



News from the President: 13 July 2021

To ALL OTASA Members,

It is with great concern that we find ourselves in a situation of increasing levels of violence in the country, which together with the Adjusted level Disaster management regulations, are both causing great distress to us as a community and those we serve.

These events are raising the levels of anxiety about personal safety, as well as that of family and friends, with many having been personally affected. The increasing numbers of deaths, unfolding devastation of livelihoods, businesses and infrastructure is unfathomable. The current high COVID-19 infection rate in many parts of the country and the possibility that the mass gatherings of those involved in this destruction may act as super-spreader events, are additional concerns for us as health workers and individuals. No person will remain untouched.

In many areas the violence is close at hand, with the threat to food and medical security an increasing reality.

All health services are being disrupted and for Occupational Therapists who work on the front line, we are aware that you are at risk and must acknowledge the extremely difficult past 18 months.

We wish to express our support and solidarity to all members and especially to those who have experienced trauma and loss.



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On the eve of our congress, the current situation provides us with a clear context for the words of our President:

"Let me repeat - we are building up, not shutting down" and this then is what will continue to be expressed throughout the duration of the Congress, as stated in the theme: Resilience Through Adversity.

Please take care, please be safe, we are here for all of you.

If there is something that we can do to assist in any way, please contact us.

Kind regards,

Prof Pat de Witt and the OTASA National Exco



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