

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 15



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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Occupational Therapy Council  
of New South Wales*

The Occupational Therapy Council's report for 2015 reflects a year which has been productive and busy for both the Council and staff at the HPCA.

We have had a number of achievements over the year. In particular, I would like to highlight two achievements:

- Establishing a partnership with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.
- The development of supervision guidelines for occupational therapists.

In many respects, these two achievements have 'raised the bar' for occupational therapists across the State.

Our partnership with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia means that your NSW Council is able to pool our resources and ensure that each of us does not work in silos, in order to achieve consistency of outcomes for registrants.

The development of supervision guidelines gives an understanding of what is expected when an Occupational Therapist needs to be supervised due to a complaint or early on in their career. The guidelines were many months in the making, with some of NSW's most experienced practitioners giving of their time to develop them.

The Council has noticed a marked increase in complaints. This year there were 16 cases, compared to 12 cases last financial year. This was an increase of 33%.

The Occupational Therapy Council is again appreciative of the professional and efficient support provided by the HPCA to assist us to fulfil our public protection responsibilities and ensure health professionals practise safely.

I would like to welcome Mr John Peterson, our incoming Community Member to the Council. Mr Peterson brings a wealth of experience from a community perspective. Mr Peterson works in the not-for-profit sector, a change after many years in the finance area.

Also, I would like to thank Dr Barrie Brennan, our outgoing Community Member, for his contributions over the last three years. On behalf of all Council members, I would like to wish him well in his future endeavours.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge our very capable and dedicated Council members. All members provide a strong foundation to stand us in good stead for the next three years. I want to sincerely thank them for their work on the Council.

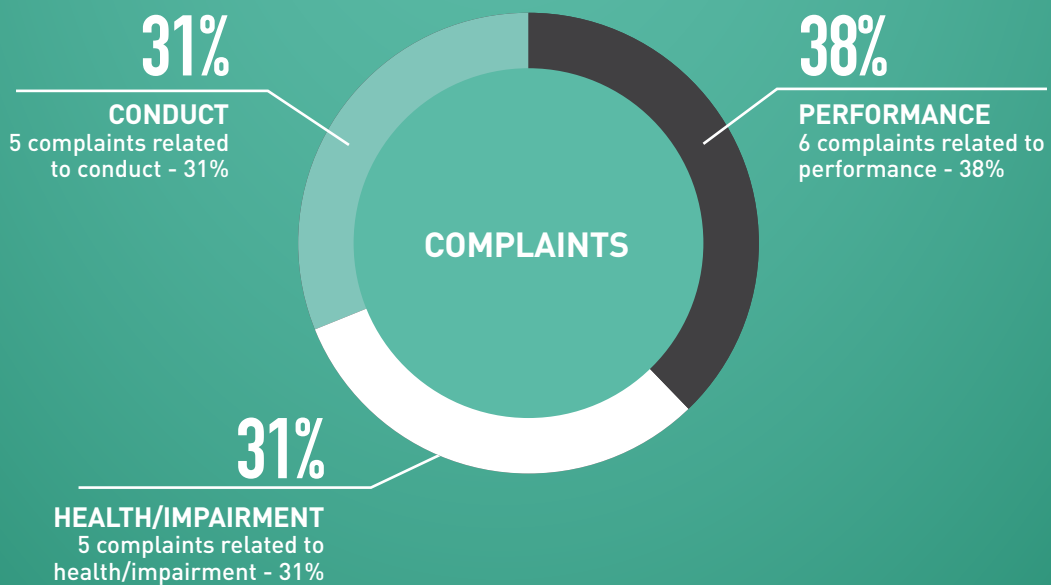
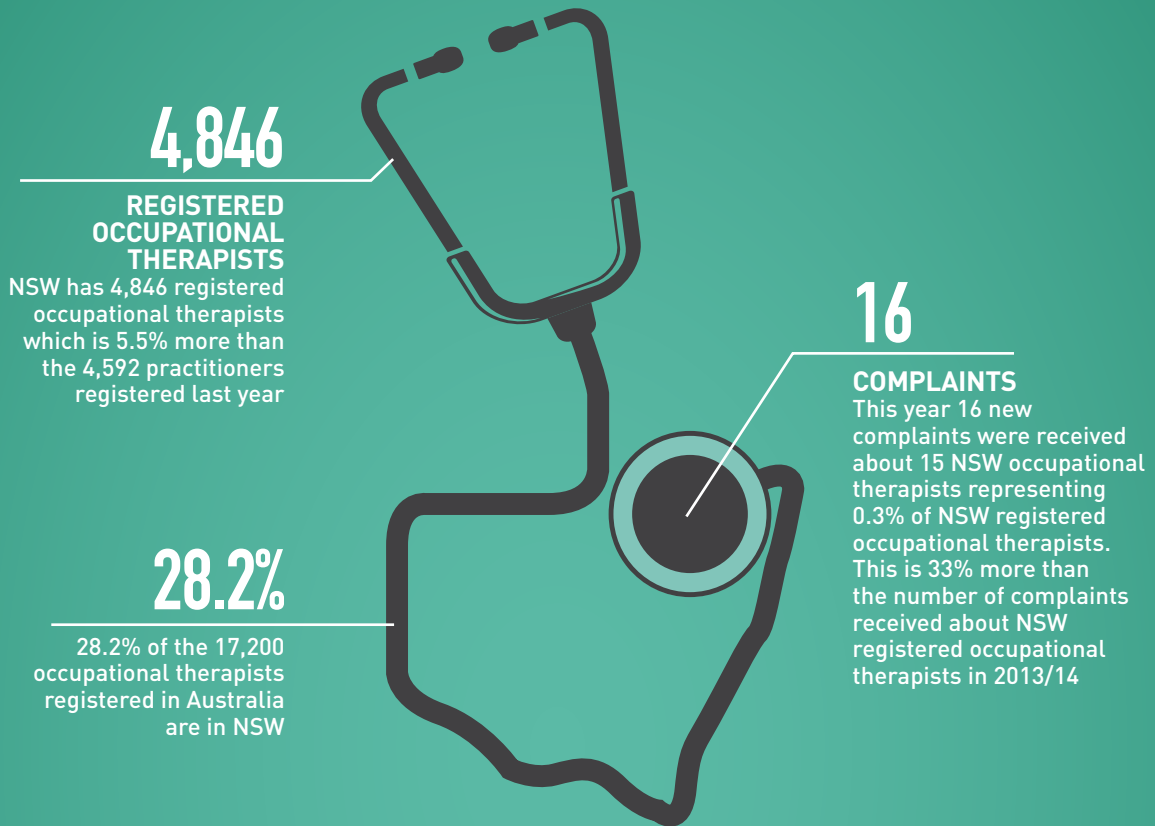
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Nguyen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**(Mr) Kim Nguyen**

