



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

The Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa



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About OTASA

The Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA) is a non-profit professional association representing the interests of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Technicians/Assistants across South Africa. OTASA supports, promotes and represents the profession of occupational therapy (OT) as a key element of the health service provision in South Africa and positions itself as an integral, evidence-based and relevant force meeting society's health and occupational needs in partnership with key stakeholders and the public. For more information about Occupational Therapy, visit www.otasa.org.za.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I reflect on this first year of my presidency of OTASA, I am amazed at the volume of work that has been undertaken, the complexity of issues facing the profession but also the positive outcomes that have been achieved in this relatively short period of time. I would like to acknowledge the many OTASA office bearers, OTASA members, our office staff, our auditor, legal Advisors and HR consultant for their input and contribution into what has been an extraordinary year.

A new team in the national EXCO has brought fresh ideas and innovation to the way of working and serving our members and the profession. Having a full time COO for the first time has meant that we have our finger on the pulse of issues requiring action, so OTASA is able to be responsive to pressing issues instead of being on the back foot. It has also meant that we have been able to review our governance structure and procedures in line with our NPO status and to be more business orientated with clear goals, processes and outcomes.

Like all new management teams, we have had a reorientation period, which has resulted in changes in the organization of responsibility and accountability of the national EXCO members. This has been the first step in the rollout of the OTASA Strategic Plan 2022. We have a great team and the new members have taken on their roles with enthusiasm despite all having demanding day jobs. I wish to thank them all for their engagement and the robust and sometimes difficult debates about pressing and often controversial issues.

The collective mandate for the National EXCO for my term of office is as follows:

- Operationalise the OTASA Strategic plan and its six strategic objectives.
- Better manage the day-to-work of OTASA efficiently and effectively.
- To keep our finger on the pulse of all issues that influence occupational therapy students, occupational therapy assistants/technicians and occupational therapists in all sectors and fields of practice in the rapidly changing context in which we deliver services, so that they are accessible to all who need them.
- To promote NHI readiness.
- To extend practice opportunities for occupational therapists within our scope of practice.
- To promote sound, ethical and professional business practice.
- To have open and constructive communication and engagement with our service providers, all members and partners.
- To advocate for the profession and people with disabilities through active engagement with strategic national and international partnerships, alliances and collaborations.
- To effect a process of transformative corporate governance to sustain the association over time.

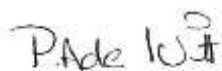
As an executive team we are very aware that members are critical of what OTASA does and the slow pace of change. These concerns seldom come to us directly. I invite all those with concerns to engage with us.

The current financial climate in South Africa affects us all, and while the membership is growing slowly, it still has meant OTASA has to work wisely and carefully with the available funds. A revision of the financial policy and a scale of fees has set out guidelines for prioritising critical projects with strict timelines, in order that we are accountable to the membership for how money is spent.

As we look forward to the council meeting and the year ahead, we plan for all OTASA structures to actively engage in and undertake projects to meet the goals and objectives of the OTASA strategic plan, so this is a truly collaborative effort.

It has been a pleasure to serve the profession in this past year. We are in an exciting, but also worrying period of change. The National Exco and I undertake to represent the interests of the profession to the best of our ability and work with consistency toward achieving our mandate.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. de Witt'.

Professor Pat de Witt

President

1. WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

OTASA Vision:

By 2022, we envisage occupational therapy as an integral, evidence-based and relevant force meeting society's occupational needs in partnership with key stakeholders and the public.

OTASA Mission Statement:

The Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA) is the professional association that advances the dynamic growth of quality occupational therapy with a focus on occupation and a distinct South African identity.

OTASA Values:

Our values are captured in the following statement: ***“DOING IT”***.

VALUES	WE:
Diversity	are connected in diversity
Occupation-based	rooted in occupation
Inclusive	stand together
Networking	network to recognize where change is needed
Grounded	are grounded in South African identity
Innovative	find new solutions
Transformative	are proactively moving with the times

OTASA Goals:

The Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa's Strategic Plan 2022 set out 6 areas of strategic priority for the Association:

1. Grow a diverse and representative membership.
2. Promote the profession and our unique role through advocacy and representation.
3. Enhance communication and public relations.
4. Ensure sound corporate governance.
5. Strengthen occupationally relevant occupational based practice.
6. Establish a prioritised, contextually relevant research agenda to inform and support and legitimise practice and service delivery.

