



**Occupational  
Therapy  
Council**  
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



# President's Message



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Therapy  
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I am pleased to present the Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales annual report for 2016/17.

The Council welcomed advice from the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia that the profession has grown by almost 9% in the reporting year. While overall complaints against NSW registrants remains low, the Council has managed some complex cases relating to the mental health of occupational therapists. That said I am pleased to report that some occupational therapists have exited the Council's health program after a long period of careful monitoring by the Council. This demonstrates that impaired practitioners can return to work under conditions that keep the public safe.

The Council has continued to foster its working relationship with the National Board during the reporting year by participating in a joint meeting with the Board and participating in its Forum for Education Providers. The Council will continue to work with its stakeholders in order to maintain a high standard of regulation of occupational therapists in NSW.

I wish to thank the staff of the Health Professional Councils Authority for their hard work and support during the last year. I must also thank my fellow Council members for their diligence and robust participation in Council business.

I look forward to the challenges that the next year will bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Nguyen', written over a horizontal line.

**Kim Nguyen**

President

Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales

Regulation of Occupational Therapists in 2016/17

# Summary overview



**16**

**New complaints received during the year related to**

- Conduct – 1
  - Performance – 13
  - Health – 2
- 2 complaints were mandatory notifications



**5,516**

**Registered Occupational Therapists in NSW**

- 8.7% more than the previous year
- 28.3% of Occupational Therapists in Australia
- 0.3% of Occupational Therapists in NSW had complaints made about them – 16 practitioners



**20**

**Complaints managed**

- 4 open at start of year
- 16 received during the year
- 0 immediate actions including reviews
- 9 assessments and hearings concluded
- 16 closed during the year
- 4 open at year end
- 4 active monitoring at year end



**16**

**Outcomes for closed complaints\***

- 11 discontinued
- 2 no further action
- 1 conditions on registration
- 1 counselling
- 1 referred to another body

\* A complaint may have more than one outcome

### Council Communications

The Occupational Therapy Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with occupational therapists and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation that included workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

### Council Members

Six members sit on the Occupational Therapy Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

Registered occupational therapy practitioner members:

- Mr Kim Nguyen BAppSc (OT) Grad Dip (Public Health)
- Dr Katherine Moore BAppSc (OT) MAppSc (OT) PhD
- Ms Carolyn Fozzard BAppSc (OT)
- Ms Melinda Hunt BAppSc (OT) LLB (Hons)

Legal member:

- Ms Angela Petrie BPharm LLM MLLP

Community member:

- Mr John Peterson BCom(Hons).

Mr Kim Nguyen is appointed by the Governor as President of the Occupational Therapy Council.

Dr Katherine Moore is appointed by the Governor as Deputy President of the Occupational Therapy Council.

### Executive Officer

Ms Sarah Carroll is the Executive Officer for the Occupational Therapy Council. The Executive Officer has 1.5 staff members who work directly with the Council.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

## Council Meeting Attendance

The Occupational Therapy Council met 11 times during the year.

### Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Mr Kim Nguyen – President	10	11	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2018
Dr Katherine Moore – Deputy President	8	11	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2018
Ms Carolyn Fozzard	9	11	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2018
Ms Melinda Hunt	10	11	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2018
Ms Angela Petrie	7	11	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2018
Mr John Peterson	9	11	1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018

\* Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Occupational Therapy Council appointed four Impaired Registrants Panels during the year.

### Impaired Registrants Panel

The Impaired Registrants Panel (IRP) deals with matters where a registered health practitioner has a physical or mental impairment that affects, or is likely to affect their capacity to practise safely.

An IRP consists of two or three people who may or may not be Council members. At least one member must be registered in the same profession as the practitioner who is subject of the complaint and at least one panel member must be a medical practitioner. Panel members are selected from a pool of people who have undergone probity checks and are experienced in working with practitioners who have health problems.

### Occupational Therapy Council Regulatory Panels

Impaired Registrants Panel	Impaired Registrants Panel	Impaired Registrants Panel	Impaired Registrants Panel
<b>Non Council Members</b>	<b>Non Council Members</b>	<b>Non Council Members</b>	<b>Non Council Members</b>
Dr Karen Arnold (Medical Practitioner)	Dr Mary-Anne Friend (Medical Practitioner)	Dr Karen Arnold (Medical Practitioner)	Dr Karen Arnold (Medical Practitioner)
Ms Sarah Blakemore (Occupational Therapist)	Mrs Michelle Williams (Occupational Therapist)	Ms Brenda McLeod (Occupational Therapist)	Dr Justin Scanlan (Occupational Therapist)

### Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Occupational Therapy Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

### Meetings and Events

The Occupational Therapy Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

#### Occupational Therapy Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
NRAS conference – Melbourne	Mr Kim Nguyen	Participant
	Ms Sarah Carroll (HPCA)	Participant
Meeting with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia	Dr Katherine Moore	Participant
	Ms Carolyn Fozzard	Participant
	Ms Melinda Hunt	Participant
	Mr John Peterson	Participant
	Ms Sarah Carroll (HPCA)	Participant
Occupational Therapy Board of Australia Education Provider Forum	Dr Katherine Moore	Participant
	Ms Carolyn Fozzard	Participant
	Ms Melinda Hunt	Participant
	Ms Sarah Carroll (HPCA)	Participant

### Overseas Travel

The Occupational Therapy Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

## Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

## Education and Research Account

The Occupational Therapy Council maintains an Education and Research account to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

## Financial Management

The Occupational Therapy Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

<b>Accounts Performance 2016/17</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	242,300
Operating expenditure	148,243
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
<b>Net result</b>	<b>94,057</b>
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>786,981</b>

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$45,773.

The Occupational Therapy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

<b>Budget 2017/18</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	249,105
Operating expenditure	248,317
<b>Net result</b>	<b>788</b>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.