



Occupational Therapy Council of NSW

Annual Report 2018-19

JOINT ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 15 NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL CHINESE MEDICINE COUNCIL
CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL DENTAL COUNCIL MEDICAL COUNCIL MEDICAL RADIATION PRACTICE COUNCIL NURSING
AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OSTEOPATHY COUNCIL
PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL PHARMACY COUNCIL PHYSIOTHERAPY COUNCIL PODIATRY COUNCIL PSYCHOLOGY COUNCIL

President's Message



**Occupational
Therapy
Council**
of NSW

I am pleased to present the Occupational Therapy Council's annual report for 2018/19.

As in previous years, the importance of maintaining a positive and strong working relationship with stakeholders such as the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, the Health Care Complaints Commission and the National Board remain a high priority for the Council. By maintaining and strengthening these collaborative relationships the Council is able to ensure that the community of NSW continues to receive a high standard of care from the occupational therapy profession.

The Council is also committed to ensuring that we continue to educate and promote the role of the Council through a number of actions with our practitioners, employers, education providers and the peak professional body.

I would like to welcome three new members to our Council namely Dr Alison Wicks (practitioner member), Mr Barry Dean (legal member) and Mr Robert Farrugia (community member) and extend my sincere appreciation to each of my fellow Council members. Each member of the Council has provided their expert advice and support regarding ongoing Council business.

As the number for registrants and notifications continues to grow, I expect that the next 12 months will bring new challenges and I look forward to facing each challenge and celebrating each achievement with my fellow colleagues of the Council.

Finally, I would like to thank the Health Professional Councils Authority for their continued commitment, support and hard work during the past year and look forward to working with all involved to ensure that we maintain public safety and confidence in the profession.

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

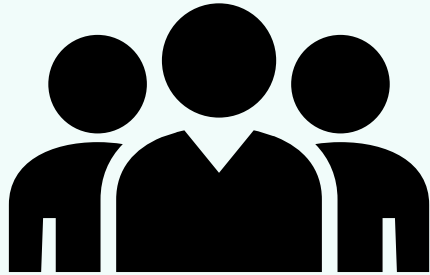
Mr Kim Nguyen

President

Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales

Occupational Therapy Council 2018-19 Summary

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS



6,245

Registered occupational therapists in NSW

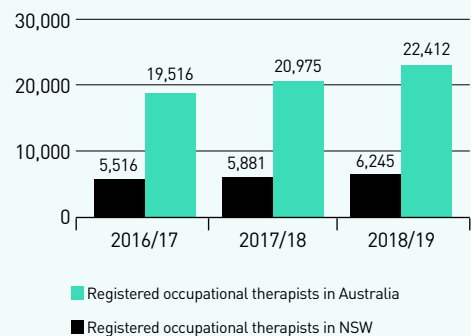
28%

of Australian occupational therapists practise in NSW

0.5%

of NSW occupational therapists had complaints made about them

3 year trend in number of registered occupational therapists



COMPLAINTS ABOUT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS



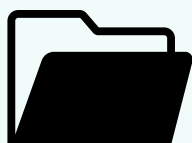
10

cases were open at the beginning of the year



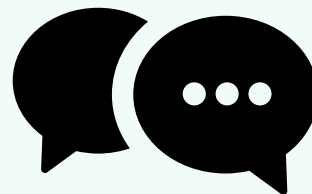
42

cases were closed during the year



15

cases were open at the end of the year



47

complaints were received about 33 occupational therapists in 2018/19

18

of the complaints received were mandatory notifications about 7 practitioners

Complaints were mainly from:

Treating Practitioners - **12**

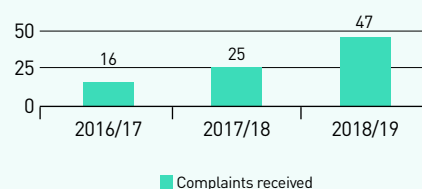
Other Practitioners - **8**

Patients - **8**

Complaints were mainly about:

