

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

15 November 2024 — The Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) has announced that, due to recent amendments to its constitution, it will no longer be accepting membership with qualifications under a degree (according to The Australian Qualifications Framework level 7) in leisure and recreation. This decision comes as part of a broader commitment to align with current best practices as an Allied Health Profession with recreational therapy and ensuring the highest standards of service delivery for the communities we serve.

While the ARTA will no longer be able to accept new members with Certificate IV or Diploma qualifications in Leisure and Recreation, we are committed to ensuring that all current professionals, and those impacted by these changes, continue to receive the support, education, and resources they need to thrive in the industry. To help facilitate this, ARTA is pleased to announce a collaboration with the Allied Health Assistants National Association (AHANA). Together, we will provide a comprehensive suite of continuous education programs and professional development opportunities.

This collaboration will focus on ensuring that individuals currently working in the field have access to relevant, up-to-date training and resources, empowering them to continue providing quality support to groups and individuals in recreational therapy and allied health settings.

“We understand that this change may present challenges for some in the sector,” said Charlise Bennett, Executive Officer of the ARTA. “However, by collaborating with AHANA, we are ensuring that professionals have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to remain competitive and effective in their roles. Continuous learning is crucial in our field, and we are dedicated to fostering an environment where practitioners are equipped to deliver the best possible outcomes for groups and individuals in leisure and recreation services.”

The ARTA’s membership policy amendments are part of a larger, ongoing effort to strengthen the recreational therapy profession in Australia and maintain alignment with evolving industry standards. These changes also reflect a commitment to providing high-quality therapeutic services to clients across the country.

For more information on ARTA's new membership requirements or the partnership with AHANA, please visit our website at [www.recreationaltherapy.au](http://www.recreationaltherapy.au), or contact [enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au](mailto:enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au).

About the Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA):

The ARTA is a professional association that supports and advocates for the recreational therapy profession in Australia. We work to advance the practice of recreational therapy through education, networking, and the promotion of evidence-based practices to enhance the health and wellbeing of individuals across the country.

About the Allied Health Assistants National Association (AHANA):

The AHANA is the peak body representing Allied Health Assistants in Australia, supporting their development and advocacy for their vital role in allied health services. AHANA provides professional development, resources, and networking opportunities to ensure the highest standards of practice within the allied health sector.

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