

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## **CONTENTS**

President's Message	4
Introduction	5
Allied Health Professions Council Members	6
Registration of Occupational Therapists (OT), Physiotherapists (PT) & Speech-Language Therapists (SLT)	7
<b>Registration of Diagnostic Radiographers (DR) &amp; Radiation Therapists (RT)</b> Table 1 – Registration of DR & RT from commencement on 14 April to 31 December 2016	8
DEMOGRAPHICS	
Registered Allied Health Professionals – Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy & Speech-Language Therapy Chart 1 – Total number of OTs, PTs & SLTs as at 31 December 2016	9
<b>Registration Numbers by Type of Registration</b> Table 2 – Number and Types of Registrants by Profession as at 31 December 2016 Table 3 – Total Number of Temporary Registrants (Visiting Experts) in 2016 Chart 2 – Number of Temporary Registrants	10 – 11
Chart 3a – Number of OTs by Registration Type Chart 3b – Number of PTs by Registration Type Chart 3c – Number of SLTs by Registration Type	11 – 14
Sector Distribution Table 4 – Sector Distribution by Profession Employment Status of Registered Therapists Table 5 – Employment Status of Registered Therapists	15 – 17
<b>Country/Area of Basic Qualification of Registered Therapists</b> Table 6a – Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered OTs Table 6b – Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered PTs Table 6c – Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered SLTs	18 – 20
<b>Demographic Profile of Registered Therapists</b> Table 7 – Profile of Registered OTs, PTs and SLTs Chart 4a – Total Number of Registered Therapists by Gender Chart 4b – Registered Therapists by Age Group Chart 4c – Registered Therapists by Nationality	21 – 23

<b>Practising Certificate Renewal 2016</b> Table 8 – Applications for Renewal of Practising Certificate (Mass Renewal 2016)	24
Supervisor Training Workshop Chart 5 – AHPs who have completed Supervisor Training Workshops in 2016	25
<b>Complaints</b> Table 9 – Complaints received by AHPC from 2013 to 2016	26

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2016 has been a year of significant work and progress for the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC). The AHPC received a total of 2,059 applications from all the five professions in 2016. We also commenced the registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists on 15 April 2016 and as at 31 Dec 2016, have fully processed the applications of 1,415 Diagnostic Radiographers and 151 Radiation Therapists.

Most of the Council members were reappointed for the Council's new term from April 2016. We welcomed Ms Elizabeth Jane Teh Ning Yen, Speech-Language Therapist and thanked Ms Jacqueline Phang Win Ling for her important contributions in the preceding term of the Council. In 2016, Mr Michael Ong Kah Leong (Diagnostic Radiographer) and Ms Yusnita binte Omar (Radiation Therapist) were also appointed concurrent with the implementation of regulation for Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists.

From February to April 2016, the AHPC conducted a series of briefings in healthcare institutions in preparation for the registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists. The submission of applications for the registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists was scheduled by institution and sector, for an orderly process of mass registration before registration becomes mandatory for practice on 15 April 2017. The AHPC also completed the review of educational programmes and qualifications from Australia for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Therapy and included 15 new qualifications into the First Schedule of the Allied Health Professions Act.

The Council, its appointed committees and its staff have worked hard to ensure that AHPC's regulation and processes are efficient and responsive. I would like to commend the Council's staff and the many colleagues in the various AHPC committees for their dedication, commitment and attention to detail in ensuring that the standards and competencies for their professions were not compromised in the process.

I would also like to convey our gratitude to the National Environment Agency, our Healthcare sector employers and our Allied Health professional colleagues who have worked tirelessly with the AHPC to implement the registration and regulation of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists. We can truly look forward with confidence to good and excellent practice, and collegiality in the Allied Health Professions as we learn and work together to protect the health and safety of the public.

Dr Lau Hong Choon President Allied Health Professions Council

#### INTRODUCTION

The Allied Health Professions Council was formed on 8 April 2013 and the implementation of the Allied Health Professions Act commenced on 15 April 2013 with the registration of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists. On 15 April 2016, the AHPC commenced the regulation of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists.