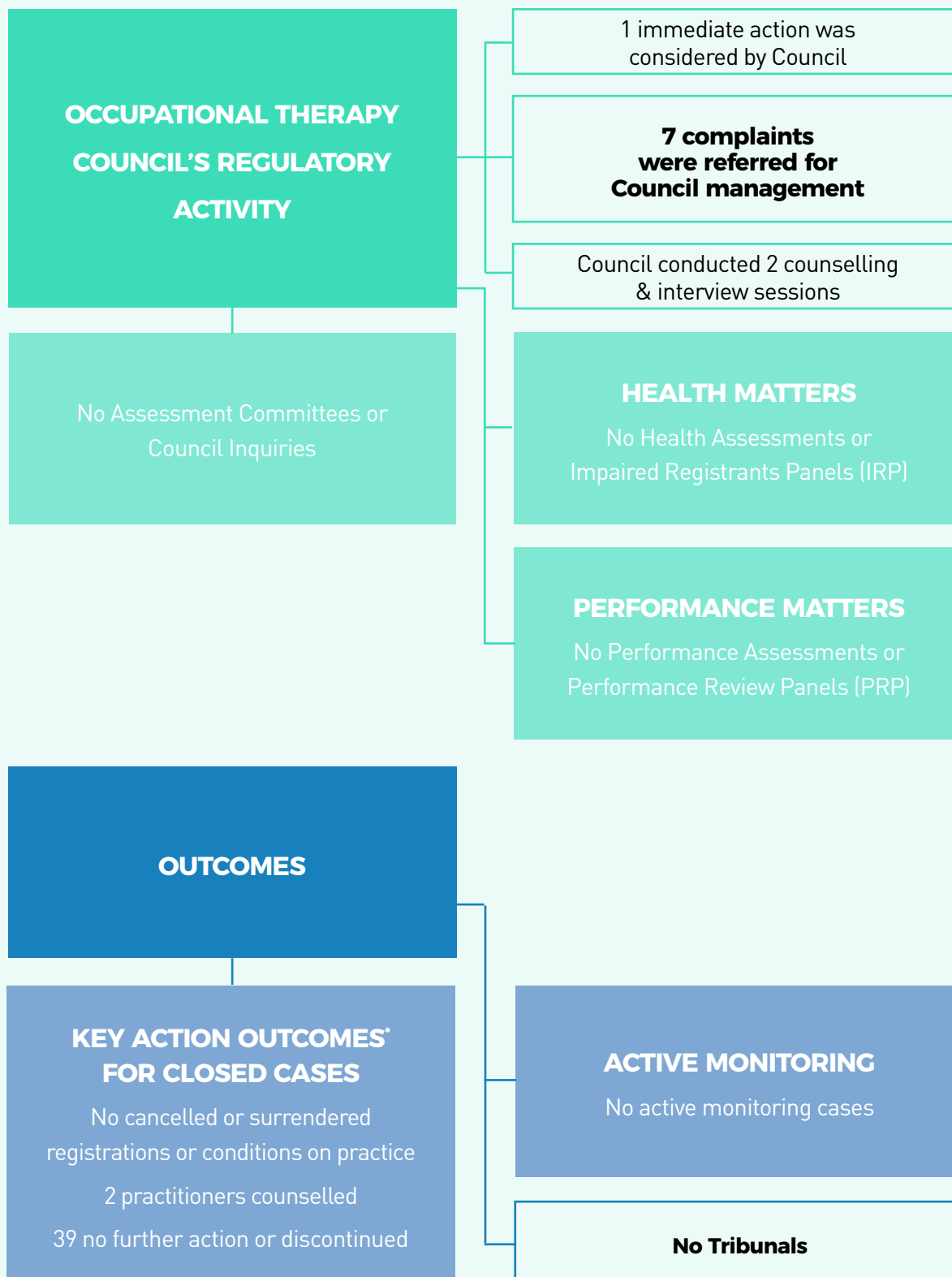
Clinical care - **21**

3 year trend in number of complaints about occupational therapists



Occupational Therapy Council 2018-19 Summary

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL'S REGULATORY ACTIVITY - MATTERS CONCLUDED



*Not all outcomes are included and a complaint may have more than one outcome

Council Members

Six members sit on the Occupational Therapy Council as set out in the National Law.

