

# educator news sept 2022

## Update on new training package

AMT remains acutely aware that the ongoing delay in publishing the new massage qualifications and pain skillsets on training.gov.au provides an added layer of uncertainty to RTOs at an already-challenging time. AMT has written to the Federal Skills and Training Minister, the Hon Brendan O'Connor, to ensure the Government understands the impact of the delay and to inquire about how the publication of the new qualifications could be expedited. We are yet to receive a response.

In the meantime, AMT continues to work on a package of resources to support the rollout of the new pain neuroscience unit, which we hope to finalise soon. We will keep you posted with relevant developments.

## VET transition

As part of the transition to the new Industry Cluster system, the Complementary Health Industry Reference Committee was required to provide an Industry Summary to the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. After a brief consultation, the Industry Summary for our sector was finalised on September 8.

The overview section of the Summary contained the following definitions:

### Massage therapy

'Massage therapy is the purposeful, respectful and evidence-informed application of therapeutic touch, manual techniques and biopsychosocial care. As a client-centred framework it aims to enhance health and wellbeing; relieve pain; provide emotional and physical relaxation; reduce stress and alleviate the impacts of depression and anxiety; prevent and repair injury; and rehabilitate and augment function. Massage therapists work in a wide range of settings, including private clinics and practices, wellness centres, aged care facilities, community health centres, palliative care centres, hospitals and spa clinics.'

### Massage therapist

'Provides treatments that enhance wellbeing. Possesses skills in relaxation massage including basic health assessment and treatment. Practitioners may be self-employed or work within a larger health service or spa environment.'

### Remedial Massage Therapist

'Assesses and treats specific musculoskeletal conditions. Practitioners may be self-employed or work within a larger health service.'

The Communique from the August AISC meeting notes the Labor Government's priorities include negotiations on the National Skills Agreement, strengthening Australia's TAFE sector, establishing Jobs and Skills Australia, and progressing VET Reforms.

As an outcome of the recent Jobs and Skills summit, the [Federal Government committed to 36 immediate initiatives](#), a number of which will likely impact the massage training sector. Stay tuned ...



### **AMT professional development standards**

As you may be aware, AMT shifted to a reflection-based model of continuing professional development at the beginning of 2020. This has given us the opportunity to monitor and review the types and quality of PD activities that AMT members undertake; identify gaps and issues; and develop relevant professional development standards to support members in their PD planning. They set out what is expected of members when planning, undertaking and documenting their professional development.

You can download [AMT's professional development standards](#) from the AMT website. They may be a useful reference for training package units CHCPRP003 - Reflect on and improve own professional practice and HLTMSG001 - Develop massage practice, specifically the Develop approach to own practice element. With reflective practice embedded in several units of the soon to be released new training package, this will no doubt continue to be a relevant, useful resource. Over the last decade or two, a wide range of professions have taken up reflective practice in their approach to professional development. In the healthcare professions especially, it is now seen as an integral part of CPD.

### **AMT conference month**

AMT is hosting a series of virtual events throughout October, as part of our conference month program. We will also hold our first National Picnic Day on Sunday 23 October, with outdoor networking events being hosted across Australia.

Details of the [AMT conference month program](#) are available to download from the AMT website. Events include webinars, small group discussions, an online mental health first aid workshop, and a virtual interactive workshop on the ~other~ TIE massage (Take It Easy).