The Council maintains the Registers of Allied Health Professionals and renews practising certificates, issues certificates of good standing and regulates the conduct and practice of registered allied health professionals. The Council specifies pre-registration requisites, approves pre-registration training centres and directs continuing education.

The Council also investigates any complaints against a registered allied health professional. Registrants found guilty of professional misconduct may be reprimanded, suspended or removed from the Register.

The Annual Report 2016 documents the activities and registration statistics as at 31 December 2016 for Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists. The number of applications received for the mass registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists as at 31 December 2016 is also included. However, as the mass registration for these groups of professionals are still on-going, detailed statistics for Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists will be presented in a separate report to be released after the end of the grace registration year.

## ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL MEMBERS

President (Representative of the Director of Medical Services)	Dr Lau Hong Choon
Registrar	Ms Elaine Teo
Representative of the Director-General of Education	Ms Phyllis Chua Suan Gek (till 15 December 2016)
Member	Mr Abdul Rashid Jailani
Member	Mr Abhimanyau Pal
Member	Ms Florence Cheong
Member	Ms Melissa Chua Hui Ling
Member	Mr Lim Hua Beng
Member	Ms Susan Niam
Member	Ms Jacqueline Phang Win Ling (till 7 April 2016)
Member	Ms Elizabeth Jane Teh Ning Yen (from 8 April 2016)
Member	Mr Gary Tan Theng Tiak
Member	A/Prof Alan Wong Wai Pong
Member	Ms Yusnita Binte Omar (from 15 April 2016)
Member	Mr Michael Ong Kah Leong (from 15 April 2016)

## REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS & SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

The registration of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists which commenced on 15 April 2013 had registration categories similar to other healthcare professional boards in Singapore i.e. full, conditional or temporary registration depending on their qualifications, practice experience and purpose of practice in Singapore. Restricted registration was introduced as a transitional category for foreign trained therapists whose qualifications were not in the List of Recognised Qualifications under the Allied Health Professions Act, and who were practising in Singapore before the Act was in force, so that they could continue practising in a restricted scope of practice.

The end of the grace period for registration for these three professions on 14 April 2014 marked the close of restricted registration for them. However, a small number of therapists who had been practising a specialised scope in Singapore, before regulation commenced, but submitted their registration applications post-grace period were also granted restricted registration in 2016. New allied health professionals whose qualifications were recognised, and who did not have any professional experience in Singapore, were granted conditional registration. Upon successfully completing their conditional registration, they progressed to full registration.

At the end of 2016, the Council had registered 3,284 therapists consisting of 1,067 Occupational Therapists (OT), 1,693 Physiotherapists (PT) and 524 Speech-Language Therapists (SLT). This figure does not include those under temporary registration.

## REGISTRATION OF DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHERS & RADIATION THERAPISTS

The registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists commenced on 15 April 2016 with a 1-year grace period till 14 April 2017 for existing Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists practising in Singapore to register.

As the mass registration exercise is still ongoing, the full numbers and demographics for those registered will only be presented in a report after the grace period of registration for both professions. The progress of the grace period registration as at 31 December 2016 is in Table 1 below.

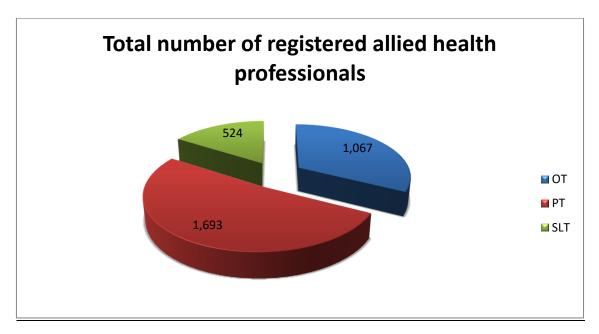
	Diagnostic Radiographers	Radiation Therapists	Total
Applications Received	1,548	161	1,709
Applications Processed	1,415	151	1,566
Outstanding Applications	133	10	143

Table 1. Registration of DR & RT from commencement on 14 April 2016 to 31 December 2016

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS:**

#### **REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPY & SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY**

Of these three groups, Physiotherapists formed the majority followed by Occupational Therapists and Speech-Language Therapists.