Council members are nominated by the Minister for Health and appointed by the Governor.

Registered Occupational Therapy practitioner members:

- Mr Kim Nguyen BAppSc(OT), DipHRMgt, GradDipPH, GradDipStratLDRSHP, FRSPH, FIML, AFCHSM
- Ms Carolyn Fozzard BAppSc (OT), JD (Juris Doctor)
- Ms Melinda Hunt BAppSc (OT), LLB (Hons)
- Dr Alison Wicks PhD, M HSC (OT), B App SC (OT), Adjunct Associate Professor University of Canberra, JP

Legal member:

- Mr Barry Dean – B Optom (Hons), LLB (Hons), LLM

Community member:

- Mr Robert Farrugia – RN, Onc.Cert., BCom (UOW), MHSM (CSU)

The Governor appointed Mr Kim Nguyen as President of the Occupational Therapy Council.

The Governor appointed Ms Carolyn Fozzard as Deputy President of the Occupational Therapy Council.

Executive Officer

Mrs Maricel O'Farrell is the Executive Officer for the Occupational Therapy Council. Ms Heather Comino has been providing Executive Officer support to the Council since April 2019 while Mrs O'Farrell is on leave.

The Executive Officer is part of a team of 11 led by Ms Farina Bains. This team works with 11 of the health professional Councils.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

Council Meeting Attendance

The Occupational Therapy Council met nine times during the year.

Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date first appointed	Current Term of Office*
President Mr Kim Nguyen	6	9	1 July 2012	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021
Deputy President Ms Carolyn Fozzard	9	9	1 July 2012	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021
Mr Barry Dean	8	9	1 July 2018	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021
Mr Robert Farrugia	8	9	1 July 2018	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021
Ms Melinda Hunt	8	9	1 July 2012	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021
Dr Alison Wicks	8	9	1 July 2018	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021

* Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that assist the Council to undertake its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)
- Assessment Committees

The Occupational Therapy Council did not appoint any regulatory committee or panels during the year.

Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Occupational Therapy Council did not appoint any committees this year.

Meetings and Events

The Occupational Therapy Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

Table ii: Occupational Therapy Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
NRAS Conference	Mr Kim Nguyen - President

Council Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Occupational Therapy Council website provides easy access to information about the Council and its work, publications, the complaints process and an online complaint form.

The Occupational Therapy Council also distributes electronic newsletters to Occupational Therapy practitioners working in NSW. One newsletter was distributed this year including topics such as the regulatory model in NSW, the Council's role, Continuing Professional Development, Counselling by the Council.

As part of the engagement plan for the Occupational Therapy Council and the National Board, Mr Kim Nguyen attended the Occupational Therapy Board Meeting on 1 March 2019.

Overseas Travel

The Occupational Therapy Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

Remuneration

Remuneration for Council members aligns with the Public Service Commission Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees. Council members receive additional payment for interviews, counselling sessions, immediate action inquiries, Council Inquiries and panels. No additional payments are made for other regulatory work such as official visits, committee meetings, training, conferences or preparation for meetings.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Occupational Therapy Council member remuneration rates are as follows.

President	\$4,465 per annum
Deputy President	\$4,214 per annum
Council Members	\$3,665 per annum

Education and Research Account

The Occupational Therapy Council maintains an Education and Research account. This can be used to fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund research activity including Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

Financial Management

The Occupational Therapy Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2018/19	\$
Revenue	264,398
Operating expenditure	182,484
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(2)
Net result	81,912
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	1,000,983

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$47,523.

The Occupational Therapy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 is as follows.

Budget 2019/20	\$
Revenue	269,540
Operating expenditure	230,691
Net result	38,849

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