

Local & Regional Groups - Terms of Reference

Role & Purpose

The Local and Regional Groups (LRGs) are comprised of members of ANZACATA. They are informal groups which meet to discuss issues in their local or regional area, to offer CPD to members and arrange meetings with speakers in order to promote the Objectives of ANZACATA. They were previously called Regional CAT (Creative Arts Therapy) Groups, and from November 2019, they use the acronym LRGs.

Scope

All LRGs are informal membership groups, they have no formal status. They do not represent ANZACATA Co Ltd and may not speak on its behalf in any public forum, without prior discussion and agreement by the Board of ANZACATA. They may not use the ANZACATA logo or associated branding material without express prior permission.

Since LRGs are informal groups of members, they have no decision-making powers in themselves, except to offer suggestions for the Board of Directors annually (if they choose). They exist solely for the purpose of supporting and connecting members. The Board reserves its right to investigate and either support, censure or remove funding from any LRG in the unlikely event that members or external parties complain about any aspect of its role, activities or operations.

Funding

LRGs are eligible and may apply for a grant of \$500 annually in order to conduct their meetings. Funds may be spent on venue hire, speaker costs, zoom get togethers, catering and the like. The ANZACATA board will fund any LRG that applies for up to \$500 to put towards its activities annually, up to the amount allocated in the yearly budget. The elected Convener (or appointed spokesperson) will report on the use of the funds in the previous year by end July in order to have the report included in the ANZACATA Annual Report.

Membership

Membership of the LRG is open to all members of ANZACATA (from all membership levels). No member shall be excluded from any groups funded by ANZACATA. Some LRG events may be offered exclusively for professional members, but also some meetings of LRGs annually must be open to all ANZACATA members. The LRG membership will make its own arrangements regarding what it offers its members, how to keep track of its members, how it appoints/elects its spokesperson and so forth. However, it must welcome all levels of membership.

Aims

The Local and Regional Groups must support the Objects of the Company, which are expressed in its Constitution and to support and develop the professional standing of members who attend meetings.

2.1 Objects of company

- (a) The objects of the company are for the public charitable purposes of:
 - (i) advancing health by supporting the progressive development of the therapeutic use of creative arts to promote optimal mental health;
 - (ii) advancing social and public welfare through the progressive development of the therapeutic use of creative arts toward optimal social and public welfare;
 - (iii) advancing culture through the promotion of creative arts through art therapy;
 - (iv) advancing education through:
 - (A) fostering professional development opportunities and activities for the exchange of information and ideas concerning the therapeutic use of the creative arts, such as conferences, workshops, publications, and electronic media for practising creative arts therapists and creative arts therapy students;
 - (B) promoting the development of the science relating to the practice of creative arts therapies; and
 - (C) providing information about creative arts therapy services, practices and training opportunities to the public and other mental health professionals;
 - (v) advancing the arts therapy industry through:
 - (A) formulating, monitoring and reviewing the development of standards of practice and ethical behaviour and responsibility in the practice and research of the creative arts therapies for the public good and to ensure that these are maintained;
 - (B) formulating, monitoring and reviewing standards of training and education leading to recognition as a professional creative arts therapist
 - (C) promote the development of research into the efficacy of the creative arts therapies, skills development, theory and knowledge building and promote these in the community as widely as possible;
 - (D) proving a forum for all people engaged in the arts therapy industry to discuss best practice and enhance the future of the industry;
 - (E) working with government at all levels towards strengthened public accountability of the arts therapist industry.

Reporting

Each LRG will provide a report to the Board to be included in the next Annual Report (due by end of July). This report will list the activities undertaken, how many members attended events overall during the year, how funds were expended and any recommendations of the whole group that it wishes the Board to consider. It will be signed by the Convener/Spokesperson(s) and no more than one page is required. The Board is under no obligation to take up any suggestion of any LRG, however the Board agrees to consider any suggestions in good faith.