



REPORT ON
MASS REGISTRATION OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS
2013/2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2013 was a significant year for the Allied Health Professions in Singapore as it was the year in which the Allied Health Professions Act was enacted after an intensive period of preparation with colleagues in the allied health professions. With the enactment of the Act, the 11-member Allied Health Professions Council was appointed on 8 April 2013.

The Act's mandate is to protect the interest of the public and allied health professionals through the regulation of professional standards and conduct of allied health professionals. The first phase of implementation of the Allied Health Professions Act began on 15 April 2013 with three professions i.e. the registration of occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech-language therapists who were practising in Singapore. The transition into registration for all three groups was spread over a period of one calendar year and was completed in early 2014 with 2484 occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech-language therapists registered by 17 April 2014.

With registration, a supervision framework was introduced to ensure that allied health professionals with little or no prior practice experience in Singapore were properly assessed and mentored as they start their practice and that they familiarise themselves with the local health and social care systems and practices in Singapore. The Council organised 17 Supervisors Training Workshops during the transitional year to help the appointed supervisors understand the requirements of the Supervised Practice Guidelines, including their roles and responsibilities and to equip them with the skills and knowledge in the supervision of the conditionally registered therapists.

The Code of Professional Conduct and Competency Guidelines on Dysphagia and Feeding were also developed by AHPC to set the standard of conduct and behaviour of registered Allied Health professionals.

To develop the allied health professions, the Council will add other allied health professional groups listed under the Act for regulation, and will be planning for continuing professional education to be introduced in the near future.

I would like very much to thank and appreciate the work of Council members and the kind colleagues who served on the various committees of AHPC with commitment and enthusiasm. They have given much time to the strengthening and development of their professions. This altruism and public spirit is truly encouraging. I would like to wish the Allied Health community successful years ahead always.

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 (AHP) Act commenced on 15 April 2013 with the mass registration of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists.

The Council maintains the Registers of Allied Health Professionals and investigates into any complaints against a registered allied health professions for professional misconduct. Registrants found guilty of professional misconduct may be reprimanded, suspended or removed from the Register.

The Council also renews practising certificates and issues certificates of good standing. The Council specifies pre-registration requisites, approves pre-registration training centres and directs continuing education.

This Annual Report documents the activities and registration statistics as at 17 April 2014, to take into account the administrative processing of registration applications for the 1-year transitional period.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL MEMBERS

President (Representative for Director, Medical Service)	Dr Lau Hong Choon
Registrar	Ms Elaine Teo
Representative for Director-General of Education	Ms Phyllis Chua Suan Gek
Member	Mr Abdul Rashid Jailani
Member	A/Prof Alan Wong Wai Pong
Member	Ms Florence Cheong
Member	Mr Gary Tan Theng Tiak
Member	Ms Jacqueline Phang Win Ling (From 1 August 2014)
Member	Mr Lim Hua Beng
Member	Ms Melissa Chua Hui Ling
Member	Ms Susan Niam
Member	Ms Helen Chandler-Yeo (From 8 April 2013 to 13 May 2014)

REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS & SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

The registration of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech-Language Therapists commenced on 15 April 2013 with a 1-year transitional grace period till 14 April 2014 for all therapists to apply for registration. During the transitional grace period, therapists who were already practising in Singapore as at the commencement date could continue to practice while pending for their registration applications to be processed and approved. However, therapists who had no prior practice experience in Singapore and those who were not practising in Singapore at that time had to apply for registration with the Council first before they could start practising.

The registration categories for the Allied Health Professions Council are similar to other healthcare professional boards in Singapore in that the therapists could be registered with full, conditional or temporary registration. Restricted registration was introduced mainly to grandfather existing foreign therapists whose qualifications were not found on the Council's List of Recognised Qualifications to continue practising in their existing roles without the need for supervision under Conditional Registration.

For the registration exercise, there were several applicants who were not able to meet the registration requirements at the end of the transitional grace period because of documentation issues. These documents include Certificate of Good Standing from foreign regulatory bodies or Letters of Verification for their qualifications from Educational Institutions. In order to enable such therapists to continue practising after the end of the transitional period and to give them more time to comply with the requirements, a temporary registration period of 6 months was granted by the Council for these applicants to enable arrangements for the submission of these documents.

