



PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As we move into the final stretch of the year, there's a renewed sense of energy and momentum across the association. I'm excited to share a few important updates and opportunities for our members to get involved and help shape the future of

Recreational Therapy in Australia.

Firstly, our National Virtual Conference is just around the corner! The speaker lineup and full program are now available on the ARTA website. The conference is showcasing a diverse range of voices, innovative research, and real-world insights into the ever-evolving field of Recreational Therapy. This is an incredible opportunity for learning, connection, and professional growth - be sure to register and encourage your networks to join us online.

The education calendar has been adjusted for the second half of the year. The calendar adjustments are based on the feedback from the surveys completed last month and the uptake of education offered in the first half of the year. The full list of our education can be viewed here <https://diversionaltherapy.memnet.com.au/MemberSelfService/EventList.aspx>

A reminder that membership payments are now overdue and will incur late fees. Please renew as soon as possible to take advantage of our member rates for education.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in October, and several Board positions will be up for nomination. We warmly invite members who are passionate about the direction of our profession to consider nominating. Fresh perspectives are key to a vibrant and representative Board. If you have questions about the process or what's involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to the ARTA office - we'd love to see new faces step into leadership roles.



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Behind the scenes, we continue to meet with external providers and stakeholders to strengthen our political connections and advocacy work. These relationships are essential to gaining greater recognition and funding opportunities for Recreational Therapy within health, aged care, disability, and community services.

Finally, a reminder of the value and importance of our Communities of Practice. These member-led groups not only offer valuable peer connection and support, but also directly inform our strategic planning. Your participation helps set the short and long-term priorities that guide ARTA's work across education, policy, and practice.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the profession. Together, we are building a stronger, more visible, and impactful future for Recreational Therapy in Australia.

Warm regards,

Renée Smith
ARTA President

Upcoming workshops September & October

If less than 4 people are registered for a workshop, it may be cancelled and rescheduled at another time.

There will be no workshops in August.

September 18th -19th:

ARTA VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

8:30am - 4:30pm

Upcoming workshops for October

Day/ Date	Duration	Topic
Thursday 2nd	12pm – 1pm	Innovative Education (Free for Members)
Tuesday 14 th	9am – 3pm	Fundamentals Online: Supporting Clients at End of Life (Palliative Care)
Thursday 23rd	9am – 3pm	Degree Focused: Starting Your Own Recreational Business Part 2

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WSU + ARTA information sessions for student placements were held with lots of interest. Great to see our members interested in fostering the next generation of RTs.

WSU invites RTs to present to students in class. Please contact the office if you are interested.

EDUCATION

ARTA has been providing continuing education with organisations and providers. In August we will be providing continuing education to support Recreational Therapy practices in workplaces. If you are interested in hosting education at the convenience of your workplace, please contact the office for more information.

The first meeting with HumanAbility was held last month. Charlise representing ARTA and Kim representing the industry. Charlise and Kim will attend meetings over the next 18 months representing our profession, to ensure the Cert IV Leisure and Health qualification is in line with industry needs and changes.

DISABILITY

Ongoing issues with requests for RT services being declined. CoP are liaising on cases where precedent may have been set. Other allied health services such as psychology are trending down with therapy being declined/funding amounts reduced/use of lower cost services e.g. recovery coach

MENTAL HEALTH

Members agreed to bimonthly meetings

Developing MH Competencies with view to align with governance document

CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Welcome letter to new Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, add invite to conference.

MARKETING

Finalising award of excellence prizes and criteria. Please see below for criteria.

RS and Charlise have met with ANACTA full service public affairs service in Canberra offering corporate advisory, labor governments, interests/expectations, linkages, advisory, research

GOVERNANCE & PROFESSIONAL SCOPE

CoP meeting not held this month.

INTERNATIONAL

International coalition discussing ways to have bachelor programs align outside of USA.

OFFICE NEWS

Membership renewals are now overdue! Please ensure your membership has been renewed and you have uploaded your 20 hours of CPD for the last financial year

ARTA Annual Awards for Excellence

Application Template

Select the Award category:

Recreational Therapist / Innovative Program / New Graduate

Section 1: Applicant & Nominee Information

Your Name:

Nominee's Full Name (if not self-nominating):

Project or Nomination Title (for innovative program only)

Applicant's Full Name (for innovative program only)

Contact Details (for innovative program only)

Section 2: Application Questions

For Recreational Therapist of the Year (members only)

1. Describe the nominee's contribution to their organisation over the past year.
2. Outline their contribution to the recreational therapy profession in that time.
3. How has the nominee inspired and empowered other staff?

