

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE



The last month has been a busy one for the Board and the office. We have launched the call for papers for the National Virtual Conference on the 27th and 28th of September. Please consider submitting a paper and share to your networks globally. We

are aiming to enable full and expansive knowledge sharing around the impacts of Recreational Therapists engaged in various industries. Some of these include Southern Cross Care's Engagement and Purposeful Living Manager, and long term ARTA member, Jacqueline Quirke. Jacqueline is exploring the various roles of Recreational Therapy and models of care within the United States of America and Canada as part of a fellowship funded by the International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS). We are excited to hear more about what Jacqueline can bring for further discussion in Australia upon her return.

ARTA board members are also visiting the University of Western Sydney students during May and throughout the coming year. We are fostering connection to share and engage potential new members and professionals with their professional body. ARTA is working on strengthening our connections with emerging professions to build how we shape the future of Recreational Therapy in Australia and internationally.

Town Halls will be hosted in May (14th, 16th and 20th). Please register for these via the email instructions from the office and via social media platforms to learn more about what ARTA has been undertaking over the last 3 months.

*Renée Smith*  
**ARTA President**



**Australian  
Recreational  
Therapy  
Association**

# CALL FOR PAPERS 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## “Choice, Connection, Community”

### Virtual Conference

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Australian Recreational Therapy Association invites abstracts for presentation at our virtual conference. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for recreational therapy professionals, health professionals, academics, researchers and students across Australia and internationally to showcase their work, engage in networking, and critical discussion to encourage growth in clinical practice, research, education, policy and workforce development. Abstracts from a range of practice areas should explore, lead and inform delegates on recreational therapy interventions, service development and current industry trends.

### Themes

Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract summarising interesting and topical programs, initiatives and research as they align to the conference themes “Choice, Connection or Community”.

**Choice** – a powerful and important component of every interaction, approach and intervention. Recreational Therapists ensure individuals are empowered to have their voice heard, understood, and supported.

**Connection** – supporting individuals to explore, reconnect or maintain opportunities for recreation based on desired needs and abilities.

**Community** – facilitating and curating a sense of meaningful community, unique to individuals.

### Presentation formats

Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration by the conference committee. Abstracts will be accepted by email until 15th June 2024. Submissions may be accepted after this date with special prior arrangement. As part of the submission process authors are asked to indicate the presentation style they are interested in:

- Paper - oral presentation (45 minutes)
- Leisure bite - introduction of a concept or intervention/program (15 minutes)

Guidelines will be provided to those authors whose abstracts are accepted and these will vary depending on the presentation type.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:  
ARTA Conference Convenor, c/- [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Abstract Submission Details

Abstracts should be a summary of the material that is to be presented at the conference:

- **Microsoft Word** format, Arial 12pt font, **single spaced** type
- Abstract must be clearly written in English and a maximum of **300** words.
- Presentation title
- Preferred presentation format
- Author name/s, qualification, or course of study
- Position and employment details
- Contact details including phone and email address.
- One learning outcome the conference participants will achieve through your presentation

The ARTA Conference Committee encourages submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals, students, researchers and educators, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and community workers.

## Selection and notification

Abstracts will be assessed for originality, quality, relevance and professional interest. The conference committee is keen to ensure that new graduates/early career therapists as well as experienced presenters are included in the conference program.

Receipt of abstracts will be confirmed by an acknowledgement email.

Abstracts will form part of the conference program and distributed to delegates prior to the conference.

## Presenter Registration

Presenters will be required to register for the conference by paying the associated Presenter Fee.

### Key dates

<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	Call for abstracts close.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>	All applicants successful or otherwise will be notified.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2024</b>	Abstract presenters' deadline to register and submit any changes to abstracts
<b>Aug 2024</b>	Full programme available

## Awards

Several awards may be presented during the conference including 'People's Choice' and 'Best first time' or 'Student' presenter. More information to come.

ARTA Award for Excellence will also be announced.

## For more information

Conference Convenor

E: [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au)

[www.recreationaltherapy.au](http://www.recreationaltherapy.au)

Enquiries T: 1300 113 395 or T: 02 9887 2111

Please see below for updated actions over the past month from the Board.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Action:** Website home page revised – ongoing action.

