Occupational Therapy Australia

Foreword

Occupational Therapy Australia is a national not for profit, member based association leading workforce development and support whilst advocating for better health and wellbeing outcomes for both our members, and consumers and clients supported by the occupational therapy profession.

The development of OTA's strategic plan has been conducted in the context of emerging from the immediacy of the COVID 19 pandemic, a rapidly changing local and global landscape and by attempting to understand both the real and anticipated ramifications and opportunities that face both the profession and the wider health and community context in which we seek, find, experience and enjoy occupation.

Our future strategy and approach have been developed in close collaboration with our members and a wide range of friends, supporters, partners and stakeholders. Through deep listening and courageous conversations, we have reflected on our history as a profession and an association, and honour past achievements as we pave the way for a future that is responsive to the progress and prominence of occupational therapy as a leading and growing allied health profession.

With the tenets of occupational therapy at the heart of our association we commit to strategic decision making that respects the principles of our practice and ensures that we operate in a paradigm of recognised sovereignty, inclusivity, accessibility and diversity .

Strategic plan

Our purpose:
Protecting and progressing occupational therapy in Australia.

Our vision:
Empowering OTs and their communities.

Progress

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

Our goal is to:

- Lead and shape workforce development, capability and support.
- Expand our network of influence to inform policy, systems and reform.

Pride

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

Our goal is to:

- Lead a contemporary association that reflects best practice governance and member experience standards.
- Champion the profession and raise the profile to amplify our voice.

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.

Our goal is to:

- Provide access to new thinking, innovation, practice approaches and technologies.
- Deliver evidenced, strengths based research and continued learning and development programs.

Connection

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

Our goal is to:

- Expand and enable digital and technological capabilities for member connection and consumer engagement.
- Create opportunities for support, engagement and celebration of our members and the profession.

Our guiding principles:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Sovereign relations
- Environment and governance

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Leadership statement

As a national membership association and peak body for occupational therapy, OTA commits to our vales of Pride, Progress, Empowerment and Connection. We strive for excellence, increased collaboration and inclusion and forecast a future where occupational therapy continues to make a profound impact on the well-being of individuals and communities across Australia. Our leadership will be demonstrated by walking alongside in connection and collaboration with others and considering our impact on the people and places we share our future with.

Fundamental to our shared future is our Journey of Understanding embedding a culture of respect and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their deep connection to culture and Country. As we continually develop deep mutual respect and strengthened relationships with First People's ways of knowing and doing, we aspire to contribute to a shared and reconciled journey towards a just and equitable future.

We believe that our community is richer through embracing diversity and inclusion and that lived experience is a powerful source of knowledge and wisdom, Each person's unique journey and perspective offer valuable insights helping us better understand and address complex issues. We commit to listening to and respecting the lived experiences of individuals and understand more effective outcomes are achieved through listening, learning and acting in unity.

We respect the rich history of the profession and lead toward an equitable future where occupational therapy further enhances and empowers individuals and communities.