An introduction to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)
WHAT IS THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS?

The key international representative for occupational therapists and occupational therapy around the world and the official international organisation for the promotion of occupational therapy.

WFOT promotes occupational therapy as an art and science internationally. The Federation supports the development, use and practice of occupational therapy worldwide, demonstrating its relevance and contribution to society.
WFOT was established in 1952 following an inaugural meeting represented by ten national occupational therapy associations from the USA, UK, Canada, South Africa, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, India and Denmark.
WFOT MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

59 Full Members, 18 Associate Members, 7 Contributing Members/Regional Groups
WHAT THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS DOES

A dynamic, proactive and responsive organisation that represents the international profile of occupational therapists and its Member Organisations

Provides strategy and vision for the development of occupational therapy profession worldwide

Pioneers the development and evolution of the profession at international, regional and national levels through;
- Strategy and Vision
- Standards and Governance
- Collaboration and Representation
- Support and information
EXAMPLES OF HOW THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS DOES IT

Disability and Human Rights – at the core of the organisations work, publications and standards is the human right to inclusion and participation in occupation

Strategy – Strategic and operational plans determine the organisations development and business. Priority strategies in progress include Mental Health, Research and Development and Social Networking

Programme Management – WFOT operates a variety of projects with agreed plans and outcomes aimed at supporting the organisations growth and development

Collaboration with WFOT’s 80 Member Organisations, Delegates and Alternate representatives, International government, non-government, health, social care and voluntary organisations
EXAMPLES OF HOW THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS DOES IT

Standards - WFOT’s Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists are critically acclaimed and the only profession with internationally accepted and audited standards of education worldwide.

Demographics and Human Resources – WFOT was the first allied health professional group to undertake demographic profiling of its Member Organisations and global profile of the profession worldwide.

Capacity building for the future of the profession by;
• supporting the development of the profession in countries where it does not exist
• facilitating the accreditation of WFOT approved education programmes
• labour force data and support to support the growth

Disaster Preparedness and Response – Information Package and resources to support occupational therapy interventions pre and post disaster situations.
EXAMPLES OF HOW THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS DOES IT

Publications – WFOT publishes a range of resources and publications to support the development of the profession, these include ratified Position Statements, WFOT Bulletin – the peer reviewed international occupational therapy journal, Code of Practice, information packages, policies and procedures.

International Congress – the WFOT Congress is held every four years and aims to encourage professional fellowship, exchange technical and scientific information and to promote worldwide high standards of practice.

Communication – portals include WFOT’s website, Facebook page, e-newsletter, Bulletin, emails to organisations and individuals managed through the WFOT Secretariat.

Promotion - World Occupational Therapy Day, re-launch of the Occupational Therapy International Outreach Network, Promotional Materials project.
KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) since 1959.

WFOT and WHO have an active working relationship both regionally and internationally. Collaborations include:

- World Report on Disability
- Community Based Rehabilitation
- Mental Health
- Disability Research
- Healthy Workplaces
- Wheelchair Provision
- Education
WFOT Council

Executive Management Team

Ongoing Functions

Projects

Education

Research

Standards and Quality

Practice Development

Executive Programmes

Two year work cycles

Meets every two years

Meets every year

Ongoing Functions

Projects
STRUCTURE

**Member Organisation Delegates** – elected or appointed to represent their national occupational therapy association at Council Meetings and lead the work for WFOT within their own country

**Member Organisation Alternates** – elected or appointed to support the Delegate in each national occupational therapy association

**Programme Coordinators** – elected from and by Council to manage one of the four programme areas in WFOT’s programme management structure

**Executive Management Team** – President, Vice President, Vice President Finance, Executive Director - elected by Council to preside over and manage the executive, strategic and operational business of WFOT with the support of the Programme Coordinators
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS

Human Rights

Occupational Science

ICF

Social Media
RESOURCES - COMMUNICATION

www.wfot.org

www.facebook.com/thewfot
RESOURCES - COMMUNICATION

www.youtube.com/thewfot

www.twitter.com/thewfot
RESOURCES - COMMUNICATION

Translations in a range of languages

WFOT e-newsletter – published four times a year
WFOT Bulletin – published twice a year

From 2015 will be published online by

Maney Publishing
Research · Knowledge · Innovation

Option to purchase printed copies

From 2017 will increase to three times a year
RESOURCES - INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Position Statements endorsed by WFOT

- Academic Credentials for Occupational Therapy Educators (2008)
- Activities of Daily Living (2012)
- Client-centredness in Occupational Therapy (2010)
- Community Based Rehabilitation (2004)
- Competency and Maintaining Competency (2012)
- Consumer Interface with Occupational Therapy (2010)
- Occupational Therapy in Disaster Preparedness and Response (DP&R) (2014)
- Diversity and Culture (2010)
- Environmental Sustainability Sustainable Practice within Occupational Therapy (2012)
- Global Health: informing occupational therapy practice (2014)
- Human Displacement revised (2014)
- Inclusive Occupational Therapy Education (2008)
- International Collaborative Research in Occupational Therapy revised (2012)
- International Professionalism (2014)
- Occupational Science revised (2012)
- Occupational Therapy Entry-Level Qualifications (2008)
- Professional OT Autonomy revised (2007)
- Professional Registration (2010)
- Recognition of Original Educational Status (2014)
- Recruiting OTs from International Communities revised (2014)
- Scope and Extension of Practice (2014)
- Specialisation and Advanced Occupational Therapy Competencies (2014)
- Telehealth (2014)
- Universal Design (2012)
RESOURCES - INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Human Resources Project