2. OPERATIONAL REPORT

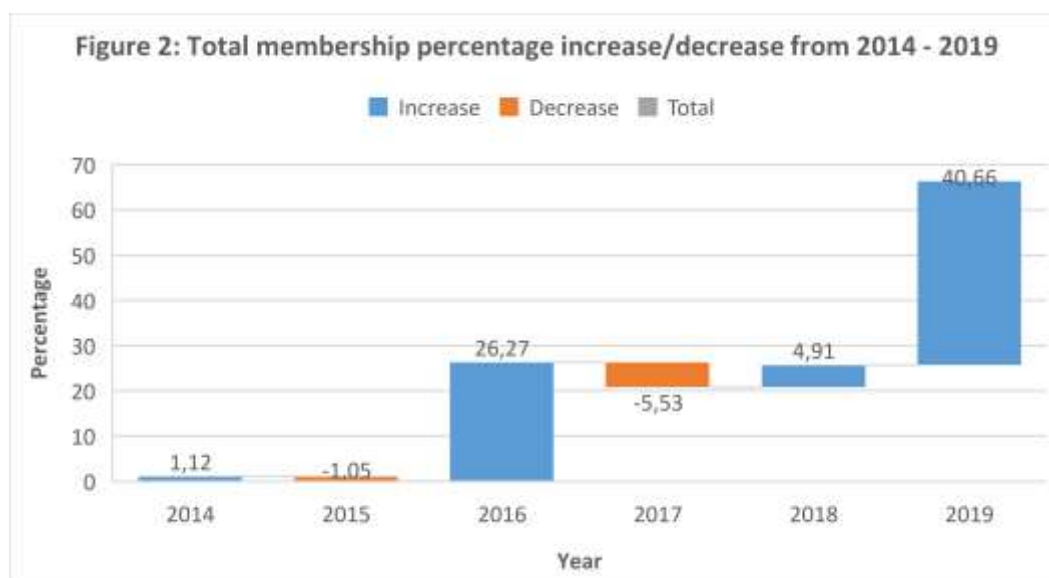
The following sections outline The Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa's achievements and challenges, during the reporting period of January 2018 to June 2019.

Membership

By the end of May 2019, our membership totalled to 3304 members, indicating an increase of 995 members and a growth of 40.6% when compared to the previous year (2018). This figure was influenced by the executive decision to grant free membership to all our occupational therapy students from 2019. The annual growth of membership from 2014 to 2019, per category is demonstrated in Figure 1. The total membership percentage growth from 2014 to 2019 is illustrated in Figure 2.

Membership category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
OT	1776	1807	2015	2085	2104	2188
OTT/OTA		1	2	2	3	3
Students	99	43	323	121	207	1085
Affiliated (National – non-OT's)	19	21	18	22	16	13
Associated (International - OT's and non-OT	3	5	12	9	19	15
TOTAL	1897	1877	2370	2239	2349	3304

Figure 1: Membership increase/decrease per category from 2014 – 2019.



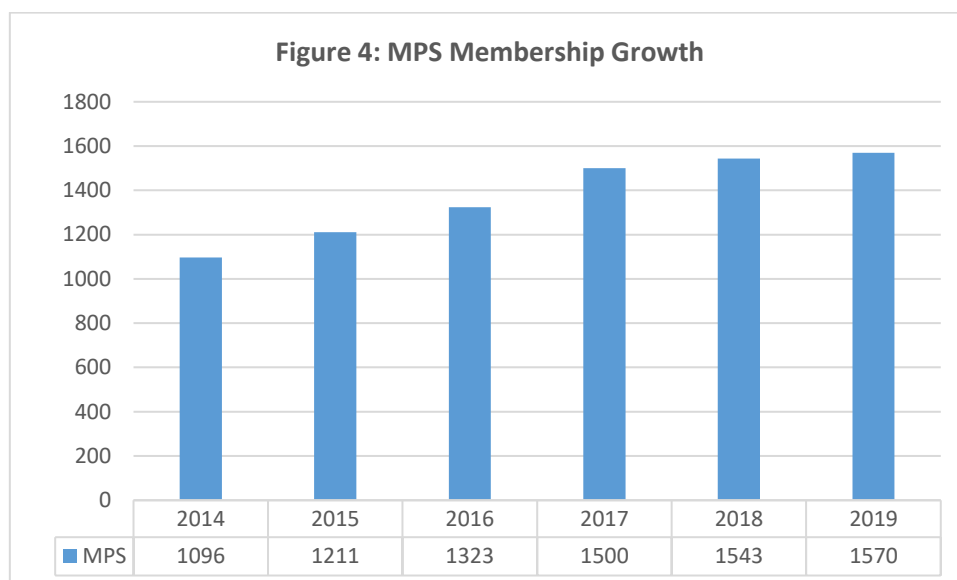
Member Engagement

In mid-2019 the Association conducted a national survey to understand how well we are engaging with our members and to identify the areas where we can improve. Based on our member feedback, there is strong engagement in several key areas. Some highlights are presented in Figure 3 below.



The Medical Protection Society Limited (MPS)

The Association has renewed its memorandum of understanding (MOU) with MPS, that allows for a group discount for Association members. All students are offered free MPS membership, where they enjoy full benefits. MPS offers support to our members with legal and ethical problems that might arise from their professional practice. In addition, members have access to expert advice from medico-legal advisors and where appropriate, legal assistance and compensation for patients who have been harmed through negligence. MPS also offers a variety of free online learning opportunities and publications to our members. There has been a 1.74% increase in the MPS membership during the 2018 – 2019 cycle.



