

Continuing Professional Education

Preamble

Massage & Myotherapy Australia (Association) is a not-for-profit body representing professional massage therapists and myotherapists.

This position statement reflects the Association's commitment to its vision, 'Leader of the Australian Massage Industry', and its mission statement, 'to lead and support our diverse membership towards excellence in practice.'

The Association seeks to ensure the maintenance of appropriate and expected professional standards among its members. This will assist to preserve and enhance the reputation of the Associations members, as well as the reputation, in general, of the massage industry in Australiaⁱ.

The Association encourages continued lifelong learning, professional growth and safe practice for the benefit of the practitioner, the client, and the wider public. Members are required to undertake additional study in structured, and non-structured, learning activities that will contribute to extending knowledge and skills improving their ability to fulfil their work requirements, and that will provide a competitive advantage by being current in their area of expertise or specialisationⁱⁱ.

This Position Statement should be read in conjunction with the Association's Constitution, Code of Ethics and Standards of Practiceⁱⁱⁱ.

Aim

Professionals tend to be known for their specialisation attained through relevant tertiary education at the highest level, and their commitment to continued development keeps them at the forefront of their work or learning.

The members of the Association are portrayed to the public as professionals because the members are committed to, and abide by, a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice^{iv}. The Code states that members must achieve a minimum level of continuing professional education (CPE). The Association's Board of Directors set the level of CPE to be undertaken and is relevant to a member's qualification.

The Association earns the respect and trust of the public through the effective development of quality professionals. In having access to association members, the consumer can locate the expertise required and make informed decisions about the quality and competency of therapists.

Higher standards of education, research on the efficacy of massage therapy and myotherapy applications and protocols, the existence of laws regulating the profession, as well as active professional associations, signal the public, other health care professionals and third party payers that massage therapy and myotherapy are respectable and effective professions^v.

Process

Massage Therapists and Myotherapists are accountable to their clients, to their colleagues and to their industry. Each therapists' principal responsibility is their duty of care to the public with their first and foremost goal being 'do no harm'. They are responsible for the service they provide and for their intention to treat.

To assist in achieving annual CPE requirements, the Association offers a wide range of formal and informal education opportunities. Many of the study opportunities provide the prospect to network and thereby support colleagues and the profession, and to be supported.

The various CPE options initiated by the Association include face-to-face workshops, regional meetings, on-line training (HALO), webinars, the quarterly journal, the National Annual Conference, and third party endorsed provider workshops through the EEA programme, all of which are advertised on the website and through other social media forums.

There are many attributes that characterise the massage therapist and myotherapist that should not limit further study to clinical applications only. Therefore, members of the Association are not limited to CPE study through Association pathways. There are a myriad of educational offerings from other providers that members are encouraged to pursue to assist their growth and development within the industry.

ⁱ AAMT Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, 2014

ⁱⁱ AAMT 2016/2018 CPE Planner

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid (Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, 2014)

^{iv} Ibid (Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, 2014)

^v Rattray, F., & Ludwig, L. (2005). *Clinical Massage Therapy: Understanding, Assessing and Treating over 70 Conditions* (p. 6). Elora: Talus Inc.