



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Occupational Therapists Registration Board of Western Australia

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## BOARD MEMBERS

**Ms. Helen Morton** Dip (OT) WAIT 1970  
Chairperson and General Manager at  
Armadale Health Service  
*Nominated by the Permanent Head of the  
Health Department of Western Australia*

**Ms. Sally Wojnar-Horton** B App Sc (OT) WAIT  
1974; Grad Dip Health Science 1981; Masters Health Science 1991  
Head of Department at Princess Margaret  
Hospital  
*Nominated by OT Australia (Western  
Australian Branch)*

**Mr. K.R. Jones** B App Sc (OT) WAIT 1978; Grad Dip  
Hlth Sc Ed (Curtin) 1985  
Private Practitioner  
*Nominated by OT Australia (Western  
Australian Branch)*

**Dr. R. Chandler** MBBS (West Aust) 1977; FRACGP;  
D Obst, R.C.O.G.; Post Grad Dip Hlth Sc (Curtin) 1995;  
Master of Science (Curtin) 1999;  
Medical Practitioner  
*Nominated by the Minister for Health*

Dr. Anne Passmore and Ms. Margaret  
Duckworth both retired as Members of the  
Board in November 1999 and the Board is  
currently awaiting advice from the Minister  
for Health on replacement Members.

The Board wishes to thank both Anne and  
Margaret for their valued contribution to the  
Board.

## COTRB (Australia & New Zealand)

The Board has been actively involved in the  
establishment of the Council of  
Occupational Therapists Registration Boards  
(Australia & New Zealand). The Council's  
initial role will be to examine overseas  
qualified occupational therapists wishing to  
obtain registration in Australia. In the future,  
the Council will also be accrediting  
occupational therapy courses for recognition  
by the Boards for registration purposes.

During 1999, the Council has continued to  
negotiate the transfer of the responsibility  
for examining overseas qualified  
occupational therapists from NOOSR, the  
current provider. NOOSR had indicated to  
the Boards and OT Australia that it wished  
to devolve this function and it appears that  
the Council will be undertaking this  
function from 1 January, 2000.

Until October 1999, Mrs Helen Morton was  
the Chairperson of the Council and Kim  
Bradbury acted as Secretary. Admin-  
istration of the Council has now  
passed to the Occupational Therapists  
Registration Board of South Australia.

## PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

The receipt issued upon payment of the  
annual practising fee is your current  
practising certificate. This certificate is  
often required by employers to satisfy them  
that the occupational therapist holds current  
registration, for accreditation purposes and  
also for registration in other States of  
Australia under Mutual Recognition  
provisions.

The Board is regularly requested to provide  
duplicate practising certificates by those  
practitioners who have mislaid the  
document mailed to them following  
payment of the practising fee. This incurs  
additional expense to the Board and all  
occupational therapists are requested to  
ensure that their current practising  
certificate is retained in a safe place, to  
overcome this problem.

## PRACTISING WHILST UNREGISTERED

An occupational therapist who commences  
practice without having registered with the  
Board does so in contravention of the Act.

During 1999 the Board actively pursued  
those occupational therapists whose names  
were removed from the Register for failing  
to pay the 1999 annual practising fee, to  
determine if those persons were continuing  
to practise occupational therapy in Western  
Australia.

The Board will continue to enforce this  
policy and encourages all occupational  
therapists to ensure that their practising fee  
is paid by the due date.

## GST - HOW IT EFFECTS YOUR PRACTISING FEE

With the implementation of GST in July  
2000, the Board has raised the issue of  
whether GST is payable on licensing fees.  
This issue has not yet been resolved,  
although verbal advice indicates that it is  
likely that such fees will be exempt from the  
tax.

Given the uncertainty of the current  
situation, the Board has resolved that it will  
not include GST in the licensing fee due for  
the year 2000, and in the event that a  
decision is made that the tax is applicable,  
then the Board will take responsibility for  
paying the tax owing for the 2000 year.  
However the fee will be included in the  
annual practising fee for future years, if the  
exemption is not granted.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board will once again consider  
applications from registered occupational  
therapists for research grants for 2000.  
Application forms can be obtained from  
the office of the Board and should be  
lodged prior to 28 February 2000.

The Board received applications from  
occupational therapists for research grants  
for 1999 and two applications were  
approved. Detail of those grants and  
progress of results to date are outlined  
hereunder.

### ANNETTE BARTON & VERA RILEY

#### ASSESSMENT OF MOTOR AND PROCESS SKILLS (AMPS) OF PATIENTS HAVING UNDERGONE THALAMIC STIMULATION SYSTEM TO DETERMINE CHANGES IN FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

Annette Barton and Vera Riley have  
provided the Board with the following  
report:

*"The research project continues but with  
fewer patients than was expected. Patient  
numbers have been dependent on  
scheduling of elective stereotactic  
surgical procedures and there have been  
delays for various in-house reasons.  
Initially the focus of research was on a  
specific stereotactic neurosurgery i.e.  
thalamic stimulation, but over time  
neurosurgical interventions have included  
pallidotomy, thalamotomy, pallidal and  
thalamic stimulation. Six patients have  
been assessed pre and post surgery, one  
having had a pallidotomy and 12 months  
later a pallidal stimulator inserted. Two  
patients had thalamotomies and three  
patients had thalamic stimulators inserted.  
Diagnoses of the patient group consisted  
of four patients with Parkinson's Disease,  
one with essential tremor and one with  
postural tremor.*