During the 2018 – 2019 period, The Executive also secured Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Commercial Professional Indemnity through MPS.

Members are reminded that MPS is a professional indemnity provider (an HPCSA requirement for all private practitioners) and not an insurance provider.

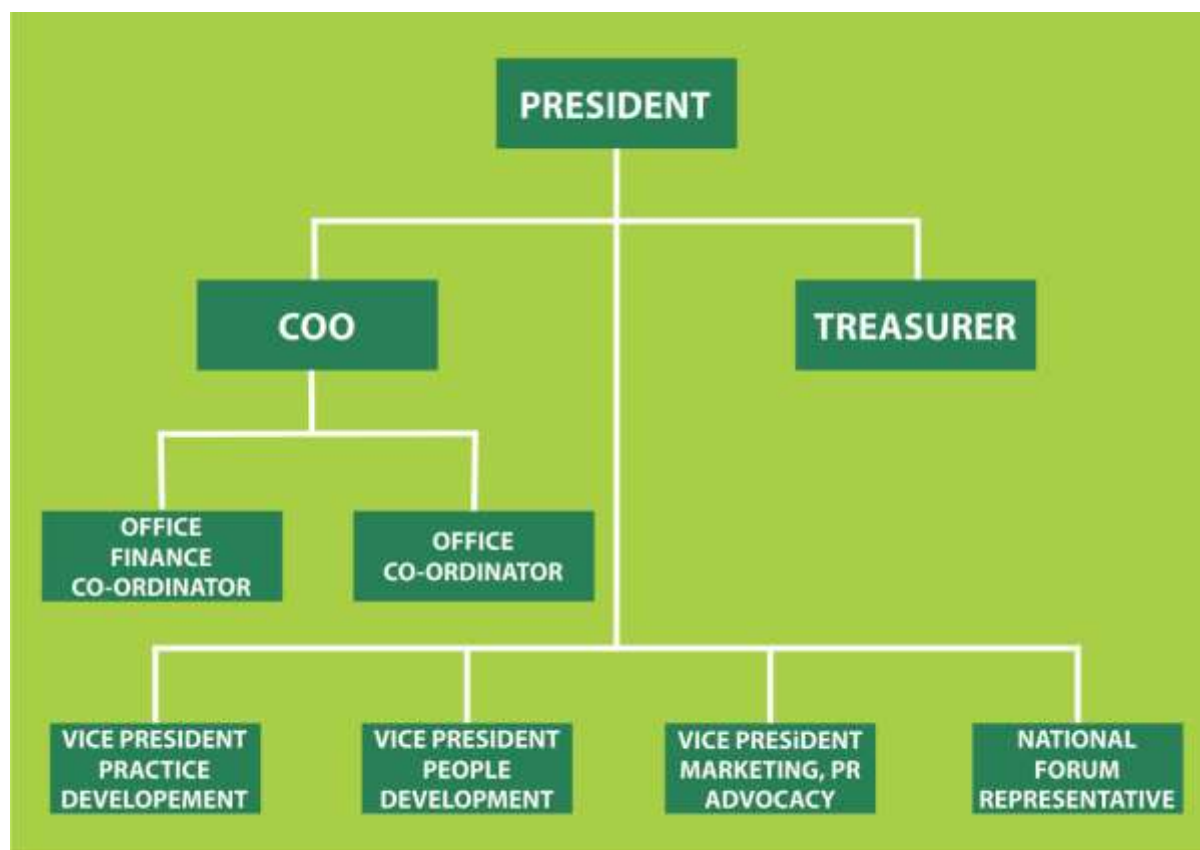
The Virtual Office

In 2017, Council approved the establishment of an OTASA virtual office. The virtual office is a service that enables OTASA employees to work remotely by providing a range of business and administrative functions accessible through the internet. The OTASA headquarters has remained in our Hatfield office, located in Pretoria. With the establishment of the virtual office, the Association has had to invest in various technological improvements to ensure efficient and effective functioning. Some of the improvements are presented in Figure 5 below.



Governance

During the first quarter of 2019, Executive Structure of the Association undertook a restructuring process. The Vice Presidents have been assigned various portfolios, which are linked to Standing Committees, Branches and Special Interest groups. This undertaking is intended to enable better governance, while facilitating the operationalisation of the OTASA Strategic Plan 2022. The various portfolios are represented in Figure 6 below.



During this 2018 – 2019 cycle, EXCO has also maintained key relations with various Consultants to enable effective financial, human resource and legal (health industry) governance within the Association. These consultants are listed below:

- **Financial governance:** Fourie and Botha Accountants and Auditors as well as Hugo Roodt (Independent Auditors)
- **Human Resource governance:** Pieter Griessel (Legal and Labour Law Consultant)
- **Legal governance (health industry)** – Elsabe Klink and Associates

We have also consulted with our OT stalwarts to seek insight and guidance from their experience as leaders in the profession and for assistance in identifying the strategic edge we might capitalise on. These have been profound and inspiring conversations.

3. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

OT Week

The primary objective of OT Week is to increase awareness of the occupational therapy profession within the wider community with the hope of improving the understanding of the types of activities that occupational therapists undertake. In 2018 the OT Week theme was Leadership, Advocacy and Collaboration for Transformation. The theme and proposed activities were intended to bring together OT's from all sectors: public, private, education, research, etc. in collectively showcasing innovative and inspirational leadership, advocacy and collaboration that enables transformation, either on an individual, group, community or systems level. An OT Week digital advertising campaign was rolled out across the Association social media platforms.

Occupational Therapists, Assistants/Technicians and students celebrated the profession in various ways.



OT's at Dora Nginza Hospital, Eastern Cape



OT's at Hillcrest Provincial Hospital, Kwazulu-Natal



OT's at Rita Henn & Partners, Muelmed, Pretoria



OT's at Watermeyer & Van der Merwe Occupational Therapists, Eastern Cape

Branch activities

The Association is supported by our Branches which are located in the 9 provinces and who play a vital role in professional development, support and mentoring, raising awareness of the profession and building key relationships with various stakeholders. The following provides an overview of the branch activities during the 2018 – 2019 reporting period.

Branch	Activity highlight
Eastern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Committee and Chairperson established. • Remote meeting attendance via Skype to cover the vast geographical area • Establishing a community service communication network.
Free State	The collaborative initiative with SAISI and SANDTA in 2018 was a great success.
Northern Gauteng	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamphlets (physical and paediatric) developed • workshop for 4th year students from the university of SMU and UP on what to expect during community service.
Southern Gauteng	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding and Billing Workshop • An OTT workshop, "Meaningful activities – the core of care", - A workshop • "Hand Splinting: For the non-moving CVA hand"
KwaZulu-Natal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KZN had good representation at the WFOT Congress • Mentorship support groups have commenced
Limpopo	Participation in an International Wheelchair Day organised by NGO Beyond Disability SA (NPC)
Mpumalanga	Active paediatric small group meeting every month
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various activities to market and raise awareness about the profession in the Province • Fun, "nappy dash" event to raise funds for a school for autism in Klerksdorp
Southern Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A descriptive audit of the long-term developmental outcomes of 30 infants with HIE who received hypothermia at the George Regional Hospital • Ukuwela Program for learners with disabilities • Adult Sensory Integration course
Western Cape	The branch held 3 Clinical Brainstorm Workshops (CBW's) in the areas of Adult, Paediatrics & OTT categories

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activities

The Association continued to build on the previous years' CPD program, focusing on the delivery of quality professional development events. During the 2018 -2019 reporting period, 8 multiple choice questionnaires were compiled for the online South African Journal of Occupational Therapy (SAJOT). The number of CPD reviews for the reporting period of 2018 – 2019, totalled at 257 (average of 22 per month).

Occupational Therapy Assistants and Technicians Task Team

Despite the Association only having three Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTAs)/Technician (OTTs) members, OTASA EXCO and the OTA/OTT task team has been working diligently to address the complex issues facing this important category of mid-level workers. The task team has completed their work on the reviewing of the curriculum considering the health market changes. This document has been sent to the Education Standing Committee to review in relation to the occupational therapy education programs. Two important documents are on the agenda of the 2019 council meeting for debate: a Proposed Laddering Process for OTTs and a Concept Note regarding the role and contribution of the OTAs and OTTs to the occupational therapy profession and service provision. The President is negotiating a meeting with the Department of National Health Human Resource Management Directorate to discuss the professional specific mid-level workers within the departments vision for mid-level workers in the new Human Resource Pan 2019 - 2030. The task team has requested restructuring to attend to the OTA/OTT issues in the OTASA Strategic plan.

Launch of Sefako Makgatho (SMU) OTASA Student Wing

The students of SMU enthusiastically launched the first branch of the newly formed OTASA student wing on the 9th of May 2019 in the new auditorium on their campus. The event was well attended by students, some of the lecturing staff and two EXCO members. The President gave the keynote address and the SMU OTASA committee was introduced. We wish them well with their planned activities for the year ahead and commend them on their enthusiasm and commitment.

Community Service

In the past year there have been two formal meetings between the professional associations and the National Department of Health including Health Information Systems Program South Africa (HISP). HISP is a Section 21 not-for-profit non-governmental organisation (NPO/NGO) that specialises in the development and maintenance of health information systems and has been responsible for the development of the on-line intern and community service program (ICSP).

