

Whakawhiti Matauranga o te Ao International Knowledge Exchange Échange International de Connaissances 国際知識交流



Join us for weekly presentations about
Therapeutic Recreation on a Global Scale

February 2026
Free Virtual Event

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL: DSE@DIVERSIONALTHERAPY.NET.NZ

International Knowledge Exchange Summary

Recreation is a human right! Play is a powerful thing. For people dealing with physical, social, spiritual, cultural, cognitive or emotional challenges, therapy in the form of recreation can be especially powerful. Engaging and meaningful activities can help rebuild skills, improve mood, boost quality of life, and strengthen social connections. Recreation enhances overall well-being, benefits people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and different abilities.

Leaders of the main organisations in Japan, Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, driving change in the culture of care and support using Recreational Therapy, Diversional Therapy or Activity provision, are coming together for one more year to share a journey of knowledge, and to continue to raise awareness about the importance of Social Connection through the work we do.

Join us in February 2026 for weekly 1 Hr presentations and learn about therapeutic recreation across different countries.

Important Notes:

- Sessions will be recorded
- Recording and slides will be shared on a later day by each organisation
- Format for all the presentations will be Zoom Webinar
- Format for the global panel will be a Zoom Meeting
- Spaces are limited to 500 participants on each day
- A Generic Certificate of attendance will be available for those attending the Live Sessions

For more information, please email dse@diversionaltherapy.net.nz

Organisation	Host & Presenter Day & Time in the Host country	Day & Time (Other Countries)	Link to Register
New Zealand Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists Inc. (NZSDRT Inc.) 	Host: Orquidea Tamayo Mortera Presenter: Nika Manuera Monday, 2 nd February 8:00 AM New Zealand Time	USA Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 1:00 p.m. CST Canada Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. EST USA Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. EST UK Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 7:00 p.m. GMT Japan Mon, 2 Feb 2026 at 4:00 a.m. JST Australia Mon, 2 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. AEDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_42PMSuhXSoK_dJVqWFraQA#/registration
American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) 	Host: Brent Wolfe Presenter: Susan Purrington Thursday 5 th February 4:00 PM EST Time	USA Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. CST Canada Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST UK Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 9:00 p.m. GMT Japan Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. JST Australia Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 8:00 a.m. AEDT NZ Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1H-fStCzSqql0xRLRS_Dug#/registration
National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) 	Host: Colleen Knudson Presenter: Kayla Olson Monday 9 th February 5:00 PM CST Time	Canada Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST USA Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST UK Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 11:00 p.m. GMT Japan Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 8:00 a.m. JST Australia Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. AEDT NZ Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 12:00 Noon NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6O6Jh4ndRM-svRJNZNx-Q#/registration
National Activity Providers Association (NAPA) 	Host: Hillary Woodhead Presenters: Kieun Kwon Wednesday 11 th February 8:00 PM GMT Time	USA Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST Canada Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST USA Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST Japan Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 5:00 a.m. JST Australia Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 7:00 a.m. AEDT NZ Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 9:00 a.m. NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kf-fVqnhR-OFx3WIsCN5EA#/registration

Organisation	Host & Presenter Day & Time in the Host country	Day & Time (Other Countries)	Link to Register
Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) 	Host: Heather Baker Presenter: Alexander Riley & Elizabeth Cleary Thursday 19 th February 3:00 PM EST Time	USA Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST USA Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST UK Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 8:00 p.m. GMT Japan Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 5:00 a.m. JST Australia Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 7:00 a.m. AEDT NZ Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 9:00 a.m. NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A-f-ideQgKHnPO9z_FzPg#/registration
Diversional Therapy Association of Japan (DTAJ) 	Host: Takako Serizawa Presenter: Mariko Kato Friday 27 th February 08:00 AM JST Time	USA Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST Canada Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST USA Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST UK Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 11:00 p.m. GMT Australia Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. AEDT NZ Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 12:00 Noon NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MxewaL6HRQKCHtIQpeZ1ww#/
Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) 	Host: Charlise Bennett Presenter: Jody Asquith & Michelle Hill Saturday 28 th February 8:00 AM AEDT Time	USA Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. CST Canada Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST USA Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST UK Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 9:00 p.m. GMT Japan Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. JST NZ Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QWMrzDY3TZ6nfFkqJSamUQ#/registration
Global Panel 	Global Organisations Representatives Saturday 29 th February & Sunday 1 st March	USA Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CST Canada Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST USA Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST United Kingdom Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 10:00 p.m. GMT Japan Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 7:00 a.m. JST Australia Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 9:00 a.m. AEDT New Zealand Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 11:00 a.m. NZDT	Registration Link is: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oJmhiXEjQzCo2ocXeZP4jA

New Zealand Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapy Inc. (NZSDRT Inc.)

