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VIDEO CLIP

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Hello Everyone,

World Federation of Music Therapy provides an opportunity to promote innovative professional exchanges. It's a chance to learn and celebrate throughout the world, the consonance and dissonance of our values, understandings and practices in music therapy.

My name is Anja Tait I'm a Registered Music Therapist, music educator, and researcher, and Regional Liaison for Australia and New Zealand.

The professional associations for music therapy in Australia and New Zealand were both constituted in the 1970's, after long periods of advocacy by clinicians across disciplines and enlightened administrators across sectors. Both organisations produce a peer-reviewed journal and have annual conferences and seminars to support continuing professional development requirements.

There are now more than 250 Registered Music therapists in Australia, and in NZ over 50.

In NZ music therapy graduate studies are offered at the NZ School of Music, a partnership between Massey University and Victoria University in Wellington.

In Australia there are four universities offering graduate studies in music therapy. Flexible distance learning is a long-awaited development for music therapy in the region, A Masters by coursework is now offered by the University of Melbourne comprising online study, weekend intensives, and supervised clinical practice in students' home states. Geographical distance has previously limited the capacity for people outside the major cities to access music therapy training.

In conjunction with The Music and Imagery Association of Australia, the University of Melbourne also offers Advanced level training for Registered Music Therapists in the **Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music**

All over the world, federal, state and local government regulations influence access to music therapy,

as well as the philosophical standpoints that underpin clinical practices. This is no different in our region. New policies and priorities continually emerge for education, health, disability, community development, and the arts. Whilst some causes are more attractive to politicians than others, many communities are grasping for solutions to chronic social, economic and health issues. There are opportunities for music therapy practice and research in Australia and NZ to become increasingly visible in this capricious political climate.

Many music therapists in our region work part-time or sessional, although there are increasing numbers of full-time employment opportunities. These positions may be funded substantively, but often rely on short-term funding from government bodies and philanthropy. There is increasing support from the corporate sector, with a heightened awareness in big business of the value of making visible social investments.

The publications record of Australian and NZ music therapists in the international literature hints at the diversity of practice and research in the region

- clinical practice in education, health and community
- education and training evaluations and innovations
- quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research designs
- theory building
- and policy development

This diversity in research and practice mirrors the diversity of our populations. In particular the complex mix of cultures that make up Australia and NZ, where most of us, or our forebears, are immigrants to these ancient lands with Indigenous histories.