



NEWSLETTER

June 2009

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The following fees have been approved by the Department of Health and are published in the Government Gazette. They apply from 1 May 2009.

Registration fees (GST Exempt):

Application fee	\$84.00
Registration fee – July to June	\$84.00
Registration fee – January to June	\$42.00
Restoration fee following removal from the Register for non-payment of fees	\$49.00

Administrative Fees (GST Exempt):

Change of particulars	\$15.00
Certificate of Good Standing	\$15.00
Additional Qualifications	\$15.00
Duplicate Receipt	\$15.00
Extract of entry in the Register	\$15.00

IMPORTANT

If renewal payments are not received by the Registrar by 30 June 2009 your name will be removed from the Register, and you must cease practising in Western Australia until your name is restored to the Register.

Restoration requires you to present IN PERSON at the office of the Board, and penalty payments will be incurred.

Prosecution proceedings may be commenced against an occupational therapist and/or their employer for practising unregistered.

HOW TO MAKE PAYMENT

Payments may be effected via:

- cheque
- money order
- BPay
- Credit card/ EFTPOS (only available if paying in person at the office of the Board)
- Cash (only available if paying in person at the office of the Board. Please DO NOT mail cash)



If the customer number allocated on your form contains only four digits, please include a zero (0) before this number to facilitate the BPay option.

BPay payments can also be made using a credit card through your bank.

Receipts and Registration Cards

Your receipt and registration card is evidence of your registration status. Please keep it safe at all times. Duplicate cards and copy receipts incur an administration fee of \$15, and only the most recent receipt can be provided to you.

Criminal Screenings

It is a requirement of the Board for practitioners to provide an updated National Police Clearance every four years. This form of screening is available through post offices.

As a courtesy, a reminder sticker is placed on your renewal form to indicate a new clearance is required. Please furnish the Board with a certified copy of this document at your earliest convenience.

Name Changes

Confusion abounds when practitioners practise under one name and register with the Board under a different name, ie are using their married name to practise, and have not changed their name on the Register.

Most employers are diligent in confirming the registration status of employees, and if the Register does not reflect the same name as that provided by the employer, the occupational therapist is deemed unregistered and therefore unable to practise.

Changing your name on the Register is simple: provide the Board with a certified copy of either a Marriage Certificate, Deed Poll Certificate or Birth Certificate together with a \$15 fee. The Register will be amended, and a new Registration Certificate forwarded to you.

Grants and Funding

Over the years the Board has sought applications for funds to undertake research related to occupational therapy, and has been pleased to be able to contribute to these projects. The following grant recipients are undertaking or have recently completed research projects:

2006 Ms Michelle Bishop
2007 Ms Alma Dender
Dr Catherine Elliott
Ms Marina Ciccarelli

In order to benefit the wider occupational therapy community, the Board is hopeful of obtaining permission from grant recipients to include a copy of their research on its website.

COTRB

The Council of Occupational Therapists Registration Boards (COTRB) Australia & New Zealand comprises members from each of the Australian states and New Zealand. The purpose of COTRB is to consider matters of joint interest or common concern.

COTRB's Overseas Qualifications Assessment Committee (OQAC) is responsible for overseeing the assessment process related to the eligibility and assessment of overseas trained occupational therapists. This includes setting, applying and reviewing assessment processes. Further details can be found on the comprehensive website www.cotrb.saboards.com.au.

Both COTRB and OQAC meet regularly via teleconference and at one face-to-face meeting each year. In 2007/2008 209 overseas occupational therapists applied to COTRB for assessment of the suitability of their qualifications to enable them to work in Australia. Of these applications 126 were from occupational therapists wishing to migrate. In total, since the assessment process commenced, 1100 applications have been received.

In 2007/2008 43 overseas graduate occupational therapists completed a supervised practice audit. Twelve of these therapists undertook the practice audit in WA. As at 30 June 2008 another twelve occupational therapists were in the process of undertaking a practice audit in WA. In May 2008 the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) reviewed the COTRB processes against 12 criteria. Overall, COTRB was found to be delivering an efficient and effective service that supports the General Skilled Migration Program, and protects the interests of prospective migrants.

COTRB also reviewed its guidelines and procedures during the year.

National Registration & Accreditation Scheme

In March 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) signed an Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration & Accreditation Scheme for Health Professionals to commence in July 2010. The agreement will establish a single national registration and accreditation scheme commencing with the nine

professions currently registered in all jurisdictions in Australia, and podiatry. Occupational therapy is not one of these health professions. Partially regulated professions were to be judged against a number of criteria agreed by the Ministerial Council comprising commonwealth, state and territory health ministers (AHMC). COTRB, with input from OT Australia, submitted a case for national registration. A copy of this submission can be found on the COTRB website.

In March 2009 AHMC advised that Aboriginal health workers, medical radiation practitioners and Chinese medicine practitioners were considered a priority for national registration in the second round. Occupational therapy was not included. COTRB is currently seeking formal advice regarding this decision and its rationale.

Research Project

COTRB commissioned researchers from James Cook University and Otago Polytechnic to undertake a research project on the "Examination of New Graduates and Recent Migrant Occupational Therapists Perspectives on Work Preparedness, Professional Development and Work Environment Issues".

This report has been presented to COTRB and will help inform the Council and the registration boards about issues faced by new graduates and recent migrants in Australia and New Zealand.

YOUR OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING REGISTRATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In accordance with Division 3 Sections 43 to 47 of the Occupational Therapists Act 2005, you must advise the Board in writing in the event of the following:

Change of address

Loss of Qualification

Insolvency

Civil or Criminal proceedings

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Please read the attached information sheet which provides further information

Practitioners' Conduct

During the past year, a number of instances have highlighted the need for occupational therapists to ensure patients are kept informed and reassured of the processes to be undertaken during a physical consultation.

Many patients experience feelings of vulnerability, particularly if it is a first visit to an occupational therapist. It is important to provide reassurance and ensure you communicate the rationale for treatment and, above all, obtain informed consent. By doing these things you will minimise any risk in the event of a complaint. Please refer to the Risk Guidelines on the Board's website.

Website

The Board's website has been upgraded to include information for practitioners and the public. Some of the additional features include:

- A search engine to confirm an occupational therapist's status on the Register.
- Procedures for complaints and conciliation.
- Recency of practice requirements and guidelines.

Feedback regarding the content of the website would be appreciated; please forward any comments you may have to the Registrar at the address below.

