



Submission Process and Criteria for Presentations

The following guidelines have been developed to assist you with submitting a presentation for the 31st National Conference and Exhibition 2025.

1. PRESENTATION TYPES

Authors will be required to indicate their preferred presentation type from the following options when submitting an abstract.

Oral Presentation

Oral Presentations will be likely be 15 minutes in length (12 minutes presentation, 3 minutes Q&A). Presenting authors will be notified of their length of presentation time in the acceptance notification. Abstracts not selected for Oral Presentation may be eligible for a Poster, Impact Insight or *Conversations that Matter.

ePoster / Poster Display

Posters will be included in the Conference program and displayed either online or prominently near the exhibition hall. Presenting authors will be notified of full instructions of the format and display within acceptance notification.

Impact Insights – New to 2025!

Present your impact insights in a concise, 5-minute oral presentation, focusing on quality improvement and practice-based research. This format features a single presentation slide, following a TED-style approach for maximum clarity, impact and engagement.

Occupation Station

A small number of occupation stations will be included in the Conference Program. These sessions will be 25 minutes in length and will engage participants in doing an occupation / activity. The accompanying presentation will focus on the therapeutic use of this occupation / activity in practice and the theory supporting its use.

Workshop

A small number of workshops will be included in the Conference Program. Workshops will be 45 minutes in length. A focus for these sessions is high audience engagement. The methods/approach section of your abstract should include clear detail of how the audience will be engaged, including a minimum of 50% of allocated time in active interaction and this interaction should involve more than questions from the audience. Authors submitting abstracts for workshops need to be aware that if their abstract is not accepted it will not be considered for any other presentation type.

*Conversations that Matter

A select number of oral presentations may be accepted as a Conversation that Matters into the conference program. These sessions will take the format of either a Yarn or round table 45-minute discussion facilitated by the submitting author/s on specific occupational therapy related topics.

Scientific Research Panel

Opportunity for a panel of occupational therapists to speak from multiple perspectives on topical areas in scientific research. They will be 30 minutes in total, comprising of 20 minutes discussion from the panel with 10-minute Q&A. Panel members can include relevant research partners (consumers/ other health and social care professionals).



2. ABSTRACT STRUCTURE

Oral Presentation or Poster Impact Insights, Conversations that Matter	Workshop, Scientific Research Panel, Occupation Station
<p>Title</p> <p>The title should be as brief as possible but long enough to clearly indicate the nature of the abstract. Only capitalise the first letter of the title and any proper nouns. Do not abbreviate ‘occupational therapy’ or ‘occupational therapist’, and do not use any abbreviations or acronyms. The title will be used for printing in the final program.</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>The title should be as brief as possible but long enough to clearly indicate the nature of the abstract. Only capitalise the first letter of the title and any proper nouns. Do not abbreviate ‘occupational therapy’ or ‘occupational therapist’, and do not use any abbreviations or acronyms. The title will be used for printing in the final program.</p>
Abstract (maximum of 250 words)	Abstract (maximum of 250 words)
Introduction/Rationale	Introduction (Please ensure the introduction includes a statement to justify the topic matter)
Objectives	Learning objectives
Method /Approach	Educational methods
Results /Practice Implications	Relevance to occupation therapy knowledge and practice
Conclusion	

Abstract requirements:

- References are not required. If you wish to include them, they must be included in the body of your text and included in the 250-word count.
- Special symbols and formatting are to be used sparingly. Once your submission is complete, please read your abstract in full to ensure the symbols are displayed correctly, and if not, please click on the “Special Character” icon on the screen to see the list of available characters to insert.
- Do not use tables or figures.
- Proposed studies/presentations should be significantly advanced or completed at the time of abstract submission. The abstract should make clear the status of the research – completed research will present full results (including statistics or themes)
- Do not include authors names, institution, or other identifiers in your abstract text as all abstracts will be blind reviewed.
- Any abstracts exceeding the word limit and not using the above format will not be accepted.



3. METHOD TYPE

Nominate Method Type

Quantitative Research:

The Quantitative Research category generally involves reporting of numbers or data collected using recognised scientific methodology specific to the research questions. Examples include; clinical trials, single case experimental design studies, validity or reliability testing, biomechanical studies, surveys, epidemiological studies, predictive studies, etc. the data generated is usually analysed statistically.

Qualitative Research:

The Qualitative Research category relates to the development of theories or interpretations of human behaviour or experience. Recognised qualitative methodologies are used (e.g. phenomenology, ethnography, grounded theory) using data collection methods such as in-depth interviews, participant observation, focus groups etc.

Review Paper:

Review papers adopt a recognised approach to searching for and synthesising literature. Examples of recognised review approaches include Systematic Reviews and Scoping Reviews. The approach taken should be explicit and reproducible. Narrative reviews tend to be more subjective, so are best submitted in the “Other” category. Authors who are accepted to present Review Papers as an oral Presentation will be required to focus their presentation on implications for practice rather than on detailed description of method.

Mixed Methods Research:

Mixed methods research uses multiple ways to explore a research problem. The design can be based on either or multiple perspectives, with data collection involving any technique available to researchers including but not restricted to qualitative research, quantitative research, indigenous knowledge and empirical research. Mixed methods can be used to explain and interpret, explore a phenomenon, to serve a theoretical perspective to address a question at different levels and to address or service a theoretical purpose. Papers should explain and justify their use of mixed methodologies.

