

INSIDEmyJOB-Insider Information for Early Career Occupational Therapists: Building and sharing the insider perspective on our community of practice for new graduates in Australia

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Introduction

INSIDEmyJOB-Insider Information for Early Career Occupational Therapists is an innovative, information resource book developed to meet needs specific to new graduates in Victoria, Australia. The book was distributed to all Victoria's final year occupational therapy students in 2008.

Objectives

This poster presents a content summary of INSIDEmyJOB. The 270 page resource book is targeted and designed to appeal to the majority readership (being young woman). This poster will not only communicate the content but also the visually dynamic and user friendly appeal of this book.

Description

The content is based on a critical analysis of the pertinent literature and research with completing students, early career occupational therapists and managers. The book presents key information, expert advice and personal experiences relating to the many factors at play in the broader context of practice. The design and presentation of the content was conceptualised based on theoretical work involving learning styles, communities of practice, as well as strategies recognised to promote critical thinking. Chapter titles include Inside the Occupational Therapy Profession, Inside Teams, and Inside Organisations. Each chapter includes seven common, complementary sections which build the insider perspective on the specific chapter content through quotes from the literature and from semi-structured interviews, as well as selections of critical questions, case studies, and follow-up resources. One of these chapter sections presents special features from the perspective of key people within the occupational therapy profession representing a range of backgrounds, experiences, specialty fields, geographical locations, as well as levels of seniority.

Discussion

INSIDEmyJOB focuses on the broader context of practice where the major causes of job dissatisfaction for early career occupational therapists are located. The content is insider information that is most readily available to people already within the community of practice that may not be readily identifiable or accessible to an individual who is new to the community of practice.

Conclusion

INSIDEmyJob aims to inform, initiate and reassure early career occupational therapists as they encounter the excitement and challenge of their new professional environment.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy

This poster describes an example of an innovative resource addressing the specific information useful during the transition to practice.