



PRESIDENT'S PIECE

September is a very exciting month for our Association – it's Conference Month!

On the 18–19 September, we will be gathering for our

National Virtual Conference, bringing together Recreational Therapists from across Australia and beyond. This year we are privileged to host international keynote speakers, alongside an amazing line-up of presenters who will share their expertise, research, and practice innovations. If you haven't already, I encourage you to register today and be part of this inspiring event.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have already completed their membership renewals. To our outstanding members – your continued commitment strengthens our profession. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible to ensure you remain connected to the many opportunities and benefits ARTA provides.

Looking ahead, October marks our Annual General Meeting (AGM). A number of Board Director positions will be open for nomination. An email went out to members this week with further details. I encourage you to read it carefully and consider nominating. Fresh perspectives, new ideas, and active participation are essential to shaping the future of our association and advancing Recreational Therapy nationally.

Thank you for your ongoing support, energy, and dedication to our profession. I look forward to seeing many of you online at our conference this month!

Warm regards,

Renée Smith
ARTA President



**Australian
Recreational
Therapy
Association**

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

We have needed to readjust what we are offering for education due to low uptake. For the rest of the year the following workshops will occur.

September

There are no workshops in September due to our annual national conference being showcased in September.

October

Day/ Date	Duration	Topic
Thursday 2nd	9am – 3pm	Reablement Workshop (Free for Members)
Tuesday 14th	9am – 3pm	Supporting Clients at End of Life (Palliative Care)
Thursday 23rd	9am – 3pm	Starting Your Own Recreational Therapy Business

November

Day/ Date	Duration	Topic
Monday 3rd	12pm – 1pm	The role of Cultural Competency
Monday 10th	12pm – 4pm	Managing Staff and Services
Friday 14th	9am – 1pm	Events Planning for the Following Year
Wednesday 26th	1pm – 3pm	Leisure Education (Free for Members)

December

Day/ Date	Duration	Topic
Thursday 4th	1pm – 2pm	Strengths Based Approaches in Relationships

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Exploring avenues to advocate for the profession with external stakeholders.

A manual has been developed for new board members to have a better understanding of expectations when starting the position.

A certificate of service is currently being developed for those who do become members of the board.

A conference paper on Metacognition and Critical thinking was presented at the New Zealand DRT conference in August.

We are currently reviewing the membership and education platform we use at the association for functionality and pricing.

EDUCATION

Bupa held a Leisure and lifestyle summit in both Melbourne and Sydney during August. The association was represented at both of these forums also giving a presentation on the strengthened standards and the implications for leisure and lifestyle teams.

If you are interested in hosting education at your workplace, please contact the office and let us know what topics you would like to be delivered and the timeframe (full day/ half day) and we will try and accommodate either virtually or live.

A review of the certificate 4 and diploma in leisure and lifestyle are currently underway by human ability. After feedback from the first meeting, and additional 2 months has been factored into the initial consultation time and an additional six-week time frame has been incorporated into the timeline to allow additional feedback after the first draft has public consultation in June 2026.

CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Awaiting new standards release in November.

MARKETING

Award of excellence nominations now open. Finalisation of prizes happening this month.

GOVERNANCE & PROFESSIONAL SCOPE

The draft scope of practice document has now been put together and we are looking for feedback to further develop and publish.

Looking at annual journal publication options and communicating with Taylor-Frances.

Exploring cost benefit analysis of applying for membership with the National Alliance of Self Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP).

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*



Australian
Recreational
Therapy
Association

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.



GOLD SPONSOR



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Neuropsychologists
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living with dementia
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Psychological Symptoms of
Dementia (BPSD)**



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



NeuronsVR
encouraging movement



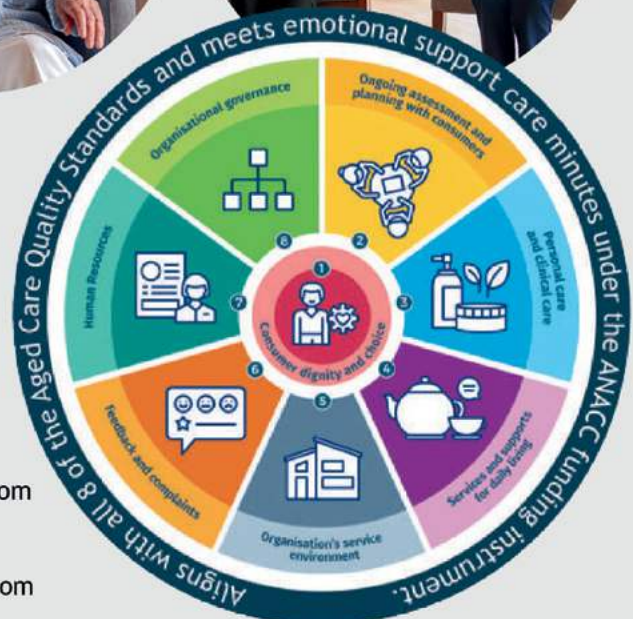
info@neuronsvr.com



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!)