Information of importance for OTASA members is:

- The intern and community service program is under review by the National Department of Health. the outcome will be communicated to us in due course.
- The ICSP system is stable and is functioning efficiently according to HISP. It will be handed over to the Department of Health and Provinces as funding for HISP involvement has come to an end.
- At the end of 2018, 251 South African OT students were allocated to community service placements, but only 78% took up the allocated posts. There were 35 students who had placement problems, these were resolved with OTASA's assistance.
- There are 4 foreign OT graduates who had yet to be placed by May 2019.
- OTASA also assisted with January non-payment in some Provinces and some other placement issues.
- In the June 2019 asynchronous cycle there were 16 OT students who applied, but at the time of application there was only one community service placement post available. OTASA together with the National OT Forum tried to assist with facilitating posts through the Provinces. It seems that this cycle may be done away with in the future.

4. ADVOCATING FOR AND PROMOTING THE PROFESSION

OTASA Code of Ethics

This is currently being reviewed under the guidance of the Ethics Standing Committee and with the assistance of an ethics expert.

Presidential Health Summit

The President of South Africa called a Health Summit in October of 2018 to discuss and find solutions to the crisis within the health service, initiated by a group of concerned ANC stalwarts and civil society, including the OTASA President. Despite considerable effort, OTASA, like many other professional organizations, was unable to secure an invitation to the summit.

Following the Summit, the South African Medical Association (SAMA) called a meeting of 109 health professional organisations to set up a steering committee and subgroups of health professionals to give input into the Presidential Health Summit Compact. This included formal and electronic meetings within a short period and on very short notice. The compact was signed in February 2019 at Tuinhuis in Cape Town. We were able to secure an invitation for the OTASA COO to be present at the signing.

South African Lancet National Commission report 2018: Confronting the right to ethical and accountable Quality Health care in South Africa

OTASA is engaging with yet another concerning report on the state of health care services. There are 7 findings from this report that are not consistent with the reports from the Presidential Health Summit and 11 recommendations, which need consideration with respect to occupational therapy service delivery.

International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

This is an international system for gathering data on professions across the world. This matter was referred from Welcome to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) as OTs are not classified with other rehabilitation health professionals, but in a separate category: other.

The President and COO met with the Chief Director of STATSSA to discuss the SA categorisation of OTs which uses a system that is consistent with ISCO. OTASA presented a case for the reclassification of occupational therapy in the South African Classification of Occupations (SASCO). Data published in the SASCO has important functions including workforce planning, job classification, education planning, compensation determination and employment forecasts. OTASA will work with HPCSA and other constituents within the organisation to collect the required information.



The President and COO advocating for the reclassification of OT

The Road Accident Fund (RAF)

OTASA has been in constant communication with the RAF concerning the recent seemingly irregular tendering process for experts, the separation of OT's into a separate group and OT experts being paid a much-reduced tax inclusive rate as compared to the previous tender. This reduced rate was informed by a research project commissioned by the RAF. With the assistance of the OTASA Legal Consultant, OTASA has several submissions to RAF, National Treasury and the Parliamentary Committee on Transport to object to both the process and validity of the research findings. OTASA utilised the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (PAIA) to request a full copy of the research report to further investigate the methodology and the efficacy of the results. Despite the concerning sub-economic tariff enough OTs have signed contracts to meet the RAFs need for experts, which has left no room for negotiation. This has been a very reactive process. At the last meeting of the Medico-Legal Task Team it was decided that to prepare adequately for the next tendering process in two years' time we need to undertake the following: a time study to determine the appropriate tariff for simple and complex cases. We need to investigate a process for training (CPD or more formal alternatives) and support for OTs doing medico-legal work, as well as develop guidelines for medico-legal report writing.

Compensation Commission

Members of the Coding and Procedures Standing Committee have again met with the Commission to try to negotiate a better tariff for OTs that provide services to clients injured on duty. They have also worked hard to have a correction made to the incorrect hour allocation that was published in the Gazette. In addition, they have asked for a review of an additional code for vocational rehabilitation that was not approved from the 2019 OTASA submission.

In 2018 the Committee also undertook some training at OTASA's cost, for the Compensation Commission staff to try to facilitate an understanding of OT coding and facilitate payment.

Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMBs) Reviews

The Council for Medical Schemes has conducted a number of consultation meetings with professional stakeholders to review some of the PMBs with a view to extending them for services to be delivered on the primary platform in preparation for the NHI.

All meetings took place at short notice with a minimum time period for submitting extensive documentation including South African A level evidence (systematic reviews) within the last 5 years.

While these meetings up until now have been the responsibility of the Coding and Procedures Standing committee, experts outside of this committee were asked for assistance as the chairperson was out of the country for much of this period and the

primary health care slant required members with PHC experience. None of these meetings were easy, so our grateful thanks are extended to all who assisted.

The COO developed a comprehensive document outlining the continuum of care aligned to all the strategic public sector documents as background to the OTASA submission. This document proposed an alternative model to diagnosis to view care. While well received this view of health and proposed way of look at care was quite foreign to most participants.

A group of experts, together with Elize Janse Van Rensburg, the Vice President: Practice Development, and the President assisted the COO to compile the required reports on:

- Preventative Services.
- Maternal, Neonatal child health services
- Mental Health Services (3 days)
- Pathological services for Communicable & Non-communicable diseases
- Essential Devices and Consumables
- Palliative and end of life care (new PBM).

