**Australian Therapeutic Harpist Association**

**Information sheet for Continuing Professional Development[[1]](#footnote-1) for members**

**Why Have a Requirement for Continuing Professional Development?**

Working as a professional therapeutic harpist makes certain demands on the therapeutic harpist – firstly that she or he is trained to a defined standard to earn the right to be called a professional, that is someone is who is an expert or specialist in their work. Second that she or he is able to respond to the challenging situations that can present to the therapeutic harpist working in a range of contexts. These two factors mean that ongoing professional development ensures both the physical and emotional wellbeing of the therapeutic harpist, and that she or he is continuing to keep up with new advancements in practice, is being attuned to new knowledge in the field and continually improving skills sets and effectiveness.

**What are the requirements?**

30 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) are required to be completed every three years.

15 CPDUs per 3 year period must be earned by attending **group activities**. The remaining 15 CPDUs per 3-year period may be earned in **individual activities**, such as book reviews and music lessons.

**What activity counts as a CPDU?**

We recommend getting CPDU’s from a variety of sources, including individual and group activities. Activities can be selected from a wide range (see below) as long as you can demonstrate how the workshop, activity etc is beneficial to your continued development as a therapeutic harpist. The critical question to answer is this: How does it apply to therapeutic harp practice and enhance my skills as a therapeutic harpist? For example, those therapeutic harpists working in the aged care sector or with the dying, may choose to do some professional development which increases their knowledge of the how people age or palliative studies.

 A CPDU is based on “seat hours,” as defined/assigned by the entity providing the workshop or conference, or for non-conference type activities, see list below.

***Group Activities:***

1. 1 CPDU per 1 hour of seat time at an in-service, workshop, training, conference or ATHA networking meeting. Face to face is the preferred medium, but real time webinars or networking meetings are also acceptable (watching a recorded lecture counts as individual activity).
2. Undertaking a training program or degree related to therapeutic harp work: 1 CPDU for every hour of training, up to a maximum of 20 CPDU’s in the 2 year period in which the training was completed.

***Individual activities:***

1. Reading books or journal articles related to harp therapy, resonance, healthcare, bedside music skills, music theory, relevant medical research, alternative modalities in healthcare, and other subjects related to the work of a therapeutic harpist. etc: 1 CPDU per 100 pages or per journal article.
2. Therapeutic music-related music lessons: 1 CPDU per hour of lesson
3. Listening or watching relevant online training and lectures: 1 CPDU per hour of lecture.
4. Repertoire enhancement: 1 CPDU per 5 new songs learnt and memorised: to be recorded and recording submitted when requested for audit
5. Presentations to public etc: 5 CPDUs for preparation plus 1 CPDU each time presentation is delivered.
6. Receiving mentoring or professional supervision of therapeutic harp work: 1 CPDU per hour.
7. Contributing to development of therapeutic harp profession through membership of professional association committees: I CPDU per hour.

**Documenting your Continuing Professional Development**

You are required to keep a log of your Continuing Professional Development activities (see **Continuing Professional Development log** form) which states the date, type of activity, provider of the activity and hours completed, along with any certificates of attendance. In addition, you need to describe how the professional development activity enhances or contributes to your maintenance or development as a therapeutic harpist through completing the relevant forms for each activity:

* CPDU Book Report Form
* CPDU Music Lesson Verification Form
* CPDU trainings and workshops.

You should ensure that each 3 year period you complete the required number of CPDU’s. You will be asked to sign a statement on your annual renewal that you completed the required number of CPDU’s in the previous 3 years.

You will only asked to submit your documentation re completion of CPDU’s from time to time, when you are personally audited. The ATHA committee will select a percentage of members to be CPD audited each year.

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1. Some professional and accrediting associations use the term “Continuing Education” and “Continuing Education Units”. The ATHA interim Standards Group have agreed to use the term “Continuing Professional Development” and “Continuing Professional Development Units” as more relevant to the Australian context and expressing the breadth of experiences that can enhance the work of the therapeutic harpist. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)