

## educator news June 2019

### **AMT mentoring program**

The pilot of AMT's mentoring program came to a close in April, with 20 mentor/mentee pairs involved. We were gratified by the response from the participants and we are incredibly excited by the potential that the program has to support and build the profession.

You can read about the experiences of some of the pilot participants in the AMT blog:

<http://blog.amt.org.au/index.php/2019/05/29/not-all-superheroes-wear-a-cape/>

Based on the insights and feedback from the pilot, we have customised and improved the program. Applications have just closed for the first official intake and we're set to match around 30 pairs of mentors/mentees this time around. The program launches at the beginning of July.

We are indebted to our senior members who are volunteering their time to support the scheme as mentors.

### **Training package news**

The 2019 Complementary Health Industry Forecast was submitted to the Department of Education in March, amid some controversy about the proposed scope of work.

The Complementary Health Industry Reference Group is yet to receive official confirmation of which projects have received funding for 2019/20 but AMT notes the communique from the Australian Industry Skills Committee meeting held on March 26, which mentions that work has been approved for the HLT Training Package (Massage Therapy). It is unclear at this stage whether this relates to both the Certificate IV and Diploma, and/or the proposal to develop a national Advanced Diploma of Remedial Massage within the Health Training Package.

### **National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management**

The Australian Government has just released the National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management 2019. The Plan was developed by Pain Australia with funding from the Department of Health.

AMT has written to Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, and the COAG Health Ministers to express support for the national plan and outline the role that the massage therapy workforce can play in supporting the goals in the plan. You can read AMT's letter here:

<http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/news-items/National-Strategic-Plan-Pain-Management.pdf>

### **Meeting with Private Healthcare Australia**

Private Healthcare Australia, which is the peak body representing private health insurers in Australia, is hosting a workshop in Sydney on 17 July to discuss remedial massage. The workshop will be attended by representatives from PHA member funds who manage general treatment benefits for remedial massage and fraud investigations, and



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Association representatives. According to PHA, the purpose of the workshop is “to discuss issues health funds are encountering with remedial massage providers, and the proposal for remedial massage providers to be AHPRA registered.”

Watch this space!

### **AMT Social Media**

#### **The AMT Blog**

AMT continues to publish weekly articles of interest, news and updates via the AMT blog:

<http://blog.amt.org.au/>

We highly recommend the AMT blog as a resource for students to subscribe to.

#### **AMT on Facebook**

AMT also hosts a thriving community of practice via its closed Facebook group, which provides a safe and supportive space for massage therapists to ask questions, seek advice and access posts about the latest research into manual therapies.. Students are welcome to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/amtnetworking/?ref=bookmarks>

Our public Facebook page is geared more towards provide reliable information for the general public, and shareable content for massage therapists to populate their own business pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/amtaustralia/>

#### **AMT on Twitter**

You're more likely to find AMT in “academic” mode here, sharing research and participating in the lively dialogue around evidence-based practice:

<https://twitter.com/ramblingamt?lang=en>