



Postgraduate Study in Occupational Therapy

Future Practice with Older People in the 21st Century

Due to changing demographics and health and disability issues in New Zealand's older population, occupational therapists need to be acquire an active, assertive voice to gain recognition for the value of occupation for older people. Occupational therapists, in serving their clients, need to become leaders in the creation, development and implementation of effective practice strategies. In order to do this, an understanding of current research and knowledge is needed, as well as of predicted trends. The aim of this paper is to empower therapists to acknowledge their own expertise, identify their own knowledge requirements, identify practice opportunities and needs and explore ways to create future practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this paper, students will be able to:

- Discuss the impact of the changing demographic patterns of older people in the delivery of occupational therapy practice.
- Explore the occupational therapy needs of older people, taking into account the changes Occurring in this age group.
- Develop and evaluate programs to address the differing needs of older people taking into account present health care policy and future directions of service.

CONTENT

- Healthcare systems
- Wellness and prevention
- Domains of concern for occupational therapist with older people
- Occupation in later life

ASSESSMENT

Written proposal of practice or program for older people designed by the student based on their area of interest.

SEMESTER DATES: 25 July—18 November 2011

TENTATIVE FEE: \$1094.70

LECTURER PROFILE

Alexa Andrew MOccTher, NZAOT



Alexa has long been involved in practice with older people both as a clinician, and more latterly lecturing in the National Certificate of Diversional Therapy, until its closure in 2007. Alexa has primary responsibility for subjects in the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy related to older people. She comes to this topic with passion and commitment. While, demographics of future older people is a hot topic, few solutions are being presented. Occupational therapists, with their knowledge and understanding of occupation and its links to health, have an opportunity and an obligation to become vocal about solutions. This course will equip therapists to more confident in this area.

* Course offered subject to minimum enrolments

Who do I contact for more information and an enrolment pack?

Penelope Kinney
Postgraduate Programme Coordinator
Email Penelope.Kinney@op.ac.nz
Free Phone 0800 762 786

or

Debbie Davie
Postgraduate Programme Administrator
Email Debbie.Davie@op.ac.nz
Free Phone 0800 762 786