Demographic scan of WFOT Member Organisations

Undertaken every two years, most recent in 2014

99% response rate from 72 Member Organisations

Full presentation is available from the WFOT website www.wfot.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Practising Occupational Therapists</th>
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<tr>
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<td>8000</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>* total number is not known by this association, the number shown is the number of occupational therapists in the member association</td>
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<td>Macau</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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<td>** Zambia</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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Comparison showing the number of approved and non approved WFOT Education Programmes

Approved WFOT Education Programmes  Non Approved WFOT Education Programmes

Argentina  5  9  Brazil  5  8  Chile  5  13  Colombia  10  1  Czech Republic  1  3  Germany  136  51

Greece  1  1  India  2  29  Indonesia  1  1  Iran  8  3  Italy  12  1

Japan  153  44  Kenya  2  1  Republic of Korea  51  8

Malaysia  2  6  Mexico  2  8  Philippines  6  17  Portugal  1  6  Russia  4  1

Spain  3  16  Sri Lanka  1  1  Taiwan  1  7  Thailand  1  1  Turkey  1  2  Venezuela  3  4

n = 25
Countries where occupational therapists need to be registered/licensed by a national/central body in order to practise in certain regions of that country

* countries that also require occupational therapists to be registered/licensed by a regional/state body in order to practise in certain regions of that country

n = 51
Number of occupational therapists per 10,000 head of population

Argentina 7
Armenia 8
Australia 4
Austria 4
Bangladesh 2
Belgium 1
Bermuda 1
Brazil 1
Bulgaria 1
Canada 1
Chile 1
Colombia 1
Croatia 1
Cyprus 1
Czech Republic 1
Denmark 1
Estonia 1
Finland 1
France 1
Georgia 1
Germany 1
Greece 1
Hong Kong 1
Iceland 1
Indonesia 1
Iran 1
Ireland 1
Israel 1
Italy 1
Japan 1
Jordan 1
Kenya 1
Latvia 1
Luxembourg 1
Malaysia 1
Macau 1
Mauritius 1
Mexico 1
Nambia 1
Netherlands 1
New Zealand 1
Nigeria 1
Norway 1
Pakistan 1
Palestine 1
Panama 1
Peru 1
Philippines 1
Portugal 1
Romania 1
Russia 1
Seychelles 1
Singapore 1
Slovenia 1
South Africa 1
Spain 1
Sri Lanka 1
Sweden 1
Switzerland 1
Taiwan 1
Tanzania 1
Thailand 1
Tunisia 1
Turkey 1
Uganda 1
United Kingdom 1
United States of America 1
Venezuela 1
Zimbabwe 1

n = 72

Collated 2013 © WFOT 2014
SUMMARY

Information was collated from 72 WFOT Member Organisations (99% of those surveyed)
The numbers below reflect the responses provided to WFOT from countries that responded to this project and collate this data.

**Total number of practising occupational therapists = 417,235**

Total number of WFOT Approved Education Programmes = 773
Total number of non WFOT Approved Education Programmes = 333

Number of occupational therapists per 10,000 head of population = median 0.9, mean 2

Number of occupational therapy assistants = 49,628

Percentage of occupational therapists that are female = 83%

Average percentage of occupational therapists working in government/public funded posts = 63%
Average percentage of occupational therapists working in non government/public funded posts = 33%

Most frequently cited specialities experiencing labour shortages by WFOT Member Organisations;
Mental Health (23), Dementia (13), Older People (11), Stroke Rehabilitation (10)

n = 72
World Occupational Therapy Day – 27th October

World Occupational Therapy Day was first launched on 27th October 2010. Since then, it has become an important date in the occupational therapy calendar to promote and celebrate the profession internationally.

Promotional materials are available at www.wfot.org
WFOT CONGRESS

WFOT Congress takes place once every four years

16th WFOT Congress took place in Japan 2014 and was attended by over 6000 participants from all continents of the world

Professional development and networking

The 17th WFOT Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 21st – 25th May 2018
Theme: Connected in Diversity: Positioned for Impact
COMING SOON....

More ways to keep in touch with WFOT
BENEFITS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

• Support strategic international representation at key stakeholder events to progress, lobby and influence the importance and relevance of the occupational therapy profession at a global level

• Gain access to the exclusive Members Only part of the WFOT website. Imperative if you want to download the latest documents, guidance and materials produced by WFOT.

• Receive generous discounts on products offered for sale in WFOT’s Online Store – Individual Members can save up to 50% on advertised prices

• Download the latest free publications and promotional materials up to 12 months in advance of them being released as public access

• Receive twice yearly copies of WFOT’s international professional journal the WFOT Bulletin – available in digital copy, so you keep up to date wherever you are

• Access previously published editions of the WFOT Bulletin dating back to 2004

• Priority response times to enquiries when quoting your Individual Membership number

• Receive WFOT’s e-newsletter, published quarterly and sent direct to your inbox once you have registered on the WFOT website

• Receive 20% discount on all books produced by Wiley and up to 33% discount on the quarterly journal “Occupational Therapy International”

• Apply for WFOT’s Thelma Cardwell Foundation Award for Research and Education
MORE INFORMATION

Visit us at www.wfot.org