



Occupational Therapy

OTKSS

Key Strategic Stakeholders

Aotearoa New Zealand

**Occupational Therapy Strategic Plan
(2010-2015)**

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Occupational Therapy Strategic Plan (2010-2015)

ISBN 978-0-473-16868-1

© April 2010

This document is available on the websites of the Key Strategic Stakeholders above




Occupational Therapy Key Strategic Stakeholders (OTKSS)

Direction

Over the next five years the Occupational Therapy Key Strategic Stakeholders (OTKSS) will enhance the profession of occupational therapy by working collaboratively on key strategic areas of mutual importance.

Context



OTKSS consists of representatives from the four key stakeholders within the profession: the occupational therapy programmes (AUT University and Otago Polytechnic), the regulatory authority (Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand) and the national professional association (the New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists or NZAOT). Occupational therapy is a practice discipline which has 'occupation' as its central tenant and which is supported by an increasing body of evidence. The vision of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate as valued members of society despite diverse or limited occupational potential.

Because of these beliefs OTKSS has developed a strategic plan to advance the profession: to increase awareness of and access to occupational therapy services, and develop opportunities for occupational therapists to provide a quality service to all people in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Key factors that have assisted the development of this strategic plan include Te Tiriti o Waitangi requirements and obligations, addressing inequalities that exist in health, and ensuring that issues of diversity are considered.



Process

A process of consultation was engaged in to develop this plan. This involved an environmental scan with relevant bodies and consultation with the occupational therapy profession at the NZAOT Biennial Conference 2008, and via a questionnaire sent to all annual practising certificate holders via the OTBNZ website. A further round of consultation was undertaken on the draft strategic plan with a questionnaire sent to all practising certificate holders in 2009. Feedback from this consultation was incorporated into the plan.

Key Strategic Developments

OTKSS will work so that occupational therapy and occupational therapists working in a range of settings in Aotearoa/New Zealand will:

- ▷ Be seen as world leaders in practice, education, research and regulation
- ▷ Have a strong identity, and be confident in the contributions the profession can make
- ▷ Be integral to decision making processes in health, education, social, and justice sectors

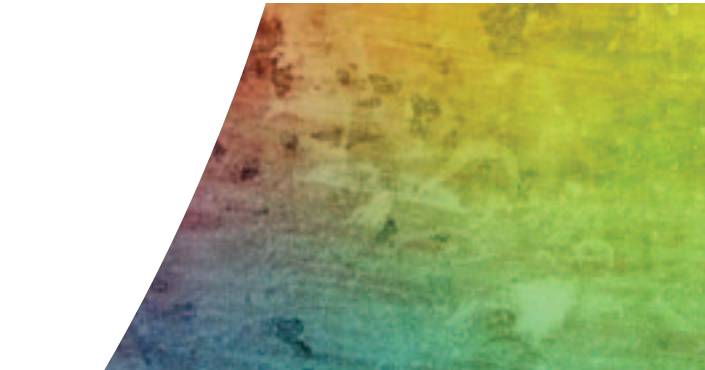


Strategic Themes

Six key strategic themes guide the future development of the profession to determine that occupational therapy and occupational therapists will:

1. Ensure responsiveness to Māori
2. Maintain and strengthen excellent communication, processes and networks
3. Actively engage in the primary health care/population based health sector
4. Provide quality education that ensures registration and inspires occupational therapists to reach their full potential
5. Conduct excellent research to advance knowledge and practice
6. Create effective leadership

Critical Success Factors



OTKSS will develop and monitor in consultation with the profession, specific targets to ensure the intent of the plan is being fulfilled. These will be detailed in key planning documents, reviewed annually and updated as required.

Theme 1 Ensure responsiveness to Māori



Goals

- ▷ Increase the number of Māori occupational therapists in Aotearoa/New Zealand
- ▷ Ensure that all systems and processes support the development of Māori occupational therapists
- ▷ Increase professional development opportunities for non-Māori to work responsively with Māori
- ▷ Support research of Māori occupational therapists working with Māori

Objectives

1. Support initiatives on Māori workforce development as identified in Te Umanga Whakaora
2. Consult with Māori when developing resources
3. Extend pre-registration and continuing professional development opportunities to enhance knowledge and skills of working with Māori
4. Develop capacity for research by Māori occupational therapists and research about occupational therapist working with Māori
5. Work collaboratively with Māori to address the needs of Māori students in education programmes
6. Practitioners will ensure responsive services for Māori accessing occupational therapy

