



Occupational Therapy Board of NZ  
*Kaihaumanu Tūroro o Aotearoa*

The Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ) is the body that governs the practice of occupational therapy in New Zealand. OTBNZ is the authority responsible for implementing the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCAA) 2003, whose principal purpose is to protect the health and safety of members of the public. The OTBNZ's main function is to ensure that occupational therapists are competent and fit to practise.

In order to practise occupational therapy in New Zealand, you must have completed an approved occupational therapy qualification, been accepted by the OTBNZ for registration as an occupational therapist and hold a current annual practising certificate.

**Contact the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand to apply for registration as an occupational therapist**

Web: [www.otboard.org.nz](http://www.otboard.org.nz)  
 Ph: 0800 99 77 55  
 Email: [enquiries@otboard.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@otboard.org.nz)



**N Z A O T**  
 New Zealand Association of  
 Occupational Therapists

The New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists (Inc) (NZAOT) is the professional association for occupational therapists in Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

### Why would I join NZAOT?

NZAOT is about you – as a student and as an occupational therapist. Together – our mission is to promote excellence in knowledge, standards, support and representation.

NZAOT supports your learning and your practice through many resources including special interest and local area groups, magazines, journals and access to OT databases through the NZAOT website.

**Contact the New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists to find out more about careers in occupational therapy.**

[www.nzaot.com](http://www.nzaot.com)  
 Ph: 04 473 6510  
 Email: [nzaot@nzaot.com](mailto:nzaot@nzaot.com)

**CHOOSE  
 OCCUPATIONAL  
 THERAPY AS YOUR  
 CAREER &**

**MAKE A REAL  
 DIFFERENCE IN  
 THE WORLD**



*Georgina Davis, New Zealand Registered Occupational Therapist  
 Ngati Porou, Ngaitai, Nga Puhi*

## Why be an Occupational Therapist?

Occupational therapy is a stimulating, interesting, and varied career.

Occupational therapists are registered practitioners who work with individuals, families, whanau and communities, of all ages and backgrounds to promote health and wellness through occupation.

Occupational therapy enables people to identify and overcome the barriers that prevent them from participating in the activities they need or want to do within their communities.

Occupational therapists work as part of a team. They have opportunities to specialise in a particular area of practice.

Occupational therapists are in demand throughout New Zealand and internationally.

**“Working in health has a purpose, is meaningful and makes a difference to other people’s lives.”**

Stephen McKernan, Director General Health 2007

## Who employs Occupational Therapists?

- **Community centres / services**
- **Schools / educational providers**
- **Hospitals**
- **Non-governmental organisations and trusts**
- **Mental health and addiction services**
- **Residential and community services for the older person**
- **Private practice**
- **ACC**
- **Industry / businesses**
- **Medical centres**
- **Child health services**

## How can I study to be an Occupational Therapist?

Enrol in a three year Bachelors degree programme. The programmes combine theoretical and practical experiences with fieldwork to give students a varied and interesting study pathway.

Gain the skills and knowledge to be able to help individuals and communities to engage in every day occupations, and use your knowledge to help people make a positive difference in their lives.

For more information about the programmes contact:



**AUT University**  
www.aut.ac.nz  
or Phone 0800 288 864



**Otago Polytechnic**  
www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz  
or Phone 0800 762 786