

### Attachment 1: Current Australian Government Approaches to Myotherapy

MA is in contact with all Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Ministers and Departments and Small Business Ministers and Offices to clarify whether myotherapists are currently permitted to practice face-to-face. To assist our members navigate the current environment, this document summarises MA's understanding of the current Australian government approaches to face-to-face myotherapy.

Jurisdiction	Approach	Comments	Myotherapy Allowed?
Australian Capital Territory	Spa and massage parlours are <a href="#">prohibited</a> , excluding health related services such as physiotherapy.  The Notifiable Instrument <a href="#">prohibits</a> a spa or massage parlour but not: i. massage services provided by or for allied health services , such as remedial, sports, and lymphatic massage.  Further to the updates, and <a href="#">following</a> from our advocacy efforts, the released the following on the 24 <sup>th</sup> April, specific to massage services.	"It is important that those relying on remedial massage therapy to maintain their health, continue to have access to these services during this public health emergency."	
Commonwealth	Beauty and personal care service spas and massage parlours are <a href="#">prohibited</a> .  26/3/20 Principal Medical Advisor meeting with allied health professions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>government encourages healthcare workers to continue working, to help ease the pressure on our hospital system; and</li> <li>where you don't need a face-to-face consultation, government encourages audiovisual consultations</li> </ul> We received this <a href="#">letter</a> after that discussion.  30/3/20 advice from Federal Government: physiotherapists and allied health practitioners – like remedial massage - remain an essential service and can remain open.		
New South Wales	Business premises that are spas, nail salons, beauty salons, waxing salons, tanning salons, tattoo parlours or massage parlours are <a href="#">prohibited</a> as "places of social gathering".  See <a href="#">here</a> for examples of what you can and can't do in NSW – remedial or therapeutic massage service.  This <a href="#">email</a> , dated 14 April 2020, states:		

	<p>“Massage parlours have been directed to close under the Order, however no such order has been made in relation to massage therapy clinics. Services that are being provided under the headings of ‘remedial massage’ or ‘myotherapy’ are not prevented by the Ministerial Direction and the premises on which those services are provided are not ordered closed by the Ministerial Direction.”</p>		
Northern Territory	<p>The <a href="#">following</a> is closed to the public (CHO Directions 20):</p> <p>“4(j) subject to direction 6(b) - a place that provides yoga, Pilates, barre, massage or other wellness services”</p> <p>The following activities and services are exempt from direction 5:</p> <p>6(b) massage services that are provided as allied health services.</p> <p>Examples for direction 6(b) Remedial massage, sports massage, lymphatic massage.</p>	<p>“11 To avoid doubt, these Directions do not prohibit any service or activity provided or conducted electronically or online.”</p>	
Queensland	<p>Beauty and personal care service spas and massage parlours are <a href="#">prohibited</a>, except:...</p> <p>Massage therapy for the management or prevention of a disease, injury or condition, provided by a <b>qualified massage therapist</b>, with social distancing observed to the extent possible. <b>Qualified massage therapist</b> means a massage therapist who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>holds a relevant qualification (minimum AQF level 5 (Diploma)) under the Australian Qualifications Framework;</li> </ol> <p><i>Example – Diploma of Remedial Massage or Bachelor of Health Science (Myotherapy)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is a member of a professional organisation within the meaning of section 10 of the <i>Private Health Insurance (Accreditation) Rules 2011</i> (Cwlth); and</li> <li>holds approved provider status with one or more private health funds.</li> </ol> <p>We received the <a href="#">following emails</a> and calls on Wednesday, 22 April, 2020 in response to our requests for clarification.</p>	<p>In a victory for common-sense, the Queensland government responded to our member advocacy permitting myotherapists to continue practicing.</p>	
South Australia	<p>Saunas, bathhouses, wellness centres, spas and massage parlours are <a href="#">prohibited</a>.</p> <p>Massage parlours are closed with the <a href="#">exception</a> of medically necessary treatment.</p> <p>Remedial massage is medical treatment and <a href="#">permitted</a> (around 7 minutes).</p>	<p>In a victory for common-sense, the South Australian government responded to our</p>	

		<p>member advocacy, clarifying their directive.</p> <p>“Massage parlours are closed. However, remedial or therapeutic massage and myotherapy services provided in a clinical or health care setting may continue.”</p>	
Tasmania	<p>Spas and massage parlours <a href="#">must</a> be closed.</p> <p>This <a href="#">email</a> states that health care services, including myotherapy, may continue to provide such services from a medical or health services facility <i>and not from premises such as gymnasiums, health clubs, fitness centres, wellness centres and other similar premises or venues.</i></p> <p>The Tasmanian government <a href="#">directions</a> (Gatherings No. 7) prohibit:</p> <p>“12. All spas and massage parlours and other similar premises.</p> <p>13. All indoor and outdoor swimming pools, gymnasiums, health clubs, fitness centres, wellness centres (including yoga and barre premises), indoor venues used for sport or fitness, saunas, bath houses and other similar premises or venues, other than such part of the premises or venue used to provide physical rehabilitation services if –</p> <p>(a) the rehabilitation services are provided by, or under the direction of –</p> <p>(i) a registered health practitioner within the meaning of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania); or</p> <p>(ii) a person who holds accreditation, as an accredited exercise physiologist, with Exercise and Sports Science Australia Ltd (ABN 14 053 849 460); and</p> <p>(b) each person in that part of the premises complies with the requirements of paragraphs (g) and (h).”</p>	<p>In a victory for common-sense, the Tasmanian government responded to our member advocacy permitting myotherapists to continue practicing in a medical or health services facility.</p>	
Victoria	<p>Website <a href="#">advice</a>, dated 2/4/20:</p> <p>“Which beauty and personal care businesses are currently prohibited?”</p>	<p>In a victory for common-sense, after discussions with the Myotherapy Association of</p>	

	<p>All care services where there is close contact for a prolonged period between the client and the therapist, including:...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spas and massage parlours providing relaxation massages as distinct from therapeutic or remedial massage.</li> </ul> <p>Email <a href="#">advice</a>, dated 3/4/20:</p> <p>“Myotherapy Practices may continue to operate, as long as they comply with current social distancing guidance. However, the department is regularly reviewing the legal Directions under the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)</i> and this advice may change.”</p>	Australia, the Victorian government removed it’s ban (issued 31/3/20) on myotherapy and remedial massage.	
Western Australia	<p>Beauty therapy services, including but not limited to tanning, waxing, massages, nail services, tattooing and piercing are <a href="#">prohibited</a>.</p> <p>The WA police <a href="#">stated</a> on 11 April: “In Western Australia, massages that are provided through professional services like physiotherapists, remedial massage therapists and myotherapists are not currently prohibited by the Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions...”</p>	“There are no restrictions on the provision of remedial massage therapy, as long as such treatment is not provided from an "affected place" e.g. a massage parlour or a gym.”	