Measures

1. A plan is developed to increase to 5% the number of registered occupational therapists who identify as Māori
2. Documented evidence of consultation and input from Māori in the development of profession wide resources/matters
3. A national hui is held annually.
4. At least one new piece of research is published annually that is aligned to Kaupapa Māori research methodology
5. A needs analysis is conducted in relation to pre-registration and professional development opportunities
6. Professional development opportunities are monitored to ensure they embrace Tikanga Māori

Theme 2 Maintain and strengthen excellent communication processes and networks

Goals

- ▷ Gather, analyse, and disseminate information about occupational therapy to target audiences
- ▷ Promote the value of occupational therapy to government organisations, non government organisations and the wider community

Objectives

1. Communicate occupational therapy achievements and opportunities both within and external to the profession
2. Develop clear and consistent messages about occupational therapy - what, how, why
3. Collect clear, relevant and current demographic data on the profession

Measures

1. A means to gather and disseminate information both within and external to the profession is identified. This will include a way to identify and access experts
2. Descriptions/definitions of key terms such as occupation, occupational therapy, occupational science are developed for the New Zealand context
3. Demographic information is gathered which gives a profile of the profession and data on therapists and their place and role in employment

Theme 3 Actively engage in the primary health care/population based health sector

Goal

- ▷ Increase the number of occupational therapists engaged in Primary Health Care(PHC)/Population Based Services (PBS)

Objectives

1. The profession clearly articulates its occupational perspective and role in PHC/PBS and communicates this to the sector
2. Increase the occupational therapy workforce in the PHC/PBS sectors
3. Initiate research to demonstrate the effectiveness of occupational therapy in PHC/PBS
4. Develop inclusion of PHC/ PBS principles in pre-registration education and opportunities for post graduate education
5. Increase diversity in the occupational therapy workforce to represent the population

Measures

1. Position statements and resources are in place and able to be accessed, the role of occupational therapy within the PHC/ PBS sectors is promoted to all relevant planning and funding agencies
2. Workforce data is clearly captured - 20% of registered occupational therapists will be working in PHC/PBS
3. Research outputs are monitored and increased
4. PHC/PBS principles will be identifiable in pre-registration curricula and post graduate opportunities will be identified and developed
5. Workforce data is clearly captured related to diversity within the profession, targets are identified

Theme 4 Provide quality education that ensures registration and inspires occupational therapists to reach their full potential

Goal

- ▷ Ensure education reflects the unique environment of Aotearoa/New Zealand and exceeds international standards and guidelines

Objectives

1. Identify future pre-registration qualifications
2. Clarify and address continuing education needs e.g. return to work, post graduate, continuing education
3. Ensure pre-registration and continuing professional development programmes are responsive to national and international registration, and health and wellbeing trends
4. Increase the number of registered occupational therapists with post graduate qualifications

Measures

1. A process and plan is developed to consider the pre-registration needs of the profession
2. A needs analysis is conducted to identify continuing education needs and a plan established
3. Curricula show responsiveness and inclusion of national and international trends
4. An audit is conducted biennially identifying numbers with a post graduate qualification and a plan established to increase numbers holding a post graduate qualification - 2% will have a doctoral degree, 40% will have a postgraduate qualification

Theme 5 Conduct excellent research and innovation to advance knowledge and practice

Goal

- ▷ To be an international leader in occupational therapy research

Objectives

1. Facilitate access to, and utilisation and development of research and evidence to support occupational therapy practice
2. Increase engagement in quality research
3. Showcase research and innovation by occupational therapists
4. All practising occupational therapists apply evidence in practice
5. Research is funded to show the effectiveness of occupational therapy in a range of practice areas

Measures

1. Research outputs and access to research will increase and be measured
2. A plan outlining research priorities and a research agenda for the next 10 years will be developed including establishing a system of research networking and mentoring
3. Research outputs are disseminated to key target audiences including occupational therapists
4. Position descriptions include the necessity to use an evidence base in practice
5. Funding for occupational therapy research will increase and be measured

Theme 6 Create effective leadership



Goal

- ▷ To actively foster professional, clinical and academic leadership by occupational therapists

Objectives

1. Increase the number of leaders in the profession
2. Promote a culture that inspires and supports leaders
3. Increase skills in professional, clinical and academic leadership

Measures

1. A stock take of occupational therapists in leadership positions will be conducted and an increase in occupational therapists recruited to leaderships positions will be measured
2. Leaders will be celebrated at national occupational therapy events and promoted within the profession
3. Professional, clinical and academic leadership will be clarified and appropriate professional development opportunities developed and/or promoted



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**AUT University: Department
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Therapy**

www.aut.ac.nz/schools/occupational_therapy/

**Otago Polytechnic: School of
Occupational Therapy**

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