



music therapy
new zealand

Te Roopu Puoro Whakaora o Aotearoa
www.musictherapy.org.nz

the new zealand society for music therapy

About Music Therapy

Music therapy is the planned use of music to assist the healing and personal growth of people across the lifespan with identified emotional, intellectual, physical and/or social needs (MThNZ, 2009).

Music Therapy in New Zealand

The Master of Music Therapy programme (MMusTher) was established in 2003, and thus music therapy is a new but rapidly growing profession in New Zealand. The New Zealand Music Therapy Registration Board was established in 2000 and, at that time, music therapists who had trained overseas or with the New Zealand Society for Music Therapy (NZSMT) Accreditation Programme were invited to apply for registration.

Training

Te Kōi New Zealand School of Music, at Victoria University of Wellington, offers a two-year Master of Music Therapy programme to prepare students for the professional clinical practice of, and research in, music therapy.

Registration

Appropriately qualified persons can apply to be registered with the New Zealand Music Therapy Registration Board (MThNZ, 2009). The Board maintains a Register of Music Therapists who are registered in New Zealand and issues one-year Practising Certificates to those who meet the specified criteria. Evidence of continuing professional development and professional activities, and ongoing supervised practice must be supplied. The objectives of the Registration system are to:

1. ensure that people who use the term New Zealand Registered Music Therapist are qualified to practice are able to create and maintain a physically and emotionally safe environment for a client, adhere to the MThNZ Code of Ethics;
2. provide a benchmark for quality assurance as occurs with other professions;
3. provide employers, contracting agencies, and individuals with assurance that the qualification and professionalism of music therapists meet appropriate standards;
4. ensure that music therapists maintain their personal development and professional skills; and
5. provide a process for grievances and complaints to be objectively evaluated and appropriate sanctions applied.

Practitioners work in a wide range of medical, rehabilitation, and education settings.

Professional Recognition

In order to be recognised as health professionals in New Zealand the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act, and the Allied Health Professional Associations' Forum, argue that a profession needs:

- A relevant tertiary qualification
- A recognised system for monitoring ongoing competence
- Professional standards of practice and
- A professional code of ethics

Music Therapy New Zealand (MThNZ) meets all of the above criteria and is a member of Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand (AHANZ).

Music therapists are identified as specialist providers for children with special education needs, via the Ministry of Education's Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) (MOE, 2015).