OTASA representatives were present at all meetings and presented and defended the OTASA input.

Submissions to Government

OTASA under the guidance of our Legal Consultant had a workshop for council members to consider the NHI Bill and the Medical schemes Amendment Bill. EXCO members also attended a number of other workshops and presentations to ensure that OTASA had an informed comment on these two very important and influential documents. Written submissions on both documents were sent to the Department of Health after being critiqued by our lawyers.

OTASA has also made written submissions on the Health Market Inquiry Report on healthcare in the private sector and the COID Bill and Regulations.

The COO made a verbal presentation to the Parliamentary Committee on the State Liability Bill, as well as a written submission. In principle it has been agreed that whenever possible we will request a verbal presentation as well as written submission.

Submissions to other stakeholders

OTASA made a written submission to the Disability Alliance on the UNCRPD report on South Africa.

The Council for Medical Schemes requested comments on their Policy Document on Fraud, Waste and Abuse at very short notice. As a result of this document OTASA ran a membership survey to collect some information on the OTs who had been involved

in a forensic audit. The summary of the results of this survey were circulated to all members and will be used by the Coding and Procedures Standing committee to do member education.

Position Papers

The following position papers have been concluded in the past year and have been or will shortly be published in the SA Journal of Occupational Therapy:

- Spirituality;
- The role of the occupational therapist in driver evaluation; and
- The role of occupational therapy in early childhood intervention.

Although the position paper on vocational rehabilitation was approved in 2018, considering the strategic importance of this position paper, some aspects of it have been reworked and it is on the agenda for Council 2019 for finalisation.

The following position papers are in different stages of development:

- Employee wellness within the occupational therapy profession;
- Role of the occupational therapist in substance abuse;
- Diversity;
- The Role of the occupational therapist in neonatal ICU;
- Occupational therapy education and decolonisation.

Reconceptualization of health professions education by Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF)

The President was interviewed by a panel of contributors on this document and its implications for occupational therapy education. Therefore, the Education Standing Committee was asked to review the document and make comments on a disappointingly doctor centred report. These comments have been sent to ASSAF for their consideration.

5. POSITIONING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

World Health Organization (WHO) Collaboration

WFOT recommended that contact with the Regional WHO offices was professionally strategic. WFOT clarified that OTASA should investigate local WHO initiatives and make contact with Dr A Kaku. One such initiative is the Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021. This will be the focus of the CPD activity at the 2019 OTASA AGM with some discussion as to how we might consider collaboration in this initiative.

Transformation

Organisational transformation is one of the OTASA strategic goals. The occupational therapy profession is divided in many ways: historically, politically, financially, educationally, generationally, in terms of gender, of health sector allegiance, field of practice allegiances and even frame of reference alliances. These divisions influence what is considered important, our professional identity, the way we convey our roles and responsibilities to those we serve and the way we advocate for our position in our employment sectors. On the 27th June 2019 the Council members and some invited guests will be involved in a facilitated workshop to engage with corporate governance to enact the OTASA values of being a diverse, occupation-based, inclusive, networking, grounded, innovative and transformative organization.

State of the Nation Address (SONA)

In the SONA President Ramaphosa announced:

- The migration of Early Childhood Education Centres from Department of Social Development to Basic Education. The School-based OTs Special Interest Group has prepared a submission for the new Minister of Basic Education on the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy of Social Development highlighting the gaps in current services and the role of OT.
- The speeding up of the introduction of the NHI, thus NHI readiness must become an urgent area of discussion within OTASA.

Practice Development for NHI readiness

A practice development task team was established at the 2018 Council meeting to facilitate preparations for the introduction of the NHI. This committee has been tasked to set up practice guidelines using the ICF as a framework for collecting available evidence to support practice. The following guidelines are prioritized for 2019:

Practice guidelines for Schizophrenia and bipolar mood disorder

Practice guidelines for physical conditions

Practice guidelines for child health

Practice guidelines for maternal and neonatal services

This Committee is also devising guidelines for stimulation groups for children which has raised some ethical issues during the year.

Integrated Membership Management System

There is an urgent need to upgrade our electronic membership management system to advance the usability for members and to reduce the administrative load on the office staff. OTASA has been in consultation with different service providers to explore the cost and utility of such systems. These systems have two costs that have implications for OTASA: the cost of the programme (which vary from R30,000.00 to R 600,000.00) and then a monthly licence and service cost (which also varies from R3,000.00 to R 23,000 per month). This matter will be referred to Council for some discussion.

Road Shows

It was planned that President and COO would undertake a national road show in this last year. This proved to be a logistical problem due to both time and cost concerns. This will be planned with Branches at the 2019 Council meeting. Their purpose is to engage the membership with the OTASA Strategic Plan, but also for the Executive Committee to listen and hear the concerns of members on the ground.

