

Backgrounder

The Association of Massage Therapists

- The Association of Massage Therapists is a national non-for-profit professional association of more than 3400 massage therapists. Established in 1966, AMT is the oldest association in Australia to represent massage therapy in its own right and the premier representative body for professional therapists.
- AMT released a comprehensive Massage Therapy Code of Practice at the beginning of 2013. The AMT Code of Practice was the culmination of three years of research and consultation. It sets the benchmark for the safe and ethical practice of massage therapy in Australia and is accessible online here:
<http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/practice-resources/AMT-code-of-practice-final.pdf>
- AMT requires all practitioner members to undergo a National Police Check every three years. This requirement meets and exceeds the requirements for health practitioners registered under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.
- AMT was involved in the Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies. In January 2013, AMT provided a 200-page submission to the Chief Medical Officer citing the evidence for the efficacy and safety of massage therapy. The full submission can be accessed here:
<http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/submissions/CMO-submission-PHIR.pdf>
- AMT established a database of massage therapy research using the NHMRC evidence hierarchy. The 2018 research database can be accessed here:
<https://www.amt.org.au/downloads/practice-resources/AMT-Classified-Research-January-2018.pdf>
- National Competency Standards for massage therapy training were introduced for Massage Therapy in 2002. AMT takes a leading role in the review of training package qualifications to ensure currency and relevance. In addition, AMT's commitment to the continuous professional development of members is evidenced by its mandatory CPE program, which has been in place for over 26 years.
- Massage therapy is primarily self-regulated in Australia. However, massage therapists are accountable under a range of statutory codes and legislative instruments, including the various state Codes of Conduct regulating the non-registered healthcare occupations, Public Health Acts, Health Records and Information Privacy Acts, Consumer Law and Workplace Health and Safety Acts. You can read AMT's position statement on industry regulation here:
<https://www.amt.org.au/downloads/position-statements/AMT-Position-Statement-Regulation.pdf>
- AMT was at the forefront of the massage therapy industry's COVID-19 pandemic response, both globally and locally within Australia. AMT's extensive suite of COVID resources can be viewed here:
<https://www.amt.org.au/members/COVID-19-resources.html>



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