<u>Chart 1</u>. Total number of OTs, PTs & SLTs as at 31 December 2016

#### **REGISTRATION NUMBERS BY TYPE OF REGISTRATION**

There was an increase of approximately 10% of registered Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists in 2016. The total number of these three groups of registered allied health professionals under full, conditional and restricted registration in Singapore was 3,284 at the end of 2016.

84% of Occupational Therapists, 79% of Physiotherapists and 83% of Speech-Language therapists were fully registered. 15% of Occupational Therapists, 17% of Physiotherapists and 16% of Speech-Language Therapists were conditionally registered. The majority of those under conditional registration were newly qualified.

Occupational Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Registration	732	814	898
Restricted Registration	3	3	2
Conditional Registration	170	150	167
TOTAL	905	967	1,067
Physiotherapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Registration	1,066	1,167	1,341
Restricted Registration	56	57	57
Conditional Registration	272	325	295
TOTAL	1,394	1,549	1,693
Speech-Language Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Registration	309	342	435
Restricted Registration	2	3	5
Conditional Registration	88	128	84
TOTAL	399	473	524

Table 2. Number and Types of Registrants by Profession as at 31 December 2016

The AHPC processed a number of applications for temporary registration throughout 2016. Temporary registrants included amongst others, visiting experts who conduct training workshops and their temporary registration will only be for the duration of their courses.

Table 3. Total Number of Temporary Registrants (Visiting Experts) in 2016

Types of Registration	ОТ	РТ	SLT	TOTAL
Temporary Registration	5	4	5	14

.4 ОТ PΤ SLT Total

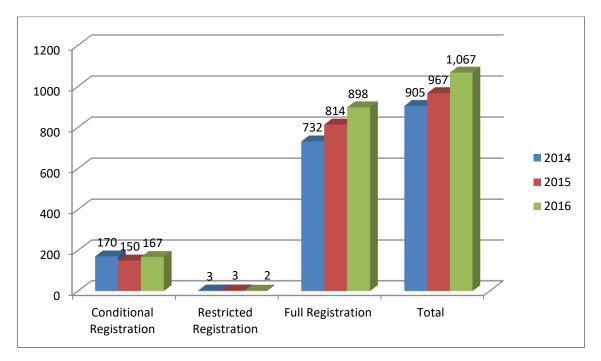
Chart 2. Number of Temporary Registrants (Years 2014 to 2016)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The larger numbers in 2015 were due to the registration of national therapy support teams for athletes participating in the South East Asian Games and ASEAN Paralympic games.

#### I. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The total number of Occupational Therapists under conditional, restricted and full registration increased from 967 to 1,067. This was a 10% increase in fully registered and conditionally registered Occupational Therapists.

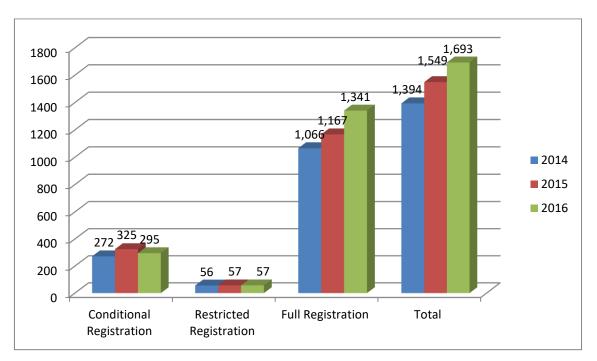
The number of Occupational Therapists on restricted registration was very small and one passed the Qualifying Examination to successfully convert to conditional registration.