President

Occupational Therapy Council of NSW

# REGULATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN NSW IN 2014/15 YEAR IN SUMMARY



## Regulation of Occupational Therapists in NSW in 2014/15

### Year in summary

NSW has 4,846 registered Occupational Therapists which is 5.5% more than the 4,592 practitioners registered last year and 28.2% of the 17,200 Occupational Therapists registered to practise in Australia.

This year 16 new complaints were received about 15 NSW Occupational Therapists representing 0.3% of NSW registered occupational therapists. This is 33% more than the number of complaints received about NSW registered occupational therapists in 2013/14.

Complaints about NSW occupational therapists included:

- 5 for conduct - 31%
- 6 for performance – 38%
- 5 for health – 31%.

One mandatory notification was received.

Three complaints were self reported, three were received from a member of the public, two were received from patients, two were received from an employee and six were received from various other sources.

Five health assessments were conducted, two complaints involved Impaired Registrant Panels and one complaint was managed through practitioner interview.

Twelve complaints were closed during the year with outcomes including:

- 1 conditions by consent
- 2 referred to another body
- 1 HCCC resolution/conciliation
- 5 HCCC discontinued at assessment
- 2 required no further action
- 1 no jurisdiction to act.

## Council membership

Section 41E of the law prescribes that there are 6 members of the Occupational Therapy Council appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered occupational therapy practitioners:

- Mr Kim Nguyen, BAppSc (OT), Grad Dip (Public Health) – President
- Dr Katherine Moore, BAppSc (OT), MAppSc (OT), PhD – Deputy President
- Ms Carolyn Fozzard, BAppSc (OT)
- Ms Melinda Hunt, BAppSc (OT), LLB (Hons)

Community members:

- Ms Angela Petrie, BPharm LLM, MLLP – Legal Member
- Dr Barrie Brennan, BA/DipEd, MLitt, MA (Hons)

No new members were appointed during the year.

One member, Dr Barrie Brennan, retired at the end of June 2015.

## Attendance at Council meetings

The Occupational Therapy Council met on 11 occasions. Attendance at the meetings was as follows.

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Mr Kim Nguyen	11	11
Dr Katherine Moore	9	11
Ms Carolyn Fozzard	10	11
Ms Melinda Hunt	11	11
Ms Angela Petrie	8	11
Dr Barrie Brennan	5	11

## Executive Officer

The Occupational Therapy Council was supported by the Executive Officer, Amanda McEacharn and 1.5 FTE staff allocation. Isabel Anastasiadis and Brad Skidmore provided Executive Officer support in the absence of Ms McEacharn. The Executive Officer and support staff are employed by the HPCA.

## Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Occupational Therapy Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

### Regulatory committees and panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels.

The Occupational Therapy Council was supported by one of these bodies during the reporting period with membership as follows.

Regulatory Committee or Panel	Membership	Meetings Attended
Impaired Registrants Panel	Dr Karen Arnold	1
	Ms Brenda McLeod	1

### Meetings and conferences

The Occupational Therapy Council was represented at the following meetings and conferences during the reporting period.

Name	Attendance
Meeting with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia	Ms Carolyn Fozzard Ms Melinda Hunt
Council Presidents' Forum – bi-monthly meetings	Mr Kim Nguyen
Council Presidents' Forum meeting with the NSW Minister for Health	Mr Kim Nguyen

### Overseas travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

### Council communications

The Occupational Therapy Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to occupational therapists, occupational therapy students and the community. The website is updated regularly and includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The Occupational Therapy Council also distributes electronic newsletters to occupational therapists with a principal place of practice in NSW. Further information may be accessed on the Council's website at [www.occupationaltherapycouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

## Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council is as follows:

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Members	\$1,752 per annum

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees of \$448 per day and \$218 per half day for the conduct of Council inquiries and \$256 per day and \$128 per half day for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities (if held on a day other than the monthly Council meeting). Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

## Financial Management

The Occupational Therapy Council's accounts performance as reported in the Financial Statements is as follows.

Accounts Performance 2014/15	\$
Revenue	321,526
Operating expenditure	194,462
Gain/(loss) on disposal	(267)
<b>Net result</b>	<b>126,797</b>
<b>Net cash reserves</b> (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	<b>571,786</b>

\* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of: \$44,577

The Occupational Therapy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 is as follows.

Budget 2015/16	\$
Operating expenditure	169,472
Revenue	241,738
<b>Net result</b>	<b>72,266</b>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.