*The pilot study was originally due to be  
completed in June 1999 but only three of  
the patients had had the surgical  
intervention at that time. Following  
liaison with the Australian Neuro-  
muscular Research Institute, further  
patients had been scheduled, thus the pilot  
study was extended. The sixth patient's  
post surgery AMPS is due in early  
December, following which data analysis  
will take place and a paper outlining  
findings will be presented to the Board."*

## **MS. CAROLINE MATTHEWS**

### **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PAEDIATRIC SERVICES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA:**

#### **A DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF STAFFING PATTERNS AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

Ms Matthews has provided the Board with the following report:

*This research project will inform the profession not only of the current level of service delivery by occupational therapists to children and adolescents, but also of the demographic spread of services across Western Australia.*

*Whilst at the time of writing the analysis and interpretation of data continues, several significant aims of the project have already been successfully completed. Amongst these are:*

- *The production of a data base containing the contract details of service locations across WA, known to be providing an occupational therapy paediatric (0-17 years of age) service.*
- *The development of a comprehensive survey tool in the form of a questionnaire, produced with the support of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*
- *The completion of a pilot project based on a stratified sample drawn from the identified study group.*
- *The completion of the research survey resulting in more than one hundred valid returns.*
- *The statistical analysis of raw data (SPSS) via Curtin University.*

*Members of the research group are grateful for the extensive support and cooperation shown by the profession towards this study especially to those involved in the completion of questionnaires. In the meantime the hard work of analysis and write up continues.*

## **MS. AMELDA PRESTON**

### **CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF WA**

#### **A PILOT STUDY COMPARING FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES FOLLOWING SERIAL CASTING WITH ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY**

Research on the above project has now been completed and the Board was provided with a final report. Interested parties can contact Lyn Mortimer at the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA for a copy of the report.

## **DR. MARGARET ROSS** **THE OCCUPATION OF QUILTING**

The Board resolved to grant \$3,000 towards this research project and Dr. Ross has provided the following report:

*“Material Women ‘99 is one of many projects celebrating one hundred years of women’s suffrage in the State of Western Australia. Margaret Ross and Katie Hill began developing the project in 1996 and gained support of the Women’s Policy Development Office and Curtin University of Technology. The project has several components, the central one being an exhibition of 65 quilts each telling the life of a Western Australian woman. These quilts were exhibited for one month at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and are now travelling to various locations in small country towns and some of the larger regional centres. The stories of each of the women depicted on the quilts are published in a book “Material Women ‘99 - Quilts that tell stories”. This book serves as a lasting tribute to the women who struggled to settle this land, women committed to a cause or confronting the issues of modern life. The project also has an education and research component. Cynthia Baker, herself an experienced quilter, is accompanying the quilts wherever they are exhibited, telling the stories and talking about women’s occupational roles in the past century.*

*Occupational therapists have based their practice on the idea that an individual’s engagement in meaningful occupation is essential for a healthy life. However, there is little research documenting a relationship between commonplace occupations and health, and what literature there is tends to be descriptive in nature. Over the past three years, Margaret and Katie have observed that many quilters are passionate about their craft and believe that exploration of the occupation of quilting and how quilters fit quilting into composing a life of meaningful occupation will have direct benefits to occupational therapists who are assisting clients to find meaning in their own life of occupations. Vaile Drake has extensive experience in the area of clinical reasoning and she has now joined the Material Women ‘99 project to work on the study “The Occupation of Quilting”. It is anticipated that this study will serve as an example of how such research into other occupations can be used in occupational therapy practice.*

## **MS. DIANNE MITCHELL**

### **ONGOING VALIDATION OF ASSESSMENT AND FUNCTION OUTCOME MEASURES FOR NEUROSURGICAL PATIENTS BY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**

Ms. Mitchell has advised that the research team is continuing to work on outpatient data and this information will be relayed to the Board when finalised.

## **MS. THERESE TROUCHET**

### **THE EFFECT OF PRE AND POST OPERATIVE EXERCISE ON FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES FOLLOWING TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT**

The Board resolved to grant \$7,000 for this research project and Ms. Trouchet has provided the Board with the following report:

*“This is a multi-centre randomised control outcomes based study involving the orthopaedic departments at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital and Hollywood Private Hospital. This research is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Human Movement Department, University of Western Australia.*

*Pre and post-operative assessments and interventions are being conducted on patients receiving Total Hip Replacement surgery. Standard care (control group) following THR surgery is being compared to those in the intervention group (exercise). Data has been collected on a wide range of variables including comorbidities, operative factors, pain, hip range of movement and strength, body mass index, length of stay and patient satisfaction. Patients have undergone specific occupational therapy assessments such as the Modified Barthel Assessment presurgery, day 5 post surgery and at day of discharge. Patient questionnaires have been developed that include demographic details and incorporate three standardised assessment tools: the Harris Hip score, Western Ontario and McMaster University Osteoarthritis Index and Short Form 365 Health survey information. These have been conducted at 8 weeks presurgery and 3, 12 and 24 weeks post surgery.*

*To date medical files on 70 patients have been reviewed and all data collected entered and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Services (SPSS version 8). Currently new patients are being recruited to the study in order to increase the statistical power and enable further analysis of the outcomes for THR patients.*

*The research team is presenting preliminary findings at Sir Charles Grand Round on 16 November 1999.*

## **OT AUSTRALIA**

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY; OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES THROUGH PHARMACIES - FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The final report on this research project has been provided to the Board and any interested parties should contact Ms. Nerida Croker at OT Australia.