

Response to the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia regarding proposed CPD standards and guidelines

1.1 The minimum number of hours of CPD specified annually

- We note that the proposed minimum number of CPD hours is suggested as 30 hours per year. We question the basis for this amount as benchmarking with a similar profession such as physiotherapy indicates 20 hours as a minimum.
- Whilst we acknowledge that 30 hours should be easily achieved within a hospital department setting with the supports and structures it offers, we would like to express our concern over whether part time workers, private practitioners and sole practitioners will be able to meet the requirements of 30 hours CPD annually.
- We recommend that the minimum number of CPD hours be specified as 20 hours annually.

1.2 The mix of CPD activities proposed

- There is some ambiguity over what is considered part of day to day work activities and what is professional development. (e.g. performance appraisals). Clarification on this issue would be useful.

1.3 The proposed format of CPD record-keeping

- The reflection examples appear to be commenting on emotions, and are superficial and wordy. They also appear to focus on the present, not always a reflection on what was learnt and how your practice will/has changed as a result.
- We recommend reviewing reflection examples to ensure the examples are professional and mature in nature and documentation.

1.4 The level of flexibility in how the CPD activities can be met

- The opportunity for a mix of learning activities is appropriate and we support this.

1.5 Whether first-time registrants will be able to meet these requirements

- It is not clear from the document but we presume that new graduates from an approved program of study will be able to become registered prior to beginning practice or completing any additional CPD.
- We recommend clarification on this issue.

These responses are the result of consultation with the following Occupational Therapists of Ryde Hospital and Community Services:

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