

Coaching as a core competency for occupational therapy practice: gathering the evidence and trialling the process. Observations from an International Coach OT Special Interest Group

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Since 2006 an international SIG has met monthly via teleconference. The exchange of experience and ideas, and sharing of resources has been significant in forming new curriculum for trial, (Wendy Pentland, WFOT 2010) and interpreting what is becoming 'next practice' in this emerging role for OT. With reference both to OTs electing a coach approach as their sole modality or as a competency within 'traditional' clinical practice, (such as that implemented by the Hong Kong Health Authority), and also to those who have a mixed practice with distinct OT and coach roles, this paper shares a summary of our observations.

Friedland describes 'enabling occupation' from an historical perspective: 'As in war time, when the spirit can so readily be broken, much of our work today requires us to help mend broken spirits. It is here that we use our interpersonal skills to understand our client's view of the world, and to enter into an alliance with them: it is here that we draw upon our sense of compassion.' (in Townsend E. a. and Polatakjo, H. CAOT, 2007 p286)

Our objective is to challenge thinking around the possible implications of our observations for OT education and practice as the world moves through significant changes, and as education seeks to prepare OTs in the 21st century to be experts in adaptation in a way that is more urgently necessary than ever in our professional history.