have a professional responsibility to adhere to the Ahpra Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners. The code supports good patient care within an ethical framework, helping to keep the public safe.

Occupational Therapy Australia

Our Values

Progress

We believe in strongly representing and leading occupational therapy by looking ahead an anticipating the needs of the profession and the communities we serve. We are the point of connection and a driving force in paving the way forward by providing a strong united voice.

Pride

We believe in the irreplaceable value occupational therapists make in the lives of those they serve. Inspired by those we represent, we shine the spotlight on the profession and empower ongoing achievement and success throughout their professional careers.

Empowerment

We believe in protecting and progressing the profession through lifelong learning and development. We are the collector, curator, contributor and disseminator of evidence based learning and ongoing knowledge, understanding and translation to action.

Connection

We believe in the unity of the profession and act as beacon for all who are occupational therapists, those you use our skills and services and those that support our profession.

Conduct and Behaviour

Member conduct is integral to the reputation of OTA and its members. OTA expects the highest standards from its members, consistent with the professionalism and nature of the occupational therapy profession.

OTA members at all times should adhere to the following conduct and behaviour standards including when participating in committees, reference and working groups, taskforces and other formalised groups that come together to support the strategic direction of the association and in any interaction with OTA.

This section describes the standards of conduct and behaviours expected of members, and the treatment of non-compliance.

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Conduct

Members must:

a. act in the OTA's best interests;

b. act with a high degree of professionalism, integrity, and mutual respect;

c. refrain from engaging in any conduct which might damage OTA's reputation;

d. refrain from bullying, harassment or other inappropriate behaviours towards another member or staff;

e. use their position at OTA and OTA's resources in a responsible manner;

f. fully co-operate with any investigation by the Board or delegated panel into any breach of this code;

g. comply with any applicable OTA policies;

h. comply with any relevant legislations and regulations governing the schemes in with they operate

i. remain free of any charges, alleged conduct, or action bringing yourself, the Association, its members, or the occupational therapy profession into disrepute.

Behaviour

Members must:

a. act honestly;

b. interact with other members and staff in a constructive manner;

c. behave professionally towards other members, stakeholders, and staff;

d. treat people fairly, with dignity, courtesy, and respect, objectively, and free from bullying, harassment, or other inappropriate behaviour; and

e. not ignore actual or perceived behaviour or conduct that may be in breach of this code but to act in good faith to overtly identify and report any such behaviour.

Disciplinary action

A failure to adhere to the standards in this code may have consequences for a member. The Board reserves the right to take reasonable action as per clause 13 of the OTA Constitution. This may include suspension or expulsion.

The Board may at its sole discretion, suspend the membership of any member pending a decision by the Board if they are in breach of the Constitution or this code of conduct, or bring the association, its members, or the occupational therapy profession into disrepute.

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