

Re number of hours of Professional development required:

I understand that Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Nursing are requiring 20 hours of professional development activities. Why is Occupational Therapy considering more hours than these professions?

Whilst I understand the need for all therapists to equally maintain their skills, 30 hours would be onerous to those therapists working only limited hours due to family and other commitments. For myself working only one day a week would necessitate needing to fulfil the vast majority of hours in my own (limited) time. However when I was able to work full time 30 hours would have been able to mostly/all have been achieved within usual working hours. The majority of part time therapists in my place of employment are the experienced staff members and as there is a great need within our profession to keep experienced therapists in the workforce, requiring a difficult to achieve number of hours for part time therapists may lead to increased length of non practicing or giving up registration to work in other employment.

Where therapists have only worked part of the year can there be provision to have reduced professional development hours? ie Can non-practicing registration be for part year? eg where people have had extended time off to care for family members, extended illnesses, parental leave ect.

kind regards

L. Watson