

# Background

## The Association of Massage Therapists

- The Association of Massage Therapists is a national non-for-profit professional association of more than 2000 massage therapists. Established in 1966, AMT is the oldest association in Australia to represent massage therapy in its own right and the premier representative body for professional therapists. Current membership of AMT is 2100.
- AMT released a comprehensive Massage Therapy Code of Practice at the beginning of 2013. The AMT Code of Practice was the culmination of three years of research and consultation. It sets the benchmark for the safe and ethical practice of massage therapy in Australia and is accessible online here <http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/practice-resources/AMT-code-of-practice-final.pdf>
- AMT is involved in the Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies. In January 2013, AMT provided a 200-page submission to the Chief Medical Officer citing the evidence for the efficacy and safety of massage therapy. The full submission can be accessed here: <http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/submissions/CMO-submission-PHIR.pdf>
- AMT has established a database of massage therapy research, using the NHMRC evidence hierarchy. AMT updates the research database annually. The 2015 research database can be accessed here: <http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/practice-resources/AMT-Classified-Research-January-2015.pdf>
- AMT is currently partnering with the University of Technology, Sydney's Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) to conduct practice-based research into the role of massage therapy in the Australian healthcare system.
- National Competency Standards were introduced for Massage Therapy in 2002. AMT takes a leading role in the review of training package qualifications to ensure currency and relevance. In addition, AMT's commitment to the continuous professional development of members is evidenced by its mandatory CPE program, which has been in place for over 20 years.
- Massage therapy is currently self-regulated in Australia. However, massage therapists are accountable under a range of statutory codes and legislative instruments, including Public Health Acts, Health Records and Information Privacy Acts, Consumer Law and Workplace Health and Safety Acts. You can read AMT's position statement on industry regulation here: <http://www.amt.org.au/downloads/position-statements/AMT-Position-Statement-Regulation>
- AMT participates in a yearly event, 'National Massage Therapy Awareness Week' (September 8 - 15), which promotes the benefits of massage therapy. For information on our past campaigns, visit <http://www.amt.org.au/media-centre/NMTAW-2014.html>



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