At the end of the transitional grace period, the Council had registered 2484 therapists consisting of 831 Occupational Therapists (OT), 1295 Physiotherapists (PT) and 358 Speech-Language Therapists (SLT).

APPENDICES:

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Physiotherapists make up the majority of registered allied health professionals, followed by occupational therapists and speech-language therapists.

Chart 1. Total number of registered therapists as at 17 April 2014



REGISTRATION TYPE

Close to 78% of the registered occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech-language therapists obtained full registration during the mass registration period; with 18.5% granted conditional registration. Those granted Conditional registration either had less than one year or no prior professional practice experience in Singapore at the time that registration started. About 2% of therapists were granted restricted registration in view of their work experience in Singapore within their restricted scope of practice. Temporary registration was also granted to some applicants. These included visiting experts and those who were given more time to fulfil documentation requirements for registration.

Table 1. Number and Types of Registrants by Profession as at 17 April 2014

Types of Registration	OT	PT	SLT	TOTAL
Full Registration	672	975	287	1934
Restricted Registration	3	55	2	60
Conditional Registration	152	247	62	461
Temporary Registration	4	18	7	29
TOTAL	831	1295	358	2484

SECTOR DISTRIBUTION

The public healthcare sector employs the bulk of allied health professionals. Voluntary welfare organisations employ the second highest number of occupational therapists while the private sector hires the second highest number of physiotherapists and speech-language therapists.

Table 2. Sector Distribution by Profession as at 17 April 2014

Sectors of Employment	Sector Distribution		
	OT	PT	SLT
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	423	739	173
Community Hospitals	102	106	19
VWOs Services	167	124	64
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	115	270	96
Educational Institutions	12	18	1
Others (Government, Statutory Boards, Government-linked Agencies)	11	36	5
Unemployed	1	2	0

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS

Majority of registered therapists are under full time employment, with approximately 10% of registered therapists of each profession under part-time employment.

Table 3. Employment Status of Registered Therapists as at 17 April 2014

Activities	OT	PT	SLT	Total
Full Time	763	1186	317	2266
Part Time	66	102	41	209
Unemployed	1	2	0	3
Total	830	1290	358	2478¹

¹ The figure excludes temporary registered visiting experts.

COUNTRY/AREA OF BASIC QUALIFICATION OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS

I. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Majority of the registered occupational therapists were qualified from Singapore. Other major countries where our registered occupational therapists were qualified from include Australia, India and Philippines.

Table 4a. Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered Occupational Therapists as at 17 April 2014

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of OT
Singapore	466
Australia	83
India	74
Philippines	68
United Kingdom	39
Malaysia	22
Ireland	21
Taiwan	19
Hong Kong	11
Others	28
Total	831

II. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Most of our registered physiotherapists were qualified from in Singapore. Other major countries where our registered physiotherapists were qualified from include Australia, India and the United Kingdom.

Table 4b. Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered Physiotherapists as at 17 April 2014

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of PT
Singapore	573
Australia	185
India	151
United Kingdom	118
Malaysia	65
Ireland	41
Myanmar	41
Taiwan	33
Philippines	29
New Zealand	19
United States of America	13
Others	27
Total	1295

III. SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Majority of our speech-language therapists were qualified from in Australia, followed by Singapore and India.

Table 4c. Country/Area of Basic Qualification for Registered Speech-Language Therapists as at 17 April 2014

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of SLT
Singapore ¹	55
Australia	153
India	39
United Kingdom	35
Ireland	23
Malaysia	15
United States of America	14
Philippines	11
Others	13
Total	358

¹ The Masters in Speech and Language Pathology was established at the National University of Singapore only in 2007.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REGISTERED THERAPISTS

The therapy professions are female dominated, with the majority of all registered therapists falling within the age group of 20-29, followed by those in the 30-39 age group. **Table 5** shows the demographic profile of registered therapists, namely gender, age, and nationality.