#### Chart 3a. Number of OTs by Registration Type (Years 2014 to 2016)

#### II. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

The total number of Physiotherapists under conditional, restricted and full registration increased from 1,549 to 1,693. There was a 15% increase in fully registered Physiotherapists while those under conditional registration decreased by 9% from the previous year. Many of those granted conditional registration before had transited to full registration. The number of Physiotherapists on restricted registration remained stable.

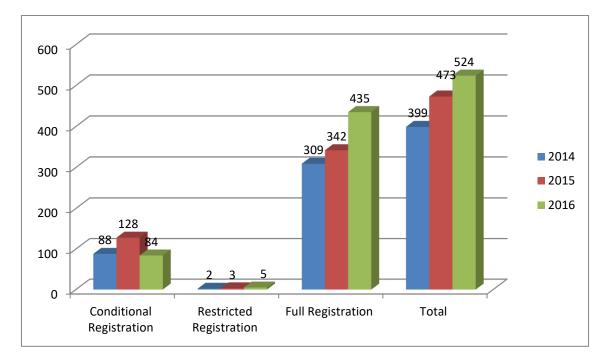




#### III. SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

The total number of Speech-Language Therapists under conditional, restricted and full registration increased from 473 to 524. There was a 27% increase in fully registered Speech-Language Therapists. A number under conditional registration successfully transited to full registration and the number of conditionally registered therapists decreased correspondingly by 34%.

The number of Speech-Language Therapists on restricted registration remained very small. These practitioners were practising within a specialised scope in Singapore before regulation commenced but had submitted their registration applications post-grace period.



#### <u>Chart 3c</u>. Number of SLTs by Registration Type (Years 2014 to 2016)

#### **SECTOR DISTRIBUTION**

Most allied health professionals practise in the public healthcare institutions. In 2016, the private sector employed the second highest number of Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists while voluntary welfare organisations hired the second highest number of Occupational Therapists. Across the years, there had been a gradual increase in the number of registered allied health professionals who have either stopped working or left to practise overseas.

Occupational Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	456 (50.4%)	431 (44.6%)	462 (43.3%)
Community Hospitals	112 (12.4%)	112 (11.6%)	142 (13.3%)
Voluntary Welfare Organisations	180 (19.9%)	206 (21.3%)	219 (20.5%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	128 (14.1%)	134 (13.8%)	147 (13.8%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	12 (1.3%)	17 (1.8%)	15 (1.4%)
Others (Government, Statutory Boards, Government-linked Agencies)	16 (1.8%)	27 (2.8%)	13 (1.2%)
Unemployed/ Not reported/ Working overseas	1 (0.1%)	40 (4.1%)	69 (6.5%)
TOTAL	905 (100%)	967 (100%)	1,067 (100%)
Physiotherapy	2014	2015	2016
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	785 (56.3%)	792 (51.1%)	821 (48.5%)
	785 (56.3%) 117 (8.4%)	792 (51.1%) 135 (8.7%)	821 (48.5%) 169 (10.0%)
(Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)			
(Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics) Community Hospitals	117 (8.4%)	135 (8.7%)	169 (10.0%)
(Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics) Community Hospitals Voluntary Welfare Organisations Private	117 (8.4%) 136 (9.8%)	135 (8.7%) 155 (10.0%)	169 (10.0%) 181 (10.7%)
(Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics) Community Hospitals Voluntary Welfare Organisations Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools Public Sector Educational	117 (8.4%) 136 (9.8%) 293 (21.0%)	135 (8.7%) 155 (10.0%) 339 (21.9%)	169 (10.0%) 181 (10.7%) 369 (21.8%)
(Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics) Community Hospitals Voluntary Welfare Organisations Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools Public Sector Educational Institutions Others (Government, Statutory Boards, Government-linked	117 (8.4%) 136 (9.8%) 293 (21.0%) 19 (1.4%)	135 (8.7%) 155 (10.0%) 339 (21.9%) 18 (1.2%)	169 (10.0%) 181 (10.7%) 369 (21.8%) 18 (1.1%)

