

## **Nationalisation Update – May**

### **Towards a single professional organisation for Occupational Therapy in Australia**

#### **Message from State Elected Councillor:**

Due to the influx of member questions and suggestions which occurred throughout February & March, OT Australia (National) are considering some quite significant changes to the proposed Constitution for Occupational Therapy Australia Ltd.



Some changes relate to titles and the implied role, significance or identity, such as:

- referring to the “Company” as an “Association” throughout the Constitution to retain our current professional identity
- re-naming the Division Advisory Committees (which will replace the current OT Australia NSW Board) “Divisional Councils”

Other changes under consideration relate to content of the Constitution. Despite several inclusions in the Constitution which protect the current State and Territory Divisions, some members are still concerned about the possibility of adding or amalgamating Divisions in the long term, and so further discussion about this provision is currently taking place.

National Council are also giving some further thought to the make-up of the new OTA Ltd Board, with removal of having the Immediate Past President as a constituted Director. How this position is replaced is yet to be finalised.

While this all may seem a lot of change after such a long period of time, it is reassuring to know that OT Australia (National) are taking member feedback seriously and are prepared to make alterations where legally possible and professionally appropriate. It is hoped that by the National AGM in early May all feedback will have been incorporated or responded to, and we will be ready to move onto the next stage of achieving a Single National Entity. The NSW Board thanks all NSW members who have provided feedback, asked questions or forwarded ideas throughout this lengthy consultation period. Your patience and continued interest is very much appreciated.

Both Jan Erven, President of OT Australia (NSW) and Dianne Croker (State Elected Councillor NSW) will be attending the National AGM in Melbourne on 3 May 2008. Any NSW members interested in attending are most welcome.

Please note: Information about the future National organisation is published in the National CONNECTIONS magazine. Members are always welcome to ask questions as this assists with the process for the NSW Board and Secretariat in achieving progress of these matters on behalf of the membership.

**Should members have further questions please contact either OT AUSTRALIA National 03 9415 2900 or OT AUSTRALIA NSW send them to [otadmin@otnsw.com.au](mailto:otadmin@otnsw.com.au) or 02 9648 3225.**

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