

OT Australia 2016-17 Board Directors

Expression of Interest – Michael Deen

1. A summary of what interests you about being on the OTA Board

The various forms of communication released by the OTA Board indicates that it is a future-focussed, strategic leadership team that is responsive to its membership and which strives to position the profession to meet the evolving needs of the community. Over the last decade I have held numerous leadership roles at national, statewide and local levels in the area of pain management, the aims of which have been to represent, advocate for and develop clinicians working in the area, as well as the broader field of pain management. This vacancy provides me with an opportunity to work with a dynamic team and to bring the skills and experience that I have gained from my leadership roles to the OTA Board to positively influence the profession.

2. What skills/strengths you believe you would bring to the OTA Board

I bring a passion for Occupational Therapy and a drive to further understand, develop and espouse the value of the profession. I have experience in strategic leadership roles on a non-government organisation board and have been a champion for allied health interests on a number of national and statewide steering committees. I continue to work clinically whilst also holding a management position and actively participating in research and hence I have an awareness of many of the issues faced by OTs working at the coalface as well as of socioeconomic factors impacting decision making in healthcare.

3. A short response to each of the selection criteria.

A vision for occupational therapy and the Association

It is apparent that the demand for occupational therapy services will continue to grow. To meet the needs of the community, the profession will be required to not only expand but also adapt to the changing needs of those who we serve and to explicate its value to consumers, colleagues and to funders of services. I believe that the profession has a key role to play in addressing emerging issues in the health and social care sphere such as the aging population, chronic diseases and disability management and that occupational therapists will take on this challenge to improve quality of life through enabling occupational engagement. I foresee an increasing requirement for evidence-informed occupation-based practice and hence envision a need for theoretically driven, clinically relevant research.

The Association appears to be proactive in responding to both its membership and to the socio-political environment. I envisage that OTA will continue to expand its reach at a systems level to lobby and advocate for the profession whilst concurrently and positively influencing the professional lives of occupational therapists via providing quality CPD opportunities, improving professional practice standards and actively communicating and engaging with the membership.

Personal attributes:

- strong communication skills
I have delivered formal presentations and workshops to a variety of audiences. My written communication is evidenced by my publications in peer-reviewed literature as well as my Masters of Philosophy thesis. In my worker role, I am regularly required to chair meetings

and to liaise with consumers, carers, clinicians, business managers and executive management teams. All of the Boards and Committees of which I have been a member have required active engagement and contributions and a high level of communication to ensure that stated objectives have been achieved.

- ability to respect alternative viewpoints

On the various Boards and Committees of which I have been a member, I have worked with people from a variety of clinical and non-clinical backgrounds, who not uncommonly held disparate views and beliefs, but who worked together to develop a consensus which balanced strategic intentions with practical approaches, all in the interest of improving access to and effectiveness of pain management interventions.

- highly motivated

My representation on national Boards and Committees has all been voluntary. Many of these committees have been active concurrently requiring significant out of work hours commitments. I completed my Masters of Philosophy thesis whilst concurrently working full-time demonstrating my commitment to ongoing learning and motivation to improve myself as an occupational therapist. I stepped down from the Board of the Australian Pain Society in March 2015 and this time away from Board responsibilities has enable me recharge and regain my motivation to volunteer my time for the betterment of the profession and the patients with whom I work.

Leadership skills

I believe the skills that I have developed in the leadership roles that I have undertaken are particularly relevant to the role of Director on the OTA Board. Hence I have detailed information about these roles below.

National experience

- For eight years (2007-2015) I was on the Board of Directors of the Australian Pain Society, the peak multidisciplinary body representing the interests of clinicians and scientists in the area of pain management. I served six years as the Queensland Director and two years on the Executive Team in the role of Secretary. As a Director, I was regularly involved in planning and decision making regarding the strategic direction of the organisation as well as the allocation of resources including financial decisions. As such it was imperative that I was cognisant of the potential impacts of decisions made by the Board and that the needs, concerns and interests of the multidisciplinary membership were adequately considered and addressed.
- In 2009 I was selected to be a member of the Steering Committee for the development of the world's first National Pain Strategy. I was one of three allied health professionals on the 19 person committee. This committee coordinated the development of the National Pain Strategy document which continues to inform clinical and strategic decision making for pain management services across the country. The committee also oversaw the implementation of the National Pain Summit held in Canberra in 2010 at which 200 delegates representing clinicians, researchers, consumers, industry and government, supported the goals of the Strategy and agreed on priority objectives.

- Between 2009 and 2011, I was a member of the Scientific Programming Committee for the Australian Pain Society. In this role I was involved in strategic planning and setting the theme for upcoming congresses, developing both the scientific and social programs, choosing local and international speakers and reviewing submitted abstracts for workshops and free paper sessions. During this time I was a Co-Convenor for Combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society and New Zealand Pain Society on the Gold Coast (March 2010).

