



REGISTRANTS UPDATE

Podiatrists Board of Queensland

March 2007

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

Mr Lloyd Reed, Dip App Sc (Pod),
M Hlth Sc (Pod), Grad Cert (Ed)
(Chairperson)

Mr Jason Warnock, Dip App Sc (Chir)
(Deputy Chairperson)

Mrs Nerylie Whitecross, Grad Dip Hlth
Sc (Hlth Ed), Dip App Sc (Pod)

Mr Trent Johnston, B Hlth Sc (Pod)
(Hons), B Sc (HMS)

Mr Ted Howard, OBE, OAM

Ms Catherine Rees, B Law, Solicitor

The term of office for the above
members of the Board expires on 29
November 2007.

Ms Gwen Schrieber, one of the public
members of the Board resigned her
position with the Board on 22 August
2006. A selection process is currently
underway for the appointment of a
replacement public member and an
additional registrant member.

FROM THE CHAIR

In 2006, the members of the Board have
continued to engage in many significant
issues affecting the podiatry profession.
In this update a number of important
initiatives are described, including:

- changes to the use of scheduled
substances by podiatrists;
- progress on the development of the
recency of practice policy;
- national registration; and
- new guidelines and policies
adopted by the Board, including
a new policy about the practice of
surgical podiatry.

This month the Board hosted a meeting
of the Australian and New Zealand
Council of Podiatry Registration Boards.
This body promotes closer collaboration
of the registration Boards and helps to

ensure consistent policy approaches
across the various jurisdictions.

I welcome the important and insightful
perspectives that registrants have
about these and other issues and
invite comments to the Board's
Principal Co-ordinator at email:
portierp@healthregboards.qld.gov.au.

Lloyd Reed

USE OF SCHEDULED DRUGS

**REMINDER: Registrants should
continue to use 1% lignocaine/
xylocaine plain for local anaesthesia,
until the Continuing Professional
Education (CPE) framework is
finalised.**

In response to the submission made
by the Board, the Australian Podiatry
Association (Qld) Inc., the Australasian
College of Podiatric Surgeons
and the Queensland University of
Technology, an amendment was
made to the Queensland *Health
(Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*
on 15 December 2006. The amendment
allows Queensland registrants to use a
broader range of local anaesthetics and
provides a limited list of restricted drugs
to be used by surgical podiatrists in the
management of their patients. General
registrants and surgical podiatrists
will have access to adrenaline for the
purpose of managing anaphylaxis.

The submission was considered by a
podiatry reference group, facilitated
by the Chief Health Officer and staff
from Queensland Health. The group
included representatives from the
Australian Medical Association, the
Australian Orthopaedic Association,
Royal Australian College of General
Practitioners, Australian and New
Zealand College of Anaesthetists,
Pharmacy Society of Australia, and
Environmental Health (Drugs and
Poisons) branch of Queensland Health,
as well as the podiatry representatives.
The Board acknowledges the valuable

contribution that all of these stakeholder
organisations made during the review
process.

The Board has now established an
advisory committee which will consider
the recommendations of the reference
group. These include necessary changes
to the undergraduate curriculum at QUT
and the content required in CPE courses
to update registrants for the safe and
effective use of these substances. The
Drug Advisory Committee members
are:

Dr Peter Pillons, Clinical
Pharmacologist, Princess Alexandra
Hospital

Dr Kerry Brandis, Fellow of the
Australian & New Zealand College of
Anaesthetists

Dr Treasure McGuire, PhD, Assistant
Director of Pharmacy, Practice &
Development, Mater Hospital Pharmacy
Services

Associate Professor Alan Bryant, Co-
ordinator - Podiatric Medicine, Faculty of
Medicine, Dentistry & Health Services,
University of Western Australia

Dr Paul Bennett, PhD, Co-ordinator –
Podiatry, School of Public Health, QUT

Mr Lloyd Reed, Chairperson, Podiatrists
Board of Queensland.

More information about the role of the
committee can be accessed at the
Board's website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au

Registrants are requested to access the
amendment to the Regulation at: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/legisln/sls/2006/06sl308.pdf

NEW POLICIES / GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD

**Registrants are reminded that
policies / guidelines adopted by
the Board are not only to provide
guidance to registrants on their
practice as a podiatrist, but may be**

used as evidence in disciplinary proceedings brought by the Board against a registrant.

Queensland Health's *Assistants in Podiatry – Foot Care Assistants* guideline, which provides guidance for foot care assistants working under the direction of podiatrists in Queensland, was adopted by the Board in 2006. It is available on website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au/DocsLibrary/Policies.htm.

