

educator news December 2025

As we hurtle towards the end of 2025, we're closing out the year with a bittersweet combo of productivity and setbacks.

Position statements

Over the past couple of months, AMT has published two new positions statements, which are available for download from the AMT website:

[Cosmetic Claims in Massage Therapy Practice](#)

[Use of Electro and Photobiomodulation Therapy in Massage Therapy Practice](#)

AMT Massage Therapy Code of Practice review

AMT reviews and updates this document every year to reflect any changes in legislation. This includes adoption of the National Code of Conduct by any new jurisdictions or changes in laws relating to working with vulnerable people.

You can download the current AMT Code of Practice [here](#).

New partnership with Guild Insurance

AMT has entered into a new preferred insurance partnership with Guild Insurance which includes a policy that covers enrolled students for any offsite work they do, at a cost of around \$15 per month.

There are more details about Guild's policy offering [here](#).

Health Care Provider identifiers (HPI-I) update

AMT spent a fair chunk of 2025 waiting on legislative changes to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 that would allow us to directly represent eligible members to Services Australia to be assigned with a Health Practitioner Identifier.

The amendments were finally passed in the spring sitting of parliament.

Unfortunately, our celebrations turned out to be short lived, like an agonisingly unfunny punchline to the longest terrible joke you have ever endured. In a completely unforeseen development, the new version of the Act included crucial changes to the HPI-I eligibility criteria, setting a minimum AQF level 7 qualification entry point (in other words, degree-level qualifications).

Obviously, the majority of industry practitioners graduate with AQF Level 5 and 6 qualifications so this sudden development saw our access to HPI-I's essentially go up in smoke.

We have written to the Health Minister, the Hon. Mark Butler, to request a consultation regarding the impact of this amendment. We encourage you to read AMT's letter to the Minister - it provides a broad overview of AMT's case for remedial massage therapists to be recognised and the legislative pathway in the Health Practitioner Identifier Act for that to occur. You'll find the letter appended at the end.

We called the Ministerial Office yesterday to follow up on the correspondence and to reiterate our request for our meeting.



We have also been in positive dialogue with Massage and Myotherapy Australia, and we will continue to collaborate on a path back to HPI-I eligibility.

This is clearly a significant setback for the industry. It also runs counter to the Government's stated goal of having a more person-centred, connected, and sustainable health system through digital innovation.

Pending the response to our request for consultation with the Minister, we plan to make HPI-I eligibility a focus of AMT's advocacy in the first half of 2026.

Request an AMT presentation

Would you like AMT to talk to your student cohort, either live or virtually? AMT can present on a variety of industry topics by request. Please contact David Ward [via email](#) if you would like AMT to develop a presentation on a specific topic or present on the benefits of Association membership.

AMT's research resource

Have you checked out AMT's [graded massage therapy research tool](#) yet? It is publicly accessible to all RTOs and students.

We encourage you to watch this [6-minute tour](#) which walks you through the essential features of the resource.

The resource uses AI Critical Appraisal Checklists to assess studies for trustworthiness, results, and relevance. The critical appraisal checklists facilitate easy and accurate critical appraisal across different study types. The systematic review checklist consists of 10 questions which are designed to assess the validity, results, and applicability of a study. These will provide a useful entry point for students learning how to appraise evidence. The traffic light system used to grade studies simplifies the process of evaluating the quality of evidence.

The development of this resource included an [overview of the current systematic review evidence](#) related to massage therapy.

The full suite of supporting materials also includes a [user guide](#) that outlines the search string used to compile the resource.

AMT warmly encourage all RTO educators to browse these [materials on the AMT website](#). We're confident that they will add enormous contextualised value to the delivery and assessment of CHCPOL003.

24 November 2025

The Hon. Mark Butler, MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Via email: minister.butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister

Re: Request for consultation - HPI-I legislative reforms

The Association of Massage Therapists (AMT) is a not-for-profit professional association representing 3600 qualified massage therapists and students of massage therapy. Established in 1966, AMT is dedicated to promoting evidence-based practice standards and client-centred care.