Table 4.	Sector	Distribution	by Profession	from	2014 to 2016
	00000	Distribution			202102020

Speech-Language Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	185 (46.3%)	202 (42.7%)	212 (40.5%)
Community Hospitals	21 (5.3%)	14 (3.0%)	15 (2.9%)
Voluntary Welfare Organisations	73 (18.3%)	99 (20.9%)	115 (21.9%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	113 (28.3%)	131 (27.7%)	140 (26.7%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)
Others (Government, Statutory Boards, Government-linked Agencies)	6 (1.5%)	7 (1.5%)	1 (0.2%)
Unemployed/ Not reported/ Working overseas	0 (0.0%)	18 (3.8%)	40 (7.6%)
TOTAL	399 (100%)	473 (100%)	524 (100%)

#### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS**

Of the registered therapists who were working in Singapore, the majority were under full time employment, with an average of 9% of the registered therapists under part-time employment. A small number of professionals did not practise or had decided to practise overseas.

Occupational Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Time	832 (91.9%)	843 (87.2%)	911 (85.4%)
Part Time	72 (8.0%)	84 (8.7%)	87 (8.1%)
Unemployed/ Not reported	1 (0.1%)	40 (4.1%)	66 (6.2%)
Working Overseas	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.3%)
TOTAL	905 (100%)	967 (100%)	1,067 (100%)
Physiotherapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Time	1,273 (91.3%)	1,361 (87.8%)	1,457 (86.1%)
Part Time	119 (8.5%)	122 (7.9%)	124 (7.3%)
Unemployed/ Not reported	2 (0.2%)	59 (3.8%)	94 (5.5 %)
Working Overseas	0 (0.0%)	7 (0.5%)	18 (1.1%)
TOTAL	1,394 (100%)	1,549 (100%)	1,693 (100%)
Speech-Language Therapy	2014	2015	2016
Full Time	347 (87.0%)	396 (83.7%)	421 (80.4%)
Part Time	52 (13.0%)	59 (12.5%)	63 (12.0%)
Unemployed/ Not reported	0 (0.0%)	13 (2.7%)	29 (5.5%)
Working Overseas	0 (0.0%)	5 (1.1%)	11 (2.1%)
TOTAL	399 (100%)	473 (100%)	524 (100%)

Table 5. Employment Status of Registered Therapists as at 31 December 2016

#### **COUNTRY/AREA OF BASIC QUALIFICATION OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS**

#### I. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The majority of registered Occupational Therapists qualified in Singapore. Other major countries in which our registered Occupational Therapists qualified from included Australia, India and Philippines.

Country/Area of Basic	Number of Occupational Therapists			
Qualification	2014	2015	2016	
Singapore	499	541	615	
Australia	101	109	120	
India	76	82	84	
Philippines	72	70	72	
United Kingdom	43	52	57	
Ireland	29	31	30	
Taiwan	23	21	24	
Malaysia	23	23	24	
Hong Kong SAR	12	11	11	
Others	27	27	30	
Total	905	967	1,067	

## <u>Table 6a.</u> Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered OTs (Years 2014 to 2016)

#### II. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Most of our registered Physiotherapists qualified in Singapore. Other major countries in which our registered Physiotherapists qualified from included Australia, India and the United Kingdom.

Country/Area of Basic	Number of Physiotherapists			
Qualification	2014	2015	2016	
Singapore	605	702	772	
Australia	190	221	255	
India	158	156	159	
United Kingdom	129	135	136	
Malaysia	71	84	103	
Ireland	55	62	65	
Myanmar	46	47	54	
Taiwan	38	41	43	
Philippines	36	37	38	
New Zealand	21	23	22	
United States of America	15	12	14	
Hong Kong SAR	10	10	12	
Others	20	19	20	
Total	1,394	1,549	1,693	

<u>Table 6b.</u>	Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered PTs
	(Years 2014 to 2016)

#### III. SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Our Speech-Language Therapists mostly qualified in Australia, followed by Singapore and India. The NUS Speech-Language Therapy programme only commenced in 2007.