The Board also adopted a new *Policy on surgery by Podiatrists* on 2 February 2007. The policy explains the education, continuing professional education and reporting requirements for podiatrists who are participating in surgical podiatry activities. It is available on website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au/DocsLibrary/Policies.htm

OTHER BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES ADOPTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE BOARD:

- **Guidelines for Standards of Practice - available on website:** www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au/DocsLibrary/Policies
- **Statement on Sexual Relationships between Health Practitioners and their Patients** – available on website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au/DocsLibrary/Policies
- **Australasian Podiatry Council's Infection Control Guidelines** - for sale, contact www.apodc.com.au
- **Australasian Podiatry Council's "Clinical Guidelines for Orthotic Therapy provided by Podiatrists"** - for sale, contact www.apodc.com.au
- **Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes:** www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/best_practice
- **Australian Standard AS/NZS 4187: Code of practice for cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities:** www.standards.com.au

The Board has adopted the above guidelines in accordance with its statutory obligations under the *Podiatrists Registration Act 2001*:

- a. to ensure that health care is delivered by registrants in a professional, safe and competent way; and
- b. to uphold the standards within the profession; and
- c. to maintain public confidence in the profession.

SCOPE OF PODIATRIC PRACTICE IN QUEENSLAND

In answer to questions about the scope of practice of podiatrists:

The *Podiatrists Registration Act 2001* was amended in October 2003 by the deletion of the following provisions:

- the definition of "podiatry"; and
- prohibitions on the practice of podiatry by unregistered persons.

These changes were among a range of similar changes made to legislation regulating the practice of various health professions in Queensland. The effect of the changes was to remove broad statutory definitions that restricted practices to particular professions and only replacing them, where appropriate, with restrictions on particular practices that pose a significant risk of harm to the public. Protection of the public is continued through retained provisions in the Act that prohibit any person who is not a registered podiatrist from:

- using the title of "Podiatrist or "Chiropodist"; and/or
- claiming, or holding themselves out, to be a registered podiatrist to be eligible for such registration.

USE OF TITLES

The title "Doctor" is restricted to medical and dental health practitioners and to those persons who have a PhD educational qualification from an accredited tertiary institution. The title

"Surgeon" is also restricted to medical specialists registered with the Medical Board of Queensland.

It is recommended that the appropriate title for Fellows of the Australian College of Podiatric Surgeons is "Surgical Podiatrist".

INFECTION CONTROL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Registrants are reminded that, under the *Public Health Act (Qld) No. 48 of 2005*, you are required to have an **Infection Control Management Plan** in place if:

- your practice is classified as a "health care facility";
- you provide a "declared health service"; or
- you perform "invasive procedures"; that is, a procedure involving the insertion of an instrument (eg scalpel blades or needles) into human tissue, organs, body cavities or body orifices.

For further information please access: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/legisln/current/p/pubheala05.pdf

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

On 14 July 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that, to facilitate workforce mobility, improve safety and quality and reduce red tape, a single national registration and accreditation scheme for health professionals, beginning with nine professions currently registered in all Australian jurisdictions, would be established by July 2008. The nine professions are: chiropractors, dental care, medicine, nursing, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and psychology.

COAG has announced that other professions may be considered for inclusion by health ministers during and following implementation of the national scheme in July 2008.

The Board supports the inclusion of podiatry as part of the national scheme and has already commenced negotiations with COAG.



REGENCY OF PRACTICE ON RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

The introduction in April 2008 of recency of practice requirements of Queensland's 38,000 registered health practitioners is on schedule following a second round of consultation on the issue.

In February 2005, Queensland's 13 health practitioner registration Boards released a discussion paper on the issue of recency of practice for feedback to help develop a draft policy.

The Boards are seeking to introduce a requirement that every practitioner who applies for registration or to renew registration must, at the time of application, be able to show that they have practised their profession - while registered - within the last five years.

Practitioners who cannot meet this requirement will be required to remedy this by undertaking activity such as undertaking an examination, completing a return to practice course, undertaking continuing professional development and/or accepting conditions on practice before registration will be granted.

By introducing recency of practice requirements, each Board is acting to fulfill its duty under its respective registration Act - to ensure safe and competent practice by registrants and to maintain the public's confidence in the profession.

Feedback on the discussion paper was collated and distributed, with the draft policy, for consultation from November 2006 to end January 2007.

The Boards will now review information provided by members of the 18** regulated health professions, professional associations and the community. This second round of feedback will inform the final recency of practice policy which will be referred to Queensland Health to develop into a Regulation.

The consultation process has been staged deliberately over some years to allow practitioners in the regulated health professionals an opportunity to identify and undertake appropriate continuing professional education.