For Innovative Program of the Year (both members and non-members)

Submit as a formal report (2000–2500 words), and 3 PowerPoint Slides including:

- Title page and contents
- Reasoning behind the project
- Theoretical underpinnings (RT focus)
- Regulatory considerations
- Evaluation process with measurable outcomes (quantitative/qualitative)
- Personal and professional development
- Evidence attachments (photos, video, testimonials)

3 PowerPoint Slides with:

1. Project overview
2. Summary with outcomes
3. Recommendations and key learnings

Note: Submission implies consent for public presentation and publication by ARTA.

New Graduate of the Year (both members and non-members)

1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated a strong transition from student to professional practice in recreational therapy?

Submission Checklist

- [] Application completed in full
- [] Word document and PowerPoint slides (innovative program) attached
- [] Subject line: ARTA Award for Excellence Entry (Your Surname) 2025
- [] Email sent to: enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au

SILVER SPONSOR



Queensland Community Care Network

*One-on-One Volunteer
Visits for Residents
at no cost*



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WE NEED YOU



- to record a short video
- explaining why they are members of ARTA
- what being an RT means to them.

You can send them in via email link to
enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au.

For use in promos on socials.



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Developed with
Neuropsychologists
Reducing Loneliness, Isolation & Anxiety

Therapy for Aged Care & those
living with dementia
through virtual reality (VR)

**Clinical Integration –
Enhancing Resident Care Plans**



**Memory Support –
Addressing Behavioral and
Psychological Symptoms of
Dementia (BPSD)**



**Lifestyle & Resident Wellbeing –
Facilitating Meaningful
Engagement**



NeuronsVR
encouraging movement



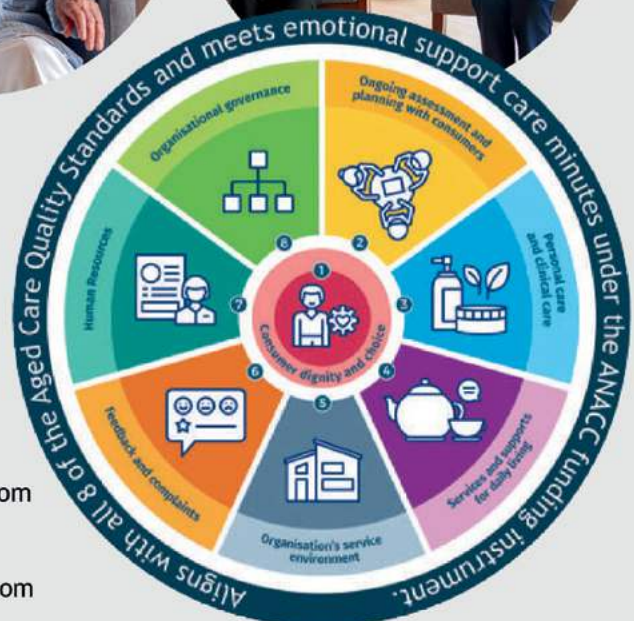
info@neuronsvr.com



1300 70 99 29



www.neuronsvr.com



STATE	GROUP NAME	GROUP LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL	FREQUENCY
NSW	Hospital Interest	Renee Rizzo	02 8738 5557	Renee.rizzo@health.nsw.gov.au	2 nd Wednesday of the month 2pm
NSW	Sydney Aged Care Interest	Rachel Askew	0420 526 909	artaagedcaresyd@gmail.com	1st Wednesday of the Month Hurlstone-Canterbury RSL club
NSW	The Hills	Mary Morris	0404 170 860	hillsdiversionaltherapygroup@gmail.com	2nd Tuesday of the Month
NSW	Penrith & surrounds	Danielle Anderson	0421 915 208	daniellea2288@gmail.com	TBC
SA	Adelaide	Sallie Shippies	08 8389 5030 0419 933 203	marsal03@bigpond.com	TBC
SA	Lower North	Lisa Anders	0439 852 523	lisa.anders@sa.gov.au	TBC
TAS	Tasmania Network Group	Emma Preston	0452 070 875	epreston18@hotmail.com	Online Group
VIC	East Gippsland Remote	Dawn Sulley	0438 560 253	dawn.h.sulley@gmail.com	3rd Wednesday Tri-Monthly (Feb - Nov)
ALL	Online Dementia Specific Group	Eira Steane	Zoom meeting	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85447858183?pwd=zwFXGkziPEYQE9Ez1dQZx5xVuB2EQ1.1 Meeting ID: 854 4785 8183 Passcode: 851827	Zoom Meeting Second Wed of every month 6.30pm EST
ALL	Associate Member NG	Kim Bromley	Zoom Meeting	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82336918415?pwd=r6bBs0S9RgDOjMULbn6uLbk4WRcBng.1 Meeting ID: 823 3691 8415 Passcode: 267385	Zoom meeting 1 st Wednesday every month 7.00pm EST

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

The purpose of network groups is to foster peer support and information exchange amongst ARTA members. 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!)