

# Dr Claire Lynch

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*Internationally and nationally recognised in the area of sexuality/sexual health and well-being through collaborative and original contribution to research and education.*

## QUALIFICATIONS

<b>Doctorate of Clinical Sciences in Occupational Therapy</b> <i>La Trobe University</i>	<b>2012 - 2017</b>
<b>Bachelor of Honours Degree in Occupational Therapy</b> <i>University of Ulster, Jordanstown, Northern Ireland</i>	<b>2004 – 2008</b>
<b>Graduate Certificate in Higher Education</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2017 – 2019</b>
<b>Teaching Support Program (8 weeks)</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2018</b>

## EMPLOYMENT

<b>Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2023 – Present</b>
<b>Lecturer in Occupational Therapy</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2017 – 2023</b>
<b>Victorian OT Professional Practice Coordinator</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2017 – 2022</b>
<b>Senior Occupational Therapist</b> <i>St Vincent’s Private Hospital</i>	<b>2014 – 2017</b>
<b>Grade 2 Renal Occupational Therapist</b> <i>Northern Hospital, Epping</i>	<b>2013 – 2014</b>
<b>Sessional Tutor</b> <i>Australian Catholic University</i>	<b>2013 – 2017</b>
<b>Grade 1 &amp; Grade 2 Occupational Therapist</b> <i>ISIS Primary Care, Community Health</i>	<b>2008 – 2013</b>

## PUBLICATIONS

- Coulter, D., **Lynch, C.**, & Joosten, A. (2023) Exploring the perspectives of young adults with developmental disabilities about sexuality and sexual health education. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 1-12.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1440-1630.12862>
- Portellos, A., **Lynch, C.**, & Joosten, A. (2023). Sexuality and ageing: A mixed methods explorative study of older adult’s experiences, attitudes, and support needs. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 86(7):515-526.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/03080226231164277>
- Lynch, C.** & Joosten, A. V. (2022). Addressing sexuality: The comfort and preparedness of occupational therapy students. *Journal of Occupational Therapy Education*, 6 (1). <https://doi.org/10.26681/jote.2022.060107>
- Spaseska, C., **Lynch, C.**, Joosten, A., & Areskoug-Josefsson, K. (2022). Experience of recently graduated occupational therapists in addressing sexuality with their clients. *Sexuality and Disability*, 40, 769-783.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11195-022-09762-y>
- Lynch, C.**, & Fortune, T. (2019) Applying an Occupational Lens to Thinking About and Addressing Sexuality. *Sexuality and Disability*, 37, 145–159. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11195-019-09566-7>

## GRANTS

- \$59,995** Grant obtained from Vic Health, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing “*An exploration of people with neurodevelopmental disabilities perspective of the Assessment of Sexual Knowledge (ASK)*”
- \$12,000** ACU Teaching and Development Grant “*Expanding New Supervisor Capability in Scholarly Teaching and Learning*”

**\$1500** ACU Conference Travel Grant to attend and present at the *Australian National Occupational Therapy Conference*  
**\$500** Sexual Health Society of Victoria Travel Grant to attend and present at the *Australian Assistive Technology Conference*

## AWARDS

Finalist Allied Health Occupational Therapist of the Year	<b>2023</b>
Finalist Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year	<b>2017</b>

## CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

**2023 OTA 30<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Invited expert panel member for a workshop titled “*An often deprioritised, avoided, and forgotten area of practice: Sexuality and intimacy*” - Bryant, C., **Lynch, C.**, McGrath, M., Yau, M., Brown-Major, A., Irving, I.

**2023 OTA 30<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Oral presentation on “*Exploring the perspectives of young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities about sexuality and sexual health education*” –Coulter, D., **Lynch, C.**, & Joosten, A.J.

**2023 OTA 30<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Poster presentation on “*Sexuality and aging: an explorative study of older adult’s experiences, attitudes, and support needs*”. Portellos, A., **Lynch, C.**, & Joosten, A.J.

**2022 Australian Assistive Technology Conference:** Oral presentation on “*Bringing Joy to people with disabilities – the first accessible, disability driven sex toy*. **Lynch, C.**

**2022 Barwon Health Grand Round:** Invited panel member.

**2022 Podcast OT After Dark:** Invited guest speaker

**2021 OTA 29<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Oral presentation on “*Addressing sexuality: The comfort and preparedness of occupational therapy students*”. **Lynch, C.** & Joosten, A.J.

**2021 OTA 29<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Oral presentation on “*Addressing sexuality with clients: Experiences of recently graduated Australian occupational therapists*”. Spaseska, C., **Lynch, C.**, & Joosten, A.J.

**2021 OTA 29<sup>th</sup> National Conference:** Oral presentation on “*Responding to COVID- 19: A transformational online learning module for final year placement*”. Lonsdale, M., Sheppard, L., **Lynch, C.** Zakrzewski, L., Boatman, T., Denton, T., Milgate, W.

**2018 Royal College of Occupational Therapy Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland.** Poster presentation on “*Sexuality and Occupational Therapy*”. **Lynch, C.**

**2018 1st Asian Pacific OT Conference, Taiwan.** Oral presentation on “*Sexuality and Occupational Therapy*”. **Lynch C.**

## LEADERSHIP ROLES

Member of the Sexuality and Occupational Therapy Interest Group	<b>2015 – Present</b>
Working Group member for the AUS/NZ sexuality clinical guidelines for stroke management	<b>2022 – Present</b>
Committee Member of the OTA Leadership and Management Group	<b>2018 – 2020</b>
Board Member of the OTA Workforce Professional Issues Committee	<b>2014 – 2020</b>

## CERTIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) no: OCC0001767954.

Occupational Therapy Australia Association Member No: 930785.

Working with Children’s Check No:04266794-01

## REFEREES

### Professional Referee

Dr Annette Joosten  
Retired Lecturer in Occupational Therapy  
Clinical Fellow at Australian Catholic University  
Faculty of Health Sciences, ACU  
Email: [Annette.Joosten@acu.edu.au](mailto:Annette.Joosten@acu.edu.au)

Associate Professor Loretta Sheppard  
Occupational Therapy Head of Discipline  
Deputy Head, School of Allied Health, VIC & ACT  
Faculty of Health Science, ACU  
Email: [Loretta.sheppard@acu.edu.au](mailto:Loretta.sheppard@acu.edu.au)