Promoting massage therapy research in New Zealand

Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sports Massage (BTSM)

- In preparation for the practice of massage therapy in tomorrow’s workplace, baccalaureate degree based education for massage practitioners (i.e. BTSM) was implemented at the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) in 2002.

- As well as providing quality massage therapy education, the BTSM has been nurturing research literate students, who are able to participate in entry level research in their 3rd year of study.

- Through valuing research and research-informed education, the BTSM has provided an avenue for publicly demonstrating the role and value of research for the massage therapy profession.

- The BTSM has also provided a vehicle for change, and is now leading the way in fostering a community of research practice as a result: the New Zealand Massage Therapy Research Centre (NZMTRC) at SIT was established in 2009.

- By positioning the NZMTRC within an educational institution’s framework, a research infrastructure (e.g. ethics, funding, supervision, resources) is provided.

- In the spirit of collaboration, the NZMTRC is a hub for researchers, academic staff, clinicians, students, and industry associates for networking, sharing of research ideas, undertaking projects, dissemination of findings, and research education.

Knowledge building
- Entry level research
- Investigator driven research
- Research education

Knowledge sharing
- Sharing ideas / questions
- Dissemination of research
- Clinical experience
- Research awareness

Community of practice
- Academic infrastructure
- Collaboration
- Clinical partners
- Local, National & International networks

Research literacy
Research capacity
Participation and Support