Country/Area of Basic	Number of Speech-Language Therapists			
Qualification	2014	2015	2016	
Singapore <sup>1</sup>	58	80	82	
Australia	169	209	250	
India	44	52	55	
United Kingdom	40	37	37	
Ireland	29	31	31	
United States of America	16	18	19	
Malaysia	15	15	15	
Philippines	12	11	11	
Others	16	20	24	
Total	399	473	524	

## <u>**Table 6c.**</u> Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered SLTs (Years 2014 to 2016)

<sup>1</sup> The Master of Science (Speech and Language Pathology) programme was established at the National University of Singapore in 2007.

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS**

In 2016, the three therapy professions were mainly young and female, with the majority of registered therapists in the age group 20-29, followed by the 30-39 age group. Singapore citizens and PRs constituted 76% of the three professional groups. **Table 7** shows the demographic profile of registered therapists by gender, age, and nationality.

	Number for Each Profession			
Demographic Profile	ОТ	РТ	SLT	
Gender				
Male	187 (17.5%)	471 (27.8%)	43 (8.2%)	
Female	880 (82.5%)	1,222 (72.2%)	481 (91.8%)	
Age				
20-29	467 (43.8%)	746 (44.1%)	224 (42.8%)	
30-39	425 (39.8%)	617 (36.4%)	203 (38.7%)	
40-49	139 (13.0%)	252 (14.9%)	75 (14.3%)	
50-59	29 (2.7%)	48 (2.8%)	18 (3.4%)	
60 and above	7 (0.7%)	30 (1.8%)	4 (0.8%)	
Nationality				
Singapore Citizen & PR	834 (78.2%)	1,294 (76.4%)	393 (75%)	
Non-Citizen	233 (21.8%)	399 (23.6%)	131 (25%)	
Total Number	1,067	1,693	524	

Charts 3a to 3c provide a graphic illustration of the information in Table 7.

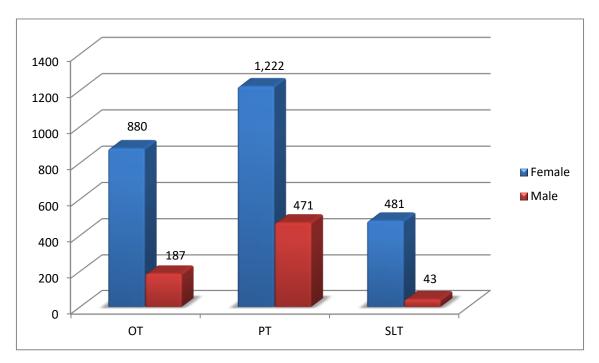
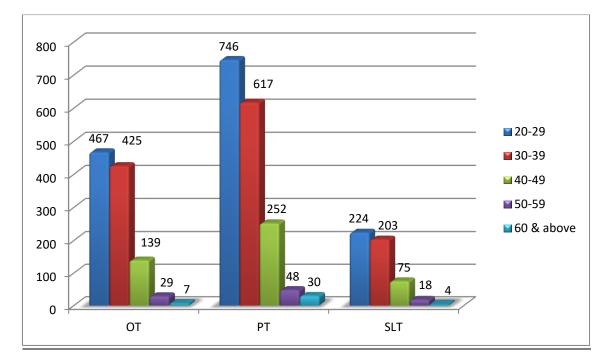