Table 5. General Profile of Registered Therapists as at 17 April 2014

Demographic Profile	Number for Each Profession		
	OT	PT	SLT
Gender			
Male	161	353	27
Female	670	942	331
Age			
20-29	426	606	169
30-39	298	474	133
40-49	88	156	42
50-59	15	38	12
60 and above	4	21	2
Nationality			
Singapore Citizen & PR	625	972	259
Non-Citizen	206	323	99
Total Number	831	1295	358

Charts 2a to 2c provide a breakdown of the information detailed in **Table 5**.

Chart 2a. Total number of registered therapists by gender as at 17 April 2014

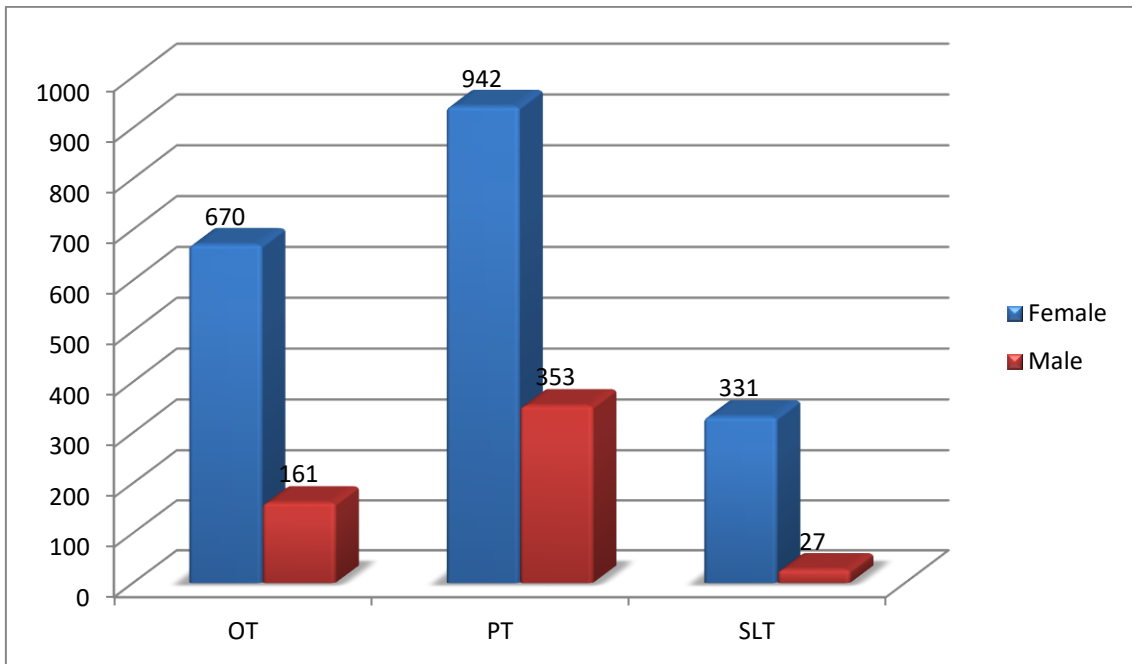


Chart 2b. Registered therapists by age group as at 17 April 2014

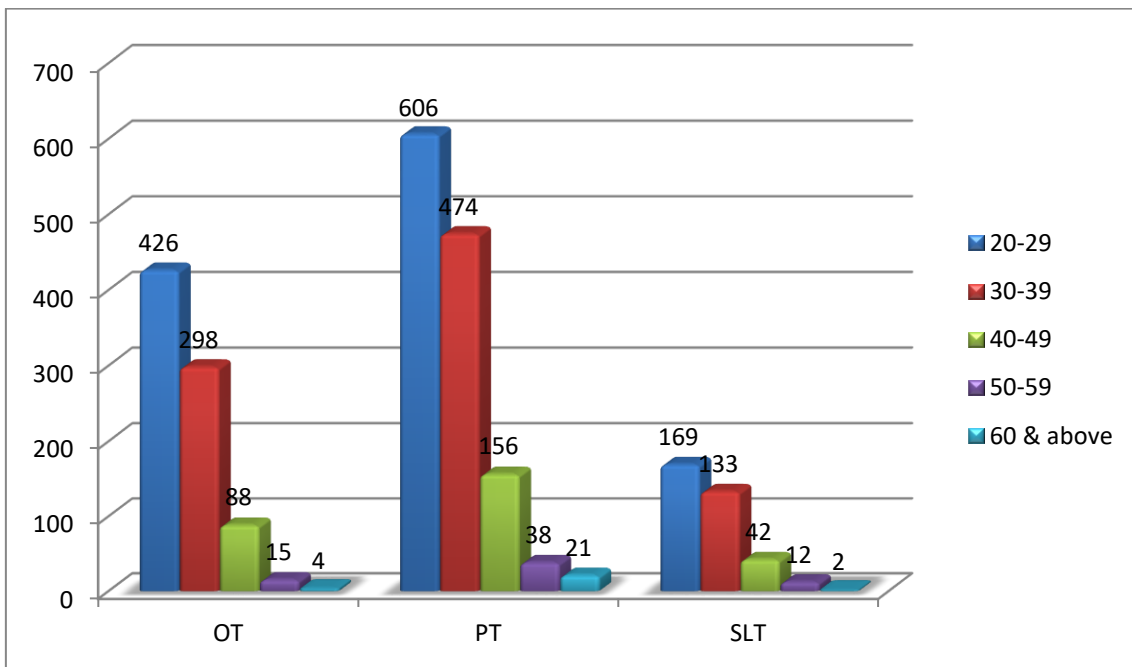
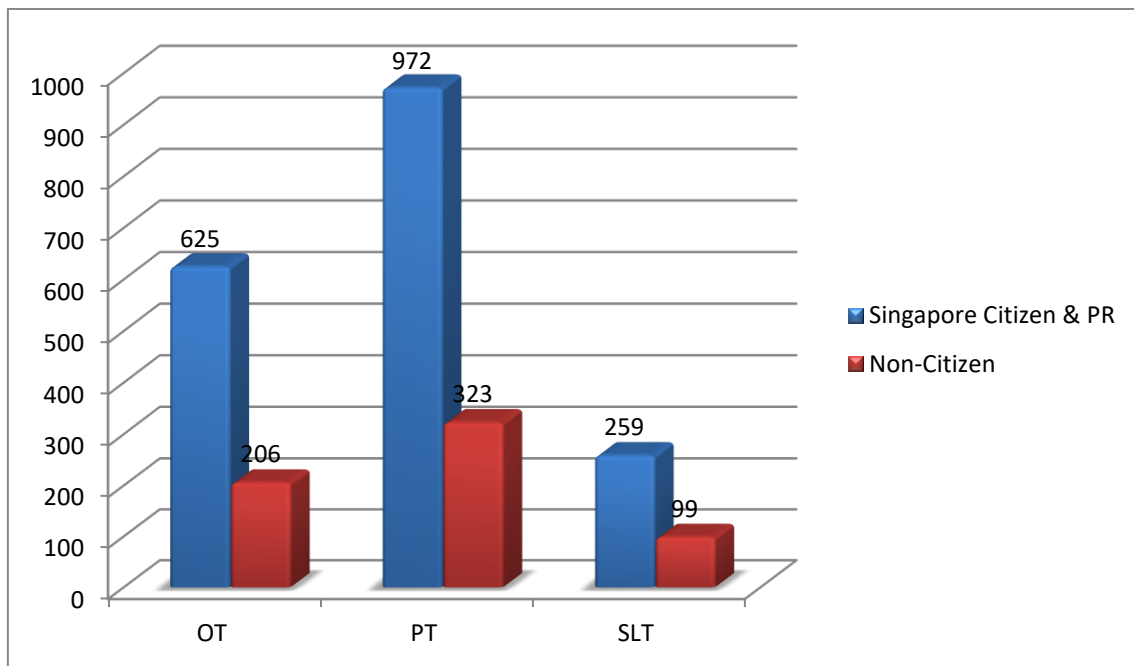


Chart 2c. Registered therapists by nationality as at 17 April 2014





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