

# Occupational Therapy

## What is an Occupational Therapist?

An Occupational Therapist is a university-trained health professional. Their role is to maximise a client's independence, safety and quality of life by minimising the impact of the client's impairments. This is done by assessing and addressing the barriers raised by disease, injury or development and ageing. OTs often use education and rehabilitation to develop a person's performance in everyday activities. This is what we refer to as 'occupation'.

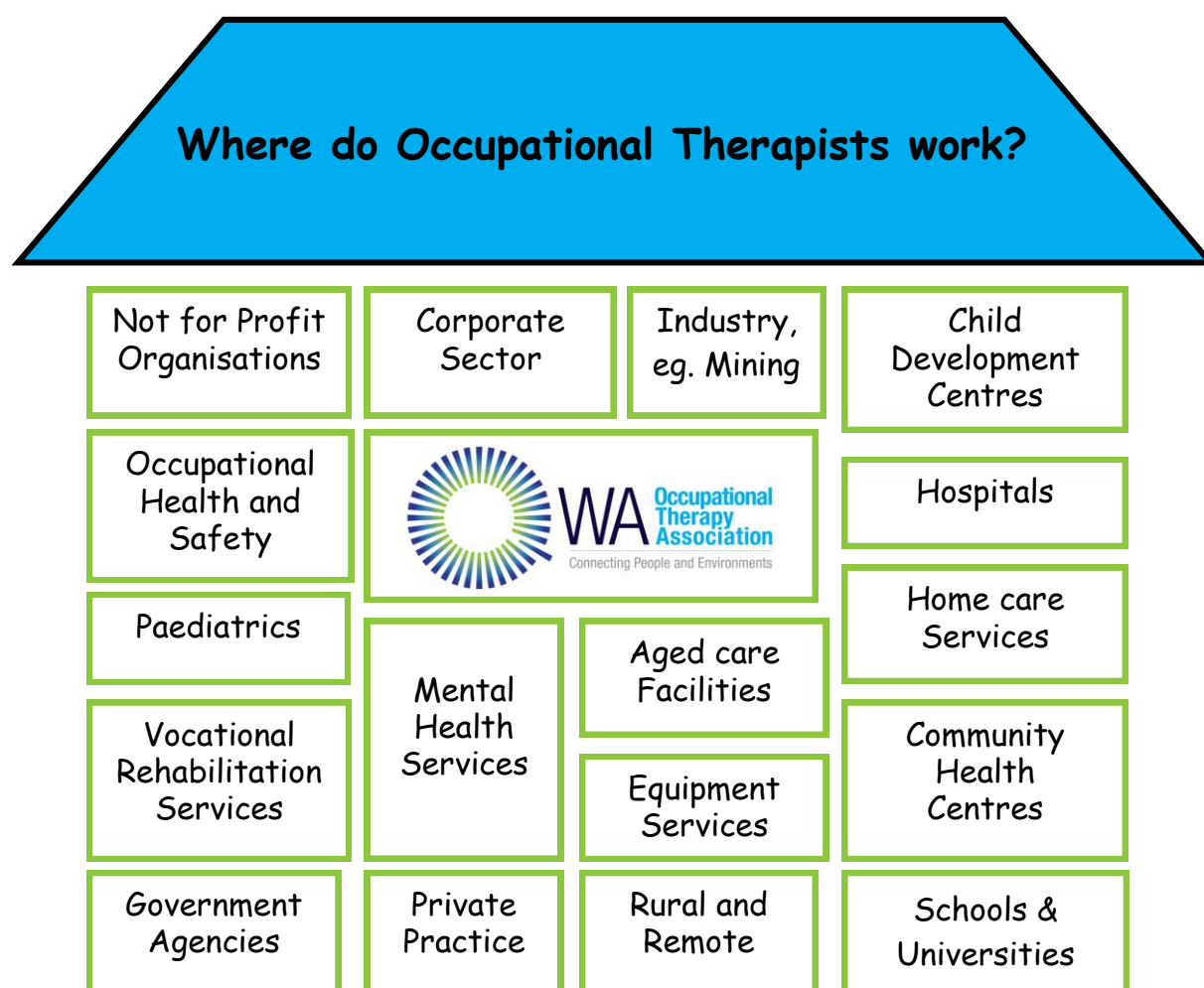


## How to become an Occupational Therapist in WA?

- Complete a 4 year full time Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) **OR**
- Complete a 2 year full time Master of Occupational Therapy after completing an appropriate Undergraduate degree
- Register with the Occupational Therapists Registration Board of Western Australia to be eligible to practice

## Who do Occupational Therapists work with?

- **Children** for school readiness, developmental delay, disabilities, serious illnesses
- People with **physical disabilities** - amputees, palliative care, cerebral palsy
- People with **intellectual disabilities** - autism, Down syndrome
- People with **mental health** issues - depression, anxiety, schizophrenia
- People with **musculoskeletal injury** - sprains, strains, broken bones, burns
- **Older adults** - dementia, ageing
- People with **neurological conditions** - stroke, brain injury, spinal injury
- And many more people



For more information and professional representation, visit the WA Occupational Therapy Association (Inc) website

[www.waota.com.au](http://www.waota.com.au)

or

**Curtin University of Technology**

<http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/schools-and-departments/occupational-therapy-and-social-work/>

**Edith Cowan University**

<http://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/study-with-us/occupational-therapy>