

educator news May 2025

Health Provider Identifiers (HPI-I)

Over the past 8 months, AMT has been working with [Provider Connect Australia](#) (part of the Australian Digital Health Agency) to ensure that our members are well positioned to be part of the digital health landscape. A key part of this work involves enabling members to be issued with [Health Provider Identifier – Individual \(HPI-I\) numbers](#) via Medicare.

This collaboration is a significant step towards the long-envisioned goal of a single provider identifier for health funds and other third-party payers. It also marks a leap forward in integrating massage therapy into the broader health care system.

AMT will soon take part in a pilot project with a private health insurer to explore how our reporting processes can be integrated through PCA. The ultimate goal is for PCA to become the central source of up-to-date provider information, including health fund status. However, reaching this point will require substantial harmonisation of health fund provider criteria so that associations like AMT are no longer reporting to 10 different entities, but instead reporting once—to PCA.

While this is a long-term vision, we remain committed to seeing massage therapists better integrated into Australia's digital health systems. We believe these initiatives will also support future advocacy efforts around major industry priorities such as NDIS recognition and GST exemption.

Speaking of which ...

AMT's NDIS campaign

We hope you got involved in AMT's NDIS campaign at the end of 2024.

Our campaign petition was presented in the House of Representatives on the 10 February this year. We anticipate a response from the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme any day now! (Under the petition requirements, Ministers are asked to respond to a referred petition within 90 days.)

NDIS campaign materials are available for download on the [AMT website](#). While the petition is now closed, AMT continues to advocate for the inclusion of remedial massage therapy within the NDIS.

Health information sharing: the CSIRO SPARKED project

AMT is also contributing to the [CSIRO's SPARKED project](#), an ambitious national initiative to improve how health information is shared across systems and providers in Australia.

The goal is to create a standardised "language" for healthcare computer systems so that hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and practitioners can communicate seamlessly,



eliminating information silos.

SPARKED focuses on developing and implementing “FHIR standards” (pronounced “fire”) or Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources. For example, different hospitals might store blood group data in formats like “A+”, “Blood Group: A positive”, or even coded formats like “001”. FHIR creates consistent, machine-readable formats so that systems interpret the same data in the same way.

By participating in SPARKED, AMT is working to ensure that:

- the documentation and data needs of our sector are considered in national standards
- our industry’s unique requirements aren’t overlooked
- our industry has a voice in shaping integration of massage therapies within the health information ecosystem.

Discover how AMT’s new research resource can support delivery of CHCPOL003 - Research and apply evidence to practice

Have you checked out AMT’s [graded massage therapy research tool](#) yet? It is publicly accessible to all RTOs and students.

We encourage you to watch this [6-minute tour](#) which walks you through the essential features of the resource.

The resource uses AI Critical Appraisal Checklists to assess studies for trustworthiness, results, and relevance. The critical appraisal checklists facilitate easy and accurate critical appraisal across different study types. The systematic review checklist consists of 10 questions which are designed to assess the validity, results, and applicability of a study. These will provide a useful entry point for students learning how to appraise evidence. The traffic light system used to grade studies simplifies the process of evaluating the quality of evidence.

The development of this resource included an [overview of the current systematic review evidence](#) related to massage therapy.

The full suite of supporting materials also includes a [user guide](#) that outlines the search string used to compile the resource.

AMT warmly encourage all RTO educators to browse these [materials on the AMT website](#). We’re confident that they will add enormous contextualised value to the delivery and assessment of CHCPOL003.

Request an AMT presentation

Would you like AMT to talk to your student cohort, either live or virtually? AMT can present on a variety of industry topics by request. Please contact David Ward [via email](#) if you would like AMT to develop a presentation on a specific topic or present on the benefits of Association membership.