Practice Note:

Abstracts in the Practice Note category will address timely issues in practice settings, practice guidelines or emerging interventions areas, or will express practice opinion that is supported by theory and evidence from the literature. Examples include descriptions of practice innovations, advocacy efforts, new technologies or products, introductions to new interventions, description of empirically and/or theoretically derived programs, or scholarly opinion or forums on topic requiring discussion in the practice setting. Practice Notes may or may not include case studies.

Other:

The other category includes topic where no formal research methodology was used. For example: A report of an event or professional trip (e.g. to an overseas country), policy development, a position statement, etc.



4. THEMES

Themes include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/ communities
- Ageing well
- Assistive technology / adaptive equipment/ environmental modifications
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Cancer/ palliative care
- Community level practice / community development
- Consumer Perspective
- Driving/ community mobility
- Disability, policy and practice
- Economic evaluation / cost-effectiveness
- Emerging practice areas
- Entrepreneurship / business development
- First responders and disaster recovery
- Gender and sexual health
- Health promotion/ population health
- Infants, children and families
- Interprofessional practice / Trans-disciplinary practice
- Knowledge translation / bringing evidence into practice
- Men's health and wellbeing
- Mental health/ mental illness and recovery
- Musculoskeletal / hand therapy
- Neurodiversity and neurodivergence
- Neurosciences
- New graduate/early career transition to practice
- Occupational rehabilitation
- Occupational science
- Occupational therapy education *(Tertiary education of OT's)
- Perinatal transitions and maternal health
- Primary health care
- Psychosocial, trauma, and domestic violence
- Rehabilitation
- Research methods
- Rural and remote practice
- Social and critical perspectives / occupational justice
- Scope of practice – e.g. Advanced, emerging or changing scope of practice or scope of practice
- Using technologies for participation
- Women's health and wellbeing
- Youth and adolescents



5. AUTHOR NAME AND AFFILIATION

Enter the names of all authors (including yourself if you are an author) in the order in which they should appear in the printed text. Names omitted here will NOT be printed in the author index or the final program. Please ensure the spelling of their names and affiliations is correct. Presenters indicate which author/s will present the abstract. A maximum of two presenters are permitted for oral presentations. Only one presenter is permitted for ePoster presentations.

6. PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Provide a 2-3 sentence biography (maximum of 100 words) of the presenting author/s to be provided to the Session Chair to introduce the presentation. Biographies should be provided in third person (for example "*Mary is an occupational therapist at ABC limited*").

7. PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

Confirm (Yes/No) if you agree to your abstract being published in 2025 National Conference material.

8. CONFLICT

Indicate (Yes/No) of any financial or other interests or associations that might pose a conflict of interest to the paper being submitted. This includes situations where the presentation involves a product or service the presenter/s sell / intend to sell for a profit. [Note that the presence of a conflict of interest does not automatically disqualify the abstract from being accepted.]

9. ETHICS APPROVAL

Indicate (Yes/No/NA) if they have received ethics approval for the study that the paper reports on. If the answer to this question is 'No', please indicate (Yes/No) if this was a quality improvement exercise, rather than a research study.

'Not applicable' (N/A) should only be used for methods that do not involve primary data collection from people (e.g. a systematic review) or papers that do not describe a research study (e.g. practice note).



10. REVIEW CRITERIA: WORKSHOP, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PANEL & OCCUPATION STATION ABSTRACTS

The following will be used by reviewers when marking your abstract submission for OTAUS 2025.

Quality of the Presentation Content

There is substantial information that is appropriate to the content

- Introduction OR rationale
- Objectives / Learning objectives
- Method OR approach
- Results OR practice implication
- Conclusion
- Evidence of approach for audience engagement.

Educational Value

- Interest and appeal to an occupational therapy audience (eg. needs to be heard, occupation-based content, describes historical perspective)
- Important contribution to practice, research, theory or knowledge
- Novel or innovative contribution (e.g., current trends or new ideas)
- Likelihood of audience learning and contributing through active engagement.

Quality of Written Abstract

- Self-contained (i.e. should not include abbreviations, acronyms, quotes or reference citations unless essential) and concise/specific (i.e. each sentence is maximally informative, especially the lead sentence)
- Coherent and readable (i.e. written in logical sequence, use of clear vigorous prose, use of the active not passive voice)



11. REVIEW CRITERIA – ALL OTHER PRESENTATION TYPES

The following will be used by reviewers when marking your abstract submission for OTAUS 2023.

Quality of the Presentation Content

There is substantial information that is appropriate to the content

- Introduction OR rationale
- Objectives / Learning objectives
- Method OR approach
- Results OR practice implication
- Conclusion.

Educational Value

- Interest and appeal to an occupational therapy audience (eg. needs to be heard, occupation-based content, describes historical perspective)
- Important contribution to practice, research, theory or knowledge
- Novel or innovative contribution (e.g., current trends or new ideas)

Quality of Written Abstract

- Self-contained (i.e. should not include abbreviations, acronyms, quotes or reference citations unless essential) and concise/specific (i.e. each sentence is maximally informative, especially the lead sentence)
- Coherent and readable (i.e. written in logical sequence, use of clear vigorous prose, use of the active not passive voice)