Chart 4a. Total number of registered therapists by gender as at 31 December 2016

Chart 4b. Registered therapists by age group as at 31 December 2016



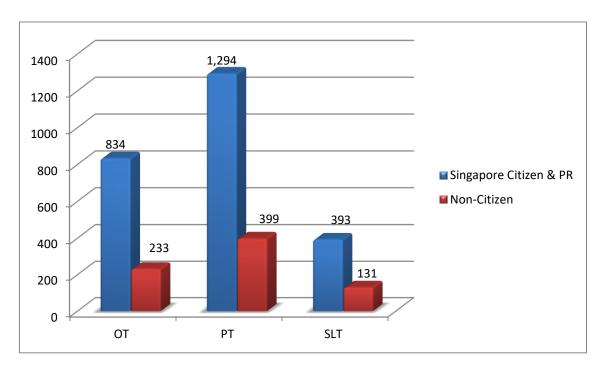


Chart 4c. Registered therapists by nationality as at 31 December 2016

#### PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWAL 2016

A total of 295 registered allied health professionals under full or restricted registration whose practising certificates lapsed on 31 December 2016 were required to renew their practising certificates. 88% of these allied health professionals had submitted their applications to renew their practising certificates before the end of 2016. The majority of registrants who did not submit a renewal application, had either left the country or were pursuing further studies overseas.

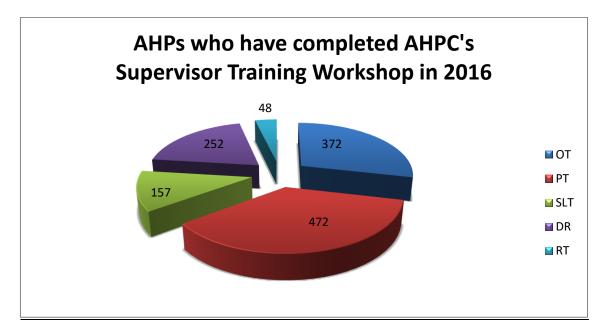
	Number for Each Profession		
	от	РТ	SLT
No. of applications processed	97 (93.3%)	126 (89.4%)	41 (82%)
No. of AHPs who did not renew their PCs by 31 Dec 2016	7 (6.7%)	15 (10.6%)	9 (18%)
Total no. of AHPs who were required to renew their PCs by 31 Dec 2016	104	141	50

#### Table 8. Applications for Renewal of Practising Certificate (Mass Renewal 2016)

#### **SUPERVISOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

A total of 1,301 therapists have been trained in AHPC's supervisor training workshops. These workshops provided supervisors with the necessary skills and knowledge to supervise conditionally registered therapists. In 2016, 145 Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists attended the workshops. In preparation for the mass registration of Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists, AHPC started supervisor training workshops for Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists from March 2015. A total of 11 workshops for these two professions were conducted by 31 December 2016 and 300 Diagnostic Radiographers and Radiation Therapists were trained in 2016.

The majority of attendees gave positive feedback that the workshops helped them better understand their role and responsibilities as a supervisor, and as a result, were more confident in taking on supervisory roles. The workshops also helped attendees better understand the AHPC's supervisory framework and how to complete supervisory reports.



<u>Chart 5.</u> AHPs who have completed Supervisor Training Workshops in 2016

#### COMPLAINTS

The Council received six complaints against therapists since the inception of AHPC. Four complaints were closed, including one against a Physiotherapist, two against Occupational Therapists and one against a Speech-Language Therapist. Only two complaints were received in 2016 against a total of four allied health professionals. Both complaints were still under investigation on 31 Dec 2016.

One complaint which was received in August 2014 was closed in March 2016. This was from a member of the public who complained that a Speech-Language Therapist lacked professionalism in the treatment of her child. Upon careful review of the facts of the case, the complaints committee decided that there was likely a breakdown in communication and issued a letter of advice.

Complaints Received	2013	2014	2015	2016
Occupational Therapists	1	1	0	0
Physiotherapists	0	1	0	0
Speech-Language Therapists	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	1	3	0	2

#### Table 9. Complaints received by AHPC from 2013 to 2016



Allied Health Professions Council Ministry of Health College of Medicine Building Singapore 169854 Tel: (+65) 6355 2395 Email: <u>Enquiries@Ahpc.gov.sg</u> WWW.AHPC.GOV.Sg