I am writing to urgently request consultation on regulatory amendments that would enable AMT members to access Healthcare Provider Identifiers (HPI-Is) following recent legislative changes, specifically regarding amendments to Section 9A in the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 enacted through the Aged Care and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

The amendments now state that healthcare providers must hold a minimum AQF Level 7 qualification to be eligible for an HPI-I. This replaces the previous criteria whereby healthcare providers were eligible if they belonged to a professional association with certain characteristics (which AMT meets). Most AMT members are qualified at AQF Level 5 or 6, which means they will no longer be eligible for an HPI-I.

AMT has been in dialogue with Services Australia and the Australia Digital Health Agency over the past 18 months. We entered into a partnership agreement with Provider Connect Australia (PCA) in 2024, largely on the presumption that our eligible qualified members would be integrated into the digital healthcare landscape via HPI-Is. These legislative reforms are a significant impediment to further progress, given that the scope of work under AMT's agreement with PCA was based on the foundation of eligible members being assigned an HPI-I. It will also impact a planned pilot with Medibank Private to test how the data for eligible Medibank remedial massage providers could be integrated through PCA's digital platform. Consequently, this has implications for meeting the Government's stated goal of having a more person-centred, connected, and sustainable health system.

The explanatory memorandum to the reforms states that the amendment addresses concerns with the previous provisions. Specifically, it notes that an individual could be a member of an association applying regulation and oversight, but that individual members may not necessarily be subject to that regulation and oversight.

Over the past three decades, AMT has developed robust systems to report the eligibility of our members for provider status with the private health funds, governed by the Private Health Insurance Act 2007 and the Private Health Insurance (Accreditation) Rules 2011 - Rule 10. In fact, the Rule 10 provisions that allow us to represent AMT members to the funds mirror the criteria that was replaced in Section 9A of the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010.

AMT retains and tracks the following information to report provider eligibility monthly or bi-monthly to the private health insurers on behalf of our members:

- Qualification level
- National Police Check status (requirement to redo every three years)
- Insurance certificate of currency expiry
- Senior first aid expiry
- Professional development.

I note that the addition of Section 9A(1)(c) to the Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010 provides that the regulations may specify other classes of individual healthcare providers who are eligible to be assigned a healthcare identifier and that the intent is to provide flexibility to accommodate new or emerging classes of healthcare providers who should be eligible to be assigned an individual healthcare provider identifier and to handle healthcare identifiers. I understand that such an expansion would require consultation.

AMT would welcome the opportunity to open consultation aimed at providing a pathway for our qualified members to become eligible for HPI-Is through regulations under Section 9A(1)(c). Given our demonstrated capacity to maintain robust oversight systems that already satisfy Rule 10 requirements under the Private Health Insurance Act, we believe AMT members represent precisely the type of regulated healthcare providers that this regulatory flexibility was designed to accommodate.

We respectfully request:

1. urgent clarification on whether healthcare providers regulated through professional associations meeting Rule 10 criteria can be prescribed as eligible classes under Section 9A(1)(c) regulations
 2. a meeting with your office and relevant departmental officials within the next 30 days to discuss a regulatory pathway that would enable our qualified members to access HPI-Is while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability
 3. guidance on the formal consultation process required to progress regulatory amendments, including timeframes and the evidence required to demonstrate our members meet appropriate standards for integration into Australia's digital health infrastructure.
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The exclusion of qualified, regulated massage therapists from the digital health ecosystem represents a missed opportunity to advance the Government's person-centred care objectives and creates immediate practical challenges for partnerships already under way with Provider Connect Australia and Medibank Private. AMT stands ready to work constructively with your office to find a solution that protects public interest while enabling appropriately qualified healthcare providers to participate fully in Australia's digital health future.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your earliest convenience and can be reached at 02 9211 2441 or Rebecca.Barnett@amt.org.au.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter affecting thousands of qualified healthcare practitioners and their clients.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Barnett', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Barnett
Chief Executive Officer

cc The Hon. Rebecca White MP
Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher
Blair Comley
Provider Connect Australia