Standing firm on shifting sands

It seems almost trite to state that the world is changing rapidly, but the world is changing. As a result the contexts in which occupational therapists operate are constantly shifting. An easy way to respond to this situation is for the profession to be blown by the prevailing winds and therefore follow the ever changing landscape. To do so would, however, be detrimental to the profession and more importantly the people we serve. This presentation will consider the ways in which occupational therapists can stand firm on the ever shifting sands, so that we are well placed to serve individuals, communities and societies.

About the Presenter:
Matthew Molineux is an Associate Professor in the School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. Matthew graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and after working in Brisbane for a short time he moved to the United Kingdom where he worked for 16 years before returning to Australia in early 2009. He was worked in occupational therapy education since 1996 and prior to moving to Perth he established the UK’s first Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy academic group. He completed a Master of Science in occupational therapy at the University of East London and it was around that time that he discovered occupational science. Since then he has been passionate about encouraging, and sometimes challenging, occupational therapy students and practitioners to engage in occupation-based practice. Matthew’s interest in occupation carried over into his Doctor of Philosophy in occupational therapy at The University of Queensland when he gathered oral histories of men living with HIV in the UK and analysed them narratively to explore issues such as occupational identity and an occupational, rather than biomedical, trajectory of living with HIV. Matthew has edited Occupation for Occupational Therapists and has numerous book projects in development; Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction: Enabling Occupation (co-editor), Occupational Narratives (editor), Dictionary of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy (editor / author). He is a member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists International Advisory Group: Occupational Science.