Monday 2nd February 8:00 AM New Zealand Time Standard Time

Host: Orquidea Tamayo Mortera

Topic: Cultural Safety in Diversional and Recreational Therapy in Aotearoa

Presenter: Nika Manuera

Nika is a Registered Diversional and Recreational Therapist from Te Arawa Iwi. She will deliver an insightful session on Cultural Safety in practice, which will explore the rich cultural history of Aotearoa New Zealand, the lasting impacts of colonisation, and how these elements inform the need for culturally safe practices within Diversional and Recreational Therapy. Gain a deeper understanding of how to create inclusive, respectful environments that honour Māori heritage and promote wellbeing through culturally grounded approaches.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 1:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. EST
USA	Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. EST
UK	Sun, 1 Feb 2026 at 7:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Mon, 2 Feb 2026 at 4:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Mon, 2 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. AEDT

Register in advance for this webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Or copy and paste this link in the browser

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4zPMSuhXSoK_dJVqWFraQA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the webinar.





American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Thursday 5th February 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Host: Brent Wolfe

Topic: AI and the Future of Fun

Presenters: Susan Purrington



In an era where technology is evolving faster than curriculum, Dr Susan Purrington bridges the gap between complex AI ethics and practical, real-world applications. This session explores how generative AI is transforming leisure behaviour, therapeutic recreation, and inclusive learning environments.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST
UK	Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 9:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 8:00 a.m. AEDT
NZ	Fri, 6 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. NZDT

Register in advance for this webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

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https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1H-fStCzSqqIoxRLRS_Dug

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National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) Monday 9th February 5:00 PM Central Standard Time

Host: Colleen Knudson

Topic: Growing Together: Care, Community, and Nature in Action

Presenter: Kayla Olson



Inspired by the Global Wellness Day theme “Reconnect Magenta,” this session explores how an assisted living activity team partnered with a local conservancy to support deeper reconnection—with nature, oneself, loved ones, and the wider community. Through adaptive outdoor experiences, residents of varying abilities were supported to safely re-engage with the natural world, rediscovering sensory joy, confidence, and personal identity. Conservancy staff also brought nature directly into the care setting, creating shared moments of curiosity, learning, and calm that nurtured emotional and social well-being. The presentation highlights how intentional invitations and inclusive programming encouraged resident families and community members to participate in conservancy events alongside residents—strengthening relationships, reducing isolation, and expanding care beyond the walls of the facility. Attendees will gain practical, replicable ideas for using nature-based partnerships to support holistic wellness and meaningful reconnection, aligned with the spirit of Reconnect Magenta—where care, community, and nature come together.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

Canada	Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST
USA	Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST
UK	Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 11:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 8:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. AEDT
NZ	Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 12:00 Noon NZDT

Register in advance for this webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Or copy and paste this link into the browser

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6O6Jh4ndRM--svRJNZNx-Q

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National Activity Providers Association (NAPA)

Wednesday 11th February 8:00 PM Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Host: Hillary Woodhead

Topic: Creative Engagement: The Art of Meaningful Wellbeing in Dementia Care

Presenter: Kieun Kwon

Drawing on over two decades of experience in dementia and wellbeing, this presentation explores how creativity and continuity of meaningful engagement can transform the quality of life for people living with dementia. Through practical examples from Runwood Homes' award-winning wellbeing programmes, Kieun demonstrates how art, sensory experiences, and community connection can foster identity, purpose, and joy in care settings. Attendees will gain insights into integrating creative approaches into everyday practice, supporting both residents, care teams and families in delivering person-centred care that celebrates individuality and self-expression. We will also see how the monthly Dignity theme aligns with its campaigns and notable national and international events, as well as regular physical activities such as walking outdoors and enjoying fresh air.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST
USA	Wed, 11 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST
Japan	Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 5:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 7:00 a.m. AEDT
NZ	Thu, 12 Feb 2026 at 9:00 a.m. NZDT

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Or copy and paste this link into the browser

https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kf-fVqnhR-OFx3WIsCN5EA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the webinar.



Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) Thursday 19th February 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time



Host: Heather Baker

Topic: Supporting Social Connections through a community-based program for individuals living with mental illness - growing stronger together

Presenters: Elizabeth Cleary, Alexander Riley and Connor Hines

This team demonstrates a holistic approach to fostering social connections for individuals living with mental illness through community-based programming. Heather Baker, a Recreation Therapist, emphasises person-centred care, using meaningful recreation to enhance dignity and well-being. Elizabeth Cleary, an RN with 46 years of experience, specialises in community care and has facilitated vital social support groups such as "Friends Among Friends" and "Growing Stronger." Alexander Riley brings essential lived experience to the team, having transitioned from a program graduate to a job coach and peer supporter for the "Growing Stronger Together" cohort. Connor Hines complements this work as a Housing & Employment Coordinator at Affirmative Ventures Association. Collectively, their diverse backgrounds in clinical nursing, recreation therapy, peer support, and social services highlight the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in facilitating recovery and community integration.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST
USA	Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST
UK	Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 8:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 5:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 7:00 a.m. AEDT
NZ	Fri, 20 Feb 2026 at 9:00 a.m. NZDT

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Diversional Therapy Association of Japan (DTAJ) Friday 27th February 10:00 AM Japan Standard Time

Host: Takako Serizawa

Topic: The Practice of Diversional Therapy as a Home-visit nurse

Presenter: Mariko Kato

Mariko Kato is a home-visit nurse in Tokyo, Japan. She visits clients' homes daily and rides her electric bicycle. She has cared for over 500 individuals since entering this field. Previously employed at a bank, Mariko later worked in home care and obtained a certification as a care manager. Pursuing an interest in healthcare, she enrolled in nursing school at the age of 42. Her nursing practice incorporates skills in aromatherapy, foot care, and lymphatic massage. Mariko was introduced to Diversional Therapy through a lecture by Takako Serizawa, which inspired her to study DT and apply its principles in her professional life. Her hobbies are surfing and golf.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST
USA	Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 6:00 p.m. EST
UK	Thu, 26 Feb 2026 at 11:00 p.m. GMT
Australia	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. AEDT
NZ	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 12:00 Noon NZDT

Register in advance for this webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the webinar.



Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) Saturday 28th February 8:00 AM Australian Eastern Daylight Time



Host: Charlise Bennett

Topic: Innovation and Resourcefulness – essential for Recreational Therapists

Presenter: Jody Asquith and Michelle Hill

When RTs are under-resourced, working in isolation or under-supported, being able to “think outside the box” with respect to obtaining and utilising resources is an important skill. In addition to this, the dynamically shifting needs of many of the population groups that we work with mean that RTs must be able to “think on their feet” with adapting and modifying activities in real time to optimise the therapeutic benefit. Innovation and resourcefulness may be inherent qualities for some, but they are also skillsets that can be learned. In this presentation, Michelle and Jody will share examples of applied innovation and resourcefulness for RTs working in a clinical setting.

Days and times for this session in other countries:

USA	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST
USA	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST
UK	Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 9:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 6:00 a.m. JST
NZ	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 10:00 a.m. NZDT

Register in advance for this webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Or copy and paste this link into the browser

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QWMRzDY3TZ6nfFkqJSamUQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the webinar.



A Global Panel: Therapeutic Recreation on a Global Scale, an open discussion by Leaders from NAPA, NAAP, ATRA, CTRA, DTAJ, ARTA, NZSDRT.

Saturday 28th February 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

The format for this session will be Zoom Meeting. Please remain on Mute unless you are asking a question or making a comment but ensure to have Camera and Mic available to interact with the presenters.

This panel is an opportunity for people:

- 1) To ask questions to all presenters about the possibilities and opportunities across countries
- 2) To share your ideas
- 3) To provide feedback
- 4) To meet like-minded people like you
- 5) To join a special group of recreation professionals from across the globe
- 6) To learn more
- 7) To enhance curiosity

Days and times for this session:

USA	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CST
Canada	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST
USA	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST
UK	Sat, 28 Feb 2026 at 10:00 p.m. GMT
Japan	Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 7:00 a.m. JST
Australia	Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 9:00 a.m. AEDT
New Zealand	Sun, 1 Mar 2026 at 11:00 a.m. NZDT

Register in advance for this meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)

Or copy and paste this link in the browser

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to join the meeting.

