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Rehabilitation

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) representing occupational therapists worldwide wishes to declare strong support for the Western Pacific Regional Framework on Rehabilitation.

As occupational therapists we acknowledge that the lack of access to rehabilitation services can be a barrier to health, independence and participation in daily life. As such the occupational therapy profession commends the WHO's and WPR's commitment to tackle health inequalities and ensure that all people have equal access to improve and maintain health.

Occupational Therapists play an essential role in the rehabilitation process and the profession is framed by a person-centred approach, which crosses institution and community boundaries with our knowledge base, integrating medical, social, psychological and environmental domains. We believe this is what is needed to ensure rehabilitation is part of universal health coverage (UHC) and the continuum of care for everyone.

Occupational therapists are able to participate in multi-sectoral initiatives contributing to a broad view of health care, social services and environmental priorities. The WFOT member network includes many specialists such as practitioners, researchers, and educators who can be resources for the work envisaged through the Western Pacific Regional Framework on Rehabilitation.

WFOT acknowledges that developing health systems must be done in conjunction with capacity building and professional education for the health workforce. Whilst in some member states occupational therapy practice is well established WFOT encourages relevant national agencies to reflect on whether the education and employment of occupational therapists is being fully utilised. WFOT and its member organizations is deeply committed to working with WHO, governments, non-governmental organizations, vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities and others to develop new and/or existing occupational therapy education programmes according to the WFOT Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists (2016) and help implement sustainable workforce development strategies.



We wish to conclude by stating that by active participation in the continuing dialogue, occupational therapists can offer expert knowledge and practical solutions to the Western Pacific Regional Framework on Rehabilitation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marilyn Pattison'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible script.

Marilyn Pattison

President

World Federation of Occupational Therapists