

Nationalisation Update

Towards a single professional organisation for Occupational Therapy in Australia

December update for NSW members



As promised in the November newsletter, OT Australia NSW will be providing monthly updates on the Nationalisation process.

The National Council of OT Australia met in Melbourne on the 27th and 28th of October. This meeting was attended by myself, Sian Routley, and Jan Erven. The 27th was set aside as a strategic planning day and the 28th was intended to focus on finalising the proposed new constitution and planning for 1st July 2008, the target date for Nationalisation.

Key outcomes from the meeting:

1. NT, Victoria, Qld and SA have requested more time to consult with members in relation to the constitution and model; hence ratification of the constitution and model will be delayed to enable this process to occur.
2. A new round of consultation and communication on the constitution and model will commence in December until February 2008.
3. A membership fee alignment process has been proposed and will need to be finalised in coming months. (NSW fees will not increase next year)
4. The WA councillors confirmed that the WA association had chosen not to be part of the single national organisation.

Prior to the National meeting OT Australia NSW had commenced planning the step by step process of amalgamation from both a strategic, legal and operational perspective. The OT AUSTRALIA NSW has to date:

- Provided written and verbal feedback on the constitution and model.
- Have confirmed that all employment contracts with staff will be honoured.
- Proposed the allocation of additional human resources to support the process at a National level.
- Established a "Transition Team" to ensure that NSW is ready. This team consist of Joy Pennock (EO); Jan Erven (Pres); Rachel Norris (VP); Dianne Crocker (SEC); Jameela Khan (EA); Ron Hunt (OT AUSTRALIA National CEO) and Sian Routley (Past-SEC).
- Obtaining further legal guidance as required.

At the NSW AGM on the 20th of November members had further opportunity to voice any concerns or issues in relation to Nationalisation. Members were advised

that WA members would still be kept informed about, and be able to provide feedback on the constitution and model. It was confirmed that the rights of members under the new constitution would remain the same. In addition to this, the process is informed by the experience of similar not for profit organisations who have already completed a Nationalisation process.

The OT AUSTRALIA NSW board will keep members up to date with the process of Nationalisation over the coming months. We encourage members to be proactive in seeking out more detailed information on the National Website

<http://www.ausot.com.au/> .

As I have resigned from the board I would like to welcome Dianne Crocker as the NSW State Elected Councillor. Thank you to Jan Erven and the board for their support over the past 4 years and Joy Pennock and her team, for your dedication, commitment and attention to detail over the last 6 months.

Sian Routley

Key NSW contacts:

Jan Erven, President
Dianne Croker, State Elected Councillor

Should you wish to have further information or dialogue about the Nationalisation process with Jan, Dianne, other Board Members or personnel from OT AUSTRALIA NSW please forward your comment to info@otnsw.com.au or call 9648 3225.

Hot off the press – Nationalisation Developments



Information

Early December 2007

- All individual members across Australia will be sent an email from OT AUSTRALIA National with information including the revised constitution and model (to date) for the new organisation, the log of member suggestions / changes that have been made based on member feedback from across the Nation and other pertinent background information
- NSW members without access to email will be sent a hard copy letter and summary as well as information about how to access further detail if required.

Extended consultation decision by National Council

1st December 2007 to 1st February 2008.

Document review

NSW members have the opportunity for additional review of the documents and provide any further comments to OT AUSTRALIA NSW by 1 February. These will be collated and sent to the National group working on the constitution and model. Alternatively individual members may comment directly to the current National Association if they so wish.

NSW Member Teleconference: Tuesday 22nd January 2007 8am.

- Four NSW Board members and the NSW Executive Officer will be on line to hear feedback from members about the Nationalisation journey. The group will also seek to answer any questions about NSW involvement in and future plans regarding the process or refer any broader questions that require further clarification to the National group.
- Jan Erven (NSW President), Rachel Norris (NSW Vice President), Di Croker (NSW State Elected Councillor), Sian Routely (immediate past State Elected Councillor) and Joy Pennock (NSW Executive Officer) will be on line.

Access numbers: Please call office

National Teleconferences.

- In addition to above all OT AUSTRALIA members have further options to discuss concerns or questions at teleconferences to be held at 7pm on the following Thursdays: 17th January , 24th January , 31st January and 7th February 2008.

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OT AUSTRALIA NSW understands that many members are very supportive of developing a single National organisation. Along the way there have been some members who have put forward questions and concerns to OT AUSTRALIA National. The issues log indicates many of these have been considered and addressed in the consultation process to date.

Please continue the dialogue as we head into this final phase and let us know what you think