

50 Years of History

OMT Australia

Name of organisation: AAOMT (Australian Association of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists), trading as OMTAustralia

Year organisation: 1978

RIG of IFOMPT since: 1992

Key influencers of OMPT through the years:

The key influences for OMT Australia were Bill Atkinson, Amelia Lucas, Olaf Evjenth and Freddy Kaltenborn.

Development over the years:

In 1978, Bill Atkinson with Ralph Barker initially ran weekend courses for physiotherapists with the Manual Therapy Study Group (MTSG) of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (NSW branch). The AINMT (Australian Institute of Nordic Manual Therapy) ran courses independently (Spinal 1 to 4; Extremity 1 to 3), plus other courses e.g. soft tissue, TMJ.

By the late 1980s the AINMT evolved to run more major courses of OMT(Nordic) study – OMT1 And OMT2. Graduates of OMT2 were eligible to become Members of the AAOMT. The groups name changes from AINMT to AAOMT.

The AAOMT began extensive discussions with Charles Sturt University (CSU), developing a unique collaboration between AAOMT and CSU, which eventuated in the Master of Health Science (Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy). This 3-year program was delivered by distance mode, with an extensive residential component. The first cohort began in 1996, the final cohort graduating in 2006.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

- 1) General demise in post-graduate manipulative physiotherapy study and commitment.
- 2) Lack of evidence base for manual therapy practice, affecting new graduate interest in pursuing manual therapy studies.

Current status and challenges:

Challenges: OMTAustralia has an ageing membership of graduates.

How do you see the future of your organisation:

OMTAustralia remains committed to supporting education in Manual Therapy.