**Action:** Policies and procedures revised both internal and external.

## EDUCATION

### 2024 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

Date: Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September 2024.

Theme: Choice, Connection, Community.

**MEMBER ACTION:** Please contact the [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) if you are interested in joining the Conference Committee/for more information.



## DISABILITY

**Update:** Our final article (pet therapy) with Link magazine will be published in the upcoming issue.

## CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

**Action:** CoP has started. Please email the office if you are interested in joining/want more information.

**Action:** Aged care act delayed by 12 months. ARTA have been attending open meetings to continue to advocate for our profession.

**Action:** Charlise to be attending NACA meetings to allow a key person to be the present face for ARTA.

## GOVERNANCE & PROFESSIONAL SCOPE

**Update:** ARTA Council has been formed with the first meeting planned for May. This was a vital step towards our APRA goal.

## MARKETING

**Action:** Sourcing members to be part of the CoP group. Please contact [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au) if you would like to join.

## OFFICE NEWS

It will soon be time to renew your ARTA membership! The office will shortly be sending an email to all members with all the details on how to renew. If you have any queries on your membership, CPD or renewal, please contact us at the office and we will be happy to help.



AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
NETWORK GROUPS 2024

STATE	GROUP NAME	GROUP LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL	FREQUENCY
NSW	Hospital Interest	Renee Rizzo	02 8738 5557	<a href="mailto:Renee.rizzo@health.nsw.gov.au">Renee.rizzo@health.nsw.gov.au</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2pm
NSW	Sydney Aged Care Interest	Briony Kennedy	0407 972 697	<a href="mailto:artaagedcaresyd@gmail.com">artaagedcaresyd@gmail.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month Hurlstone-Canterbury RSL club
NSW	The Hills	Mary Morris	0404 170 860	<a href="mailto:hillsdiversionaltherapygroup@gmail.com">hillsdiversionaltherapygroup@gmail.com</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month
QLD	Toowoomba	Chris Gauld Lynda White	0428 171 001 0422 789 327	<a href="mailto:Chris.gauld54@yahoo.com">Chris.gauld54@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Lynda_c65@hotmail.com">Lynda_c65@hotmail.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month (5.30pm EST)
SA	Adelaide	Sallie Shippides	08 8389 5030 0419 933 203	<a href="mailto:marsal03@bigpond.com">marsal03@bigpond.com</a>	TBC
SA	Lower North	Lisa Anders	0439 852 523	<a href="mailto:lisa.anders@sa.gov.au">lisa.anders@sa.gov.au</a>	TBC
TAS	Tasmania Network Group	Emma Preston	0452 070 875	<a href="mailto:epreston18@hotmail.com">epreston18@hotmail.com</a>	Online Group
VIC	East Gippsland Remote	Dawn Sulley	0438 560 253	<a href="mailto:dawn.h.sulley@gmail.com">dawn.h.sulley@gmail.com</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Tri-Monthly (Feb - Nov)
ALL	Online Dementia Specific Group	Eira Steane	Zoom meeting	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88358937783?pwd=eDdTRU5lRmNUMjZkTmlBZ3orT1ZNQT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88358937783?pwd=eDdTRU5lRmNUMjZkTmlBZ3orT1ZNQT09</a> Meeting ID: 883 5893 7783 Password: 095285	Zoom Meeting  Second Wed of every month 6.30pm EST
ALL	Associate Member NG	Kim Bromley	Zoom Meeting	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvCu2tpzktEtz79RlLeTPy1gk-kMkvTxL">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvCu2tpzktEtz79RlLeTPy1gk-kMkvTxL</a> Meeting ID: 862 5459 2788 Passcode: 590414	Zoom meeting  1 <sup>st</sup> Monday every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month 7.00pm EST

## Do *YOU* attend your **Network Group?**

*The purpose of networks groups is to foster peer support amongst Diversional Therapist's and recreational activities officers and provide peer level information exchange. Access to ARTA network groups are a membership benefit of Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA). By attending network groups, members are able to use the ideas, skills, knowledge and resources of those members on a regular basis.*

*Only financial members of Australian Recreational Therapy Association are eligible to attend network groups.*

The list of ARTA Network Groups is above – find the closest one to you and get in touch – they will warmly welcome a new member!

(Free with your membership!)