

Accreditation of Music Therapy Courses

The Australian Music Therapy Association Inc.

1996 (revised 2004)

Preamble:

Accreditation of courses by the Australian Music Therapy Association Inc. provides assurance to Registered Music Therapists, employers, recipients of music therapy and the wider community that appropriate standards of training and education are implemented to produce high quality entry-level practitioners in the field of music therapy. Any graduate of an accredited music therapy course can apply for Registration with the Australian Music Therapy Association Inc.

The Accreditation document articulates requirements for:

- The development of courses seeking accreditation with the Australian Music Therapy Association Inc. through the National Education Committee.
- Validation of accredited courses, and
- The reporting and endorsement of major changes to accredited courses.

Each accredited music therapy course will be reviewed each five years to validate Accreditation. The validation procedure is outlined in the document "Validation of music therapy courses".

Accreditation is provided to new courses for a two-year provisional period. At the end of the first two years, the validation process will be undertaken and Accreditation either confirmed or removed. The course will be validated every five years after the initial Validation of Accreditation.

Accreditation is given to a music therapy course when the requirements stated in this Accreditation document and the Competencies document, are met. Minor changes to a course of study should be reported and major changes should be submitted to the National Education Committee for endorsement. Further information on endorsement of changes can be found at the end of this document.

1. Requirements for music therapy courses:

The following requirements are essential to all courses.

- 1.1 Training courses are offered by an approved University or affiliated with a University
- 1.2 Training in each of the competency standards is provided
- 1.3 Each course offers at least two years specialisation in music therapy.
- 1.4 Each course shows how it is contributing or intends to contribute to the development of the profession of music therapy nationally and internationally.
- 1.5 Each course agrees to follow the procedures set out by the AMTA Inc. regarding validation of course accreditation once each five years (see "Validation of music therapy courses" document)
- 1.6 Each course agrees to follow the requirements of the AMTA Inc. in reporting minor changes to a course, and seeking endorsement of major changes to a course (as outlined at the end of this document).
- 1.7 Each course has an audition/interview procedure where applicants demonstrate suitability for the course in music skills, personal aptitude and academic performance. Entry to a postgraduate course is available to applicants who have tertiary qualifications. Where the tertiary education is not in music, the Course Director (at Accreditation and Validation) must explain how music competencies are assessed.

2. The Director of the Course

The Course Director must be a Registered Music Therapist with the Australian Music Therapy Association. The Course Director must hold a significant position of authority and responsibility in decision making, course content, mode of delivery, selection of students and appointment of staff. If a non-RMT is in a position of authority, the university must explain the exact role and responsibility carried by the non-RMT.

The Director of the course must meet the following standards

- 1) Tertiary qualifications in music therapy further to entry level to the profession (i.e., if a Masters or postgraduate diploma qualification was completed as an entry-level qualification to the profession it cannot be used as a postgraduate qualification to verify music therapy Course Director status. If a Masters qualification or higher was received in a non- music therapy research topic, evidence of research experience in music therapy and publications about music therapy in professional Journals will be considered equivalent.
- 2) At least 4 years documented full time professional experience as a music therapist or part-time equivalent in either a designated music therapy position or in a position where music therapy work formed a substantial part of duties undertaken.
- 3) Be able to demonstrate significant contributions to the development of music

therapy education and professional practice nationally and internationally, as evidenced by the following:

- music therapy publications in professional journals (preferably refereed), including any publication on the practice, research or theory of music therapy
- music therapy publications in a book (i.e., chapters in books or an entire book with ISBN number)
- presentations at national and international conferences, symposia and related activities.

4) Be recognised as having expertise in at least one area of music therapy practice

3. Teaching staff

Teaching staff who have a role in teaching music therapy theory and/or practice must be Registered Music Therapists, with a minimum of one year's clinical experience in music therapy equivalent to 30 hours per week.

4. Clinical Training

4.1 The course must offer each student no less than 640 hours (80 days) of clinical training

4.2 At least 75% (540 hours, or 60 days) of clinical training is supervised by an RMT who has been Registered with the AMTA Inc. for not less than six months.

4.3 Each student is provided with at least three different sites for clinical placement throughout the course with a diverse range of clients and contexts. This should include both group and individual experience.

4.4 All required clinical training is to be undertaken and completed as part of, or as entire subjects within the course. Where the clinical training placement is required within another subject, a pass must be achieved in the clinical training component in order to pass the subject.

4.5 Each course has assessment procedures for clinical practice skills of students, including peer presentations, supervisor's reports and written clinical assignments.

4.6 The course provide support to its clinical training supervisors including remuneration and/or continuing education or other meetings for the sole purpose of the support and training of music therapy clinical supervisors.

Application Procedure for a New Course in Music Therapy

Applications for Accreditation of a new course can be made at any time of the year, however, it is strongly recommended that a new course submission be submitted by April 30th of the year preceding the anticipated start of the course. This enables the Education Committee to review the course and to make recommendations for modifications where necessary.

One hard copy and an electronic version of the submission should be forwarded to the Chair of the Education Committee. Four copies of large documents (e.g., the University/Faculty/Department Handbook) should be sent by mail.

The National Education Committee will provide a written response to the University no later than 8 weeks after the receipt of the submission. A re-submission may be required by the Committee if requirements are not fully met.

A fee of \$2,000 is applicable for the assessment of a new course. AMTA will invoice the

University at the time an application for Accreditation of a New Course is received.

Music Therapy Course Accreditation Application Form:

Universities seeking Accreditation of a new course in music therapy must include the following sections in the submission:

1. Institution information – e.g. the University/Faculty/Department Handbook
2. Rationale for the introduction of the music therapy course (including any market research, key instigators of the course development, and history of interest in developing the course.)
3. Qualification(s) to be granted on graduation
4. Course philosophy including mission statement
5. Course outline. For each subject include: title, duration of subject, contact hours per week, weighting; description of content, assessment and prescribed and recommended texts and readings).
6. How the course meets each of the accreditation requirements (1-4 above)
7. How the course provides training in each of the competency standards (see Competency document)
8. Selection procedure for prospective students, including pre-requisites, audition and interview requirements.
9. Teaching staff (anticipated Course Director and staffing appointments, type of appointment and minimum qualifications expected of teaching staff).
10. Resources for the course including:
 - library resources, including current holdings of music therapy texts and journals
 - music resources, including music instruments available
 - audio-visual resources (e.g. video recorder, other data projection)
 - other resources (e.g. on-site clinic).

Validation of Accredited Courses in Music Therapy

Procedures for the Validation of courses that are Accredited with AMTA, are outlined in the document “Validation of Music Therapy Courses, revised 2004”.

Changes to Courses already Accredited with the AMTA

Changes to courses that are Accredited may be minor changes, or major changes

Minor changes that should be reported in writing to the Chair of the Education Committee include:

- * changes to title of subjects
- * changes of personnel where there is no reduction in contact hours
- * leave taken by personnel for up to one year

Major Changes which require endorsement are:

- change to length of course
- change of full time/part time delivery
- change of Course Director
- change to contact hours
- changes to qualification received on graduation (e.g., diploma rather than degree, Bachelor of Creative Arts Therapies instead of Bachelor of Music (therapy) ...)
- changes to weighting of subjects (eg changes to credit weighting of more than 20%)
- changes to course curriculum
- any other changes which affect the course meeting accreditation requirements.

A letter requesting endorsement of changes should be sent to the Chair of the National Education Committee via the National office of the AMTA Inc. The National Education Committee will provide a written response to the letter within 8 weeks. The Committee may require further information, or clarification before approving the changes.