

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - Terms of Reference

Role & Purpose

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are comprised of all membership tiers of ANZACATA. SIGs exist for the purpose of supporting and connecting members with common areas of interest and specialisation, and for promoting professionalism, understanding and research in the field of interest. They are not Association decision making groups, but they can meet (in person or online) to develop areas of special interest within creative arts therapies in order to promote the Objectives of ANZACATA.

These groups were previously referred to as Colleges, however from November 2019, they will be referred to by the acronym SIGs. In no way is this name change intended to change the purpose, function, specialty or focus of these groups, but rather it was to give them a name which better reflects the function of the groups. The ANZACATA Board is currently exploring how best to support these groups to become established.

Existing Special Interest Groups

At recent ANZACATA events a number of SIGs have been proposed. These include: Dramatherapy, Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy, Writing Therapy, Nature-Connected Therapy, Transpersonal Arts Therapies, Arts Therapy Educators, Clinical Supervision, Research, Disability/NDIS, CAT in schools, Tiered Membership 1-4.

Scope

Any SIG that receives funding from ANZACATA must offer a report on its advice, issues, recommendations or suggestions to the Board as a means of acquitting its grant. While SIGs have no decision-making powers in themselves (only the Board has decision-making status) the Board welcomes suggestions and recommendations for consideration annually.

SIGs 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 will be provided with their own SIG ANZACATA logo as they are not permitted to use ANZACATA or associated branding material without express prior permission. The Board reserves its right to investigate and either support, censure or remove funding from any SIG in the unlikely event that members or external parties complain about any aspect of its role, activities or operations.

Funding

The ANZACATA Company Board agrees to financially support up to five Special Interest Groups to assist them in becoming established by granting access to up to \$500 funding annually to any Special Interest Group that seeks the funds (total budget of \$2,500).

The grant can be applied for annually in order to conduct meetings, whether online or in person. Funds may be spent on venue hire, speaker costs, 'zoom' get togethers, catering, cost of the Conveners time to write and co-ordinate reports from members. 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 SIG is open to all members of ANZACATA (from all membership levels). No member shall be excluded from any groups *funded* by ANZACATA. Some events may be offered exclusively for professional members, but also some meetings of SIGs annually must be open to all ANZACATA members. The SIG membership will make its own arrangements regarding what it offers its members, how to keep track of its members, how it appoints/elects its convenor/spokesperson. However, principally it must welcome all levels of membership.

Aims

The Special Interest Groups must support the Objects of the Association, which are expressed in its Constitution and to support and develop the professional standing of members who attend meetings or participate in SIG discussions.

The SIGs exist to promote the aims and objectives of ANZACATA, to advocate for professional standards within the area of interest that they represent, to provide suggestions and advice (if called upon) to the Board on their specific area of expertise.

Reporting

Each SIG 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 topics discussed, any activities undertaken, how many attended, 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 (person assigned by the group) and need not be no more than one page. The Board is under no obligation to take up any suggestion of any SIG, however the Board agrees to consider any suggestions in good faith.

The ANZACATA Board is hopeful of encouraging discussion, improving professionalism and having access to a broad range of member issues and ideas through the funding and development of its Special Interest Groups.

Policy Approved: ANZACATA Board Dec 8th, 2019

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.