Student Leadership

Professional leadership has been flagged as a serious problem contributing to some of the health service delivery concerns in policy documents and macro-level discussions. To develop a leadership pipeline, student leadership was conceived to be the logical point of departure. Under the guidance of Fatimah Hendricks, the student leadership camps were conceived, and three camps were run. In 2018 no leadership camp was run to involve the students in the WFOT congress.

The leadership camps although strategic are expensive and despite budgeting considerable funds it is insufficient to fund this venture without considerable other fundraising. In the current economic climate, it has not been possible to raise funds for this year's camp. So, a decision has been made to postpone the camp until May 2020 to give us time to fundraise more vigorously.

OTASA Congress 2020

This congress will be held in George from the 17th – 19th June 2020, following the Council meeting. The venue and accommodation options have been planned for, mindful of the cost in the current poor economic environment.

The theme for the congress is “Resilience through Adversity” with five sub-themes: Resilience through Mental Adversity; Resilience through Physical Adversity; Resilience through Environmental Adversity; Resilience through Political Adversity and Resilience through Vocational adversity. Congress activities for occupational therapy students and OTAs and OTTs will also be planned.

Resilience in this time of change is important for all occupational therapy service providers, across all sectors and fields, so we look forward to this congress mindful of the professional road ahead.

6. STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Interprofessional Rehabilitation Indaba

This is a multi-professional organisation of rehabilitation associations which meets twice per year to discuss matters of common interest. Meetings and collaboration over the past year have centred on the National Health Insurance (NHI) and Presidential Health Summit and Compact: sharing of information, preparing joint submissions to documents, promoting and speaking with one voice about rehabilitation issues at all possible opportunities.

South African National Council for the Blind (SANC)

We were invited to a meeting by SANC to discuss collaboration around assistive technology for the persons with visual impairment and other areas of possible cooperation. The Eastern Cape Branch provided useful information that will assist the Association with joint planning going forward.

South African Mental Health Alliance Partners (SA MHAP)

OTASA has joined this coalition of partners considering the pressing mental health issues within the country. The purpose of the SA MHAP “is advocacy and oversight towards realizing access to quality mental health care in line with the Bill of Rights of South Africa, with the premise that health and mental health care can’t be obtained separately from the right to dignity and the right to health”. SA MHAP is planning an urgent meeting with the new Minister of Health and OTASA will be included in this meeting.

Special Interest Groups

The Executive Committee has become acutely aware of the need to improve our member engagement through Special Interest groups. These groups play an important role in enabling OTs to share their experience and expert knowledge in key areas of interest that affect the profession. In other health profession organisations these form the backbone of professional development. The Council is to consider creating a variety of opportunities for Special Interest groups to develop within the OTASA structure, to serve members with specific professional interests.

INSTOPP

Herculene Van Staden is the INSTOPP representative on the National OTASA EXCO. The COO attended an INSTOPP Board meeting to discuss the OTASA Strategic plan and to begin conversation around better cooperation between the partners.

SAISI

Marie Greyling is the SAISI representative on the National OTASA EXCO. The COO also attended the SAISI Board meeting in Bloemfontein in May where the roles of each partner was discussed and as well as more effective communication and collaboration between the two partners.

National OT Forum

Aluwani Manenhze is the National Forum representative on the OTASA EXCO. The President attended the National OT Forum in August of 2018 and presented the OTASA report. OTASA has taken forward a number of issues from this meeting and is working collaboratively with the Forum: Branch support for community service OTs, human resource issues associated with the freezing of posts in Provinces and associated concern with occupational therapy staff health and wellness and the OTT concept document. Key documents such as the National Core Standards, the Ideal Clinic, the Framework and Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation services 2015-2020 (FSDR) and National Mental Health Policy Framework and Strategic Plan 2013-2020 have been used to inform OTASA inputs to the Presidential Health Summit as well as the inputs to the PMB review documents.

WFOT

As per the standing orders:

- Pat de Witt as President is the delegate.
- Helen Buchan as past president is the alternate delegate.

All full paying OTASA members are reminded that they are also WFOT members.

OTASA commented and participated on the approval process of 4 position statements:

- OT role with Assistive Technology (Jennie Mc Adam was a co-author)
- Role of professional Occupational therapy organisations in monitoring practice
- OT and community centred practice
- OT and Rehabilitation (Helen Buchanan was a co-author).

OTASA nominated Theresa Lorenzo and WFOT appointed her to serve on the WHO Competency Framework Steering Group.

Rogini Pillay was nominated to participate in the piloting of the 2nd draft of the Rehabilitation Competency Framework (WHO Project). Rogini Pillay had previously participated in the piloting of the 1st draft.

OTASA consulted WFOT about a scope infringement in a new scope document, their input assisted OTASA to write an objection to the Minister of Health.

WFOT called for nominations for the WHO consultation on school-based health service guidelines. OTASA has sent two nominations: Jaclyn Craig (Chairperson of the School Based OT Special interest Group) and Elvin Williams, COO.