Statewide experience

- In 2009, I was selected to be an Allied Health representative on the Steering Committee responsible for the development of a statewide plan for persistent pain management services in Queensland. In this role I collaborated with clinical colleagues as well as consumers and health service planning experts to develop a planning document which provided both strategic and practical approaches to the management of persistent pain in the public health sector. I also consulted with allied health professionals working in pain management both in Queensland and from across Australia to ensure that I was aware of the needs and concerns of clinicians and the potential impact of service delivery recommendations contained within the plan.
- Following the allocation of public funding to implement a Statewide Persistent Pain Management Plan I was selected to be the Allied Health representative on the committee responsible for the oversight of the implementation phase of enhancing pain management services across five sites in Queensland. This role included reviewing work prepared by and providing direction to a number of working parties as well as clinicians and administrators on site at the five pain management services regarding multidisciplinary models of care, patient education approaches, outcome measurement and primary care liaison.
- In 2015/16, I represented the interests of allied health professionals as a member of the Persistent Pain Project Steering Committee to review the implementation of the Queensland Health Persistent Pain Strategy Services Plan (2010-15) and commence discussion re revising the plan and moving forward to continue to improve the delivery of persistent pain services in Queensland.

Local experience

- In my current role as Team Leader, Metro South Persistent Pain Management Service (MSPPMS) (2011-current) I was instrumental in evolving the service from a single practitioner medical pain clinic into a dedicated multidisciplinary persistent pain management service. Working under the guidance of supportive management and an oversight committee, I was able to work with the Medical Director and Clinical Nurse Consultant to establish a motivated and engaged multidisciplinary team and develop an innovative model of service delivery that resulted in a waiting list reduction from over 5 years to 95% of patients having waited less than 12 months.
- In addition to my role as Team Leader, I am also the Allied Health Representative on the Division of Rehabilitation Executive Committee at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. This is a two year tenure which commenced mid-2015. This position requires me to actively participate in decision making, planning and service development at a strategic level, identifying the impacts and ensuring that Allied Health issues within the Division are adequately represented.

Understanding of contemporary issues affecting the occupational therapy profession

I have read the OTA Strategic Plan 2014-17 and regularly read the Connections magazine to keep abreast of issues affecting the profession. I have reviewed the various OTA submissions that have been submitted over recent years and have read the current position statements. I am aware of the importance of further establishing the evidence-base for the profession and the role of research in contributing to this. I have an awareness of the various health and social reforms impacting the profession and of issues around workforce and clinical and professional education.

Proven commitment to the profession of Occupational Therapy in Australia

I have been a registered Occupational Therapist since 2000. In addition to providing clinical care to patients with whom I have worked, I have also undertaken activities to further both myself and the profession. My Masters thesis focused on areas relevant to occupational therapy and better understanding the functional impact of persistent pain. I have delivered lectures to undergraduate occupational therapy students in my area of expertise and supervised Honours students. I have delivered training to occupational therapist colleagues, mentored and supervised occupational therapists working in pain management and have presented at national and international conferences on areas relevant to occupational therapy. I have also undertaken PD in relevant OTA courses and attended conferences relevant to the profession.

Demonstrated appreciation of the breadth of occupational therapy practice settings (including public, private, academia, management, regional, rural and remote)

My employment history has primarily involved public sector work but I have had some experience in the private sector. I have worked in both acute hospital and community rehabilitation settings. I have worked clinically since graduation and over the last decade I have also been employed in management roles. My active involvement in research over the years has provided me with an awareness of academic employment settings. Whilst I have not worked in regional, rural and remote settings, I have an awareness of factors impacting service provision in these areas via the various statewide planning committees where I have represented the interests of allied health professionals.

Proven experience and involvement in Occupational Therapy Australia and past member associations, such as on the Association's Board, Divisional Councils, Committees, contributions to the Australian Occupational Therapy Journal, contributions to the Association's national and state/ territory/Divisional conferences, contributions to Special Interest Groups, Member Forums, and CPD event

Early in my career, I was an active member of the Work Special Interest Group in Queensland and regularly attended meetings. I have delivered presentations at OTA CPD events, including a workshop on pain management in 2009 and Pain Management Masterclass at the OTAQ Soft Tissue and Work Symposium in 2008.

Evidence of at least five (5) years professional experience as an occupational therapist

I graduated from the University of Queensland in 2000 and have worked as a Registered Occupational Therapist since this time.

Current member of Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) and history of membership with OTA.

I am a current member of OT Australia and have been since 2012. Prior to this I as a member of OT Australia Queensland from 2001 until about 2006.