

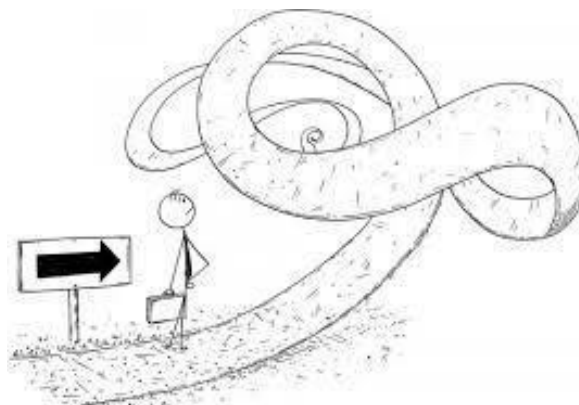
# O&M Career Pathways

for O&M Specialists and Dog Guide Mobility Instructors



Orientation and Mobility Specialists in Australia and New Zealand are mostly employed by one of the low vision/blindness agencies or education departments. After graduation, it is a good idea to work for one of the major employers to consolidate skills in O&M client services. You become part of a team, learn from the experts, identify your own areas of interest, and establish your professional networks. These employers help us to understand how the O&M industry works. But O&M is an obscure profession and moving beyond the major employers is one way to share the news about what O&M specialists do. After a few years' experience, you might choose to stay on, to specialise, or to branch out in a new direction.

The mind-map of O&M Career Pathways on page 2 provides some ideas for O&M specialists. Some of the career pathways build on previous qualifications, some require further study or upskilling and some involve moving to another employer.



Some people work for a low vision/blindness service provider throughout their whole career, gaining a deep knowledge of the industry, its people and resources that is invaluable to new graduates.

Some specialize, becoming experts in O&M fields such as deafblindness, neurological complications, assistive technology or paediatric work. Some are dual qualified and can serve a double role (e.g., O&M/OT).

Some choose to step out of mainstream employment and set up as an independent service provider or take their O&M expertise into a parallel role where experience in O&M services can bring unique benefits to a broader client base (e.g., disability services). Then there are opportunities in management, teaching and research.

If you would like to explore some new career directions, you can use the OMAA directory to find an O&M specialist who shares your interests, or contact the OMAA Membership Engagement Committee via [info@omaaustralasia.com](mailto:info@omaaustralasia.com)

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