HPCSA: Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotics and Prosthetics and Arts therapy

The President represented OTASA at the Board Stakeholder meeting in August 2018.

Several concerns have been sent to our board and we are awaiting their feedback.

- The Business practices regulations regarding the employment of occupational therapists in private psychiatric hospitals.
- Concerns around the quality of rehabilitation that would be delivered to mental health care users in residential and/or day care facilities as per The Guidelines for Licencing of Residential and/or Day Care Facilities for persons with severe mental illness and/or severe or profound Intellectual disabilities.

- Lack of posts for community service, which is a statutory requirement, before independent practice is allowed.

7. AWARDS

The criteria for the Fellowship Awards were approved by Council in 2018 and the first of this category of awards were approved for the following members:

Honorary Certificate of Merit

- Prof. Lana van Niekerk for securing the bid for the 2018 WFOT Congress to be held in South Africa and for chairing the Congress Committee.
- Prof. Helen Buchanan for services to OTASA as President for two terms and for her considerable contribution to the WFOT Congress and Council meeting.

Honorary Certificates of Service

These were awarded to the following persons in appreciation of commitment and service to the WFOT congress committees, task teams and special interest groups:

- Prof Elelwani Ramugondo
- Mr Michael Awood
- Ms Nikki Green
- Ms Mapheyeldi Motimele
- Mrs. Fadia GamienIdien
- Dr. Fasloen Adams
- Mrs Marion Fourie
- Dr Tania van der Merwe Rauch
- Mrs. Lebogang Maseko
- Ms Rogini Pillay

2018 OT Week prizes

These prizes were awarded for the first time at the 2018 AGM of OTASA. The following awards were issued:

- **Edward Luruli Award for Advocacy** – South Rand Hospital OT Department
- **OTASA Student Award for Excellence in Advocacy** – Stellenbosch University

- **Certificate of Excellence in Innovative Practise** – South Rand Hospital OT Department
- **Certificate of Excellence in Interprofessional Collaboration** – Kuruman Hospital and INSTOPP for working together during OT Week
- **Certificate of Excellence in Social Media Presence** – Weskoppies Hospital, Department of Occupational Therapy for their video production entitled "Mannequin Challenge"

2018 Marie du Toit Research Prize

This prize for the best national student research is awarded by the Vona and Marie du Toit Foundation. The prize was awarded to Ashley Jones, Kelsey Holden, Efthymia Savva, Marilize de Kock, Tegan Kiddle and Caroline Jackson from the University of Pretoria for a group project entitled: The use of applications as a treatment modality by occupational therapists treating hand injuries in South Africa.

2018 Ruth Watson Research Grant

The third research grant was awarded to Amy Buttle for a research project entitled: Feasibility of Flexor Tendon Rehabilitation following Repair in a Developing Country Context: A randomized pilot study.

Nominations for 2020 Vona Du Toit Memorial Lecture.

Three nominations were received for this award. Two nominations met the prescribed criteria for this memorial lecture: Prof Lana van Niekerk and Dr Lee Randall. Voting will take place at the 2019 Council Meeting.

8. SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL STATUS:

During the 2018 – 2019 financial year the following were key performance areas for running smooth financial operations of OTASA:

- Monitor, together with the Finance Coordinator, the banking and investing of all monies received.
- Monitor and approve all claims and payments as loaded onto banking system by office administrator.
- Monitor the trail balance sheet, regarding all financial transactions of OTASA, as supplied by Finance Coordinator every three months.
- Develop new financial policies and update existing financial policies where needed.
- Approve all out of budget expenses as after discussion with the Executive and COO.

Operationally, a new accounting programme, QuickBooks, was implemented. The first COO of OTASA was appointed in July 2018. A more effective communication system with Branches and Standing committees were implemented in the form a WhatsApp groups to enable Branch Treasurers and Standing Committees direct communication lines with the Treasurer.

A drive to introduce the new President and COO with a roadshow to branches was approved.

By the end of the 2018 financial year, OTASA managed to make a 23.8% increase in income. Comprehensive Financial Statements and Reports can be requested from the OT Office.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018			
	Note	2018 R	2017 R
INCOME	1.2	2,657,362	2,146,438
National membership and registration fees		2,377,914	1,814,833

Fourie and Botha Accountants and Auditors were appointed Independent Auditors of OTASA. A separate declaration of authority is available in the Comprehensive Financial Statements and Reports.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Association would like to acknowledge all the branches, standing committees, special interest groups and constituents for their commitment, passion and hard work during this reporting cycle.

The Association also wishes to thank our stakeholders, consultants and advisors for their invaluable support and advise in realizing our vision.

The Executive wishes to thank Johan De Klerk, from GLB for his editorial support with the lay-out and design of the Annual Report.

Finally, we would like to thank Council, our members and the populations we serve for trusting us with this noble task of serving as office bearers in this profession and the Association.