

0244

### **Disability policy as a framework for occupational justice**

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**Introduction:** Occupational therapists usually operate within the health sector, and often have little contact with other areas of policy that affect the lives of people with disabilities (such as employment, housing, transportation or citizenship). In order to ensure a holistic approach, it is essential for occupational therapists to have at least a basic understanding of the policy environment and how it shapes access, equity and support issues for their clients.

**Objectives:** The objective of this presentation is to explore a framework for policy analysis (developed by the authors) that would be relevant to occupational therapists working with people with disabilities.

**Description/Report:** The policy framework is based on 7 questions about disability issues and entitlements, and how these are expressed in policy within a particular jurisdiction. The responses to these 7 questions shed light on how disabled people are viewed, their relationship to the larger society, the collective responsibility of that society and the opportunities available to them.

**Results/Discussion:** An example will be offered from the Canadian policy context.

**Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy:** The presentation will assist occupational therapists to understand some of the difficult questions and ideological tensions that shape how disability policy is framed, and to better advocate for their clients towards occupational justice.