

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS' REGISTRATION BOARD
OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS' REGISTRATION BOARD
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

1. BOARD

STRUCTURE

Section 7 of the Occupational Therapists' Registration Act provides for the Board to consist of six (6) members. The following is a list of Members of the Board and the terms under which they were appointed as at 31 December 2005.

One medical practitioner nominated for appointment by the Minister	Dr R Chandler
Three persons nominated for appointment by the Western Australian Association of Occupational Therapists	Mrs T Burnett Mr L Farrow Ms S Wojnar-Horton
One person nominated for appointment by the Council of Curtin University of Technology	Ms H Freegard
The permanent head or a person who is nominated by the Permanent Head	Ms J Riches (Chairperson)

BOARD MEETINGS

Six (6) ordinary meetings were held during the year. Attendees were as follows:

Ms. J Riches	6
Dr. R Chandler	6
Ms. T Burnett	6
Ms S Wojnar-Horton	6
Ms. H Freegard	5
Mr. L Farrow	6

The Registrar of the Board is Mr. K.I. Bradbury.

The office of the Board is located at Suite 7, Level 3, 23 Richardson Street, SOUTH PERTH. The hours of business are 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday and the following are the contact details:

Telephone number (08) 9368 2655
 Facsimile number (08) 9368 2677
 E-mail enquiries@otbwa.com.au

2. REGISTER

REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

(a) General Registration

Total on Register as at 1st January 2005		1278
New applications approved	122	
Applications under Mutual Recognition	4	
Restorations	44	
Transfer from Temporary Register	<u>6</u>	
		<u>176</u>
		1454
Deletions:		
Deaths	0	
Non payment of Licence fees	30	
Voluntary withdrawals	<u>61</u>	
		<u>91</u>
Registered as at 31 December 2005		<u><u>1363</u></u>

(b) Temporary Registration

Total on Register as at 1st January 2005		5
New applications approved	<u>9</u>	
		15
Removals		
Transfer to General Registration	<u>5</u>	
Registered as at 31 December 2005		<u><u>9</u></u>

3. FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND BOARD INQUIRIES

The Board received one (1) new complaint this year and completed its investigations into one (1) complaint against an occupational therapist that had been initialled in 2004. In both instances, the Board determined that there had not been any breach of the Act that would warrant further action being taken.

4. GENERAL

(a) Board Prize

The Occupational Therapists' Registration Board Prize for the Fourth Year Student with the highest academic record throughout the course at Curtin University of Technology for the Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) degree for 2004 was awarded to Michelle Van Graan.

(b) Education and Research Fellowship

The Board established an Annual Education and Research Fellowship during 1995. The objective of the Fellowship is to promote the furtherance of education and research in occupational therapy. Control of the Fellowship grant would be retained by the Board and funding limited to Western Australian resident and registered Occupational Therapists.

A new classification was added in 2005, with additional funds being made available for systematic reviews.

(c) National Council

The Board continues to participate in the administration of a National Council of Occupational Therapy Registration Boards (NCOTRB).

The COTRB is the body responsible for assessing occupational therapy qualifications for recognition in Australia. The Council is located at:

PO Box 229
TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031
Telephone: (08) 8443 9375
Facsimile: (08) 8443 9550
Email: cotrb@saboard.com.au
Website: <http://www/cotrb.com>

The Overseas Qualifications Assessment Committee (OQAC) of COTRB is responsible for the administration of the assessment procedures and liaises with registration boards, OT Australia and others as required.

The OQAC and COTRB assess overseas OT's to determine their eligibility for migration as an occupational therapist by checking that they are recognised as an occupational therapist in their country of origin or education, and that their professional education is of a standard that would adequately prepare them for practice in Australia.

Overseas educated OT's whose qualifications have been assessed as suitable to apply for migration will be recognised by COTRB as eligible to apply for registration in relevant States and/or membership of OT Australia. Their registration will be conditional on their agreement to undertake a practice audit during their first year of employment or self-employment as an OT in Australia and granting of full registration will be conditional upon successful completion of such a practice audit.

The Board will be actively involved in overseeing the practice audit of overseas qualified Occupational Therapists wishing to practice in Western Australia.

The following minimum criteria applies:

- .. Have completed a WFOT approved tertiary level education program leading to an award in occupational therapy that is equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree.
- .. Are registered, licensed or otherwise officially recognised and in good standing as an occupational therapist in the country in which they were educated or practised; and
- .. Have English as a first language, or have satisfactorily passed occupational English testing.

Specific details of the examination process and schedule of fees can be obtained from COTRB direct.

The Board hosted the annual meetings of COTRB held in Perth during October 2005.

(d) Board Newsletter

The Board produced a Newsletter in December 2005, and this was distributed to all registered Occupational Therapists and major employers of occupational therapists. The Board intends to use future newsletters to inform members of the profession of important developments concerning standards of practise, competence and conduct.

(e) Code of Conduct

A Code of Conduct is in place, to be utilised by Members of the Board.

(f) Website

The Board established a website, located at www.otbwa.com.au where details of registration requirements, policies, application forms and general information are provided.