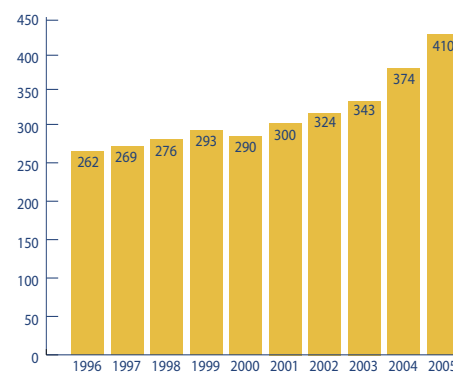
For the same reason, the requirement will not be introduced before next year's annual registration renewal period for general registrants, from 30 April to 30 June 2008. This will provide a further 14 months for practitioners to undertake appropriate education to meet requirements.

Information on recency of practice can be viewed at individual Board websites by choosing the relevant Board at www.healthregboards.qld.gov.au.

***Note: There are 18 health professions regulated in Queensland by 13 registration Boards. They are chiropractors, dental (comprising dentists, dental auxiliaries and dental specialists), dental technicians, dental prosthetists (regulated by the Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Board), medical, medical radiation technology (comprising medical imaging technology, nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy), occupational therapists, optometrists, osteopaths, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists.*

NUMBER OF REGISTERED REGISTRANTS

As at 30 June 2006, there were 438 registered podiatrists. 42% were male and 58% female.



77% of registrants gave their addresses on the register as within south east Queensland (postcodes 4000 to 4399 & 4500 to 4581) comprising 43% within Brisbane and 34% elsewhere in south east Queensland.

15% of registrants had Queensland addresses outside of south east Queensland.

8% of registrants had addresses outside of Queensland.

ADVERTISING

Registrants are reminded that all advertising of a professional service must comply with the advertising provisions (sections 128 & 129) of the *Podiatrists Registration Act 2001*. A copy of the Act is available on the website: www.legislation.qld.gov.au. If registrants are unsure whether their advertising complies with the Act, they should seek their own legal advice.

IMPLICATION OF PRACTISING WITHOUT REGISTRATION

A podiatrist who fails to pay the renewal fee and continues to practise as if still registered is, in accordance with the legislation, "holding out" and/or "claiming" to be a podiatrist and therefore is in breach of section 121 of the *Podiatrists Registration Act 2001*. Similarly, advertising as a podiatrist in the Yellow Pages and in local newspapers prior to being granted registration is considered "holding out" as a podiatrist and therefore in breach of section 121 of the Act.

Section 121 of the Act relates to the use of a "restricted title". The titles "Podiatrist" and "Chiropodist" are restricted titles under the Act and a person must be registered to use these titles.

If a person does use a restricted title without being registered, they are in breach of section 121 of the Act and, if prosecuted, a maximum penalty of \$75,000 may be imposed.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

The application for renewal of registration forms are distributed to registrants in late April. These forms must be completed and **RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE BY 30 JUNE 2007**. Failure to renew by 30 June, results in:

- a registrant having to apply for restoration to the register;
- restoration to the register incurs an additional fee; and



- the registrant has a “gap” in their registration from 30 June until the date of restoration.

REMINDER: Registrants must complete the mandatory disclosure on the renewal of registration form stating whether they suffer from any ongoing medical condition, of which they are aware, or know or ought reasonably to know adversely affects their ability to competently and safely practise the profession. If such a condition is notified to the Board, registration is renewed, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999 which relates to the management of impaired registrants.

The renewal form will be available on the Board’s website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au at the beginning of May each year.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

NOTE: Podiatrists are no longer required to notify the Board of a business name providing a professional service.

However, registrants are required to notify the Board in the following circumstances:

- change of name (within 21 days);
- change of address (within 21 days);
- the withdrawal or cancellation of qualification for registration (within 21 days);
- conviction of an indictable offence (within 30 days);
- if a party to proceedings in court claiming damages or compensation for alleged negligence in the practice of the profession and in which either a judgement has been delivered or in respect of which there has been a settlement of the proceedings or part of the proceedings (within 30 days); or

- if you are registered under a corresponding law and your registration, licence or certification under that law is affected by disciplinary action or is otherwise cancelled, suspended or made subject to a condition or an undertaking (within 30 days).

MOVING INTERSTATE OR TO NEW ZEALAND

If you are intending to practise in another State, Territory or in New Zealand, please contact the relevant Board for details on applying for registration under Mutual Recognition or Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition arrangements.

Podiatrists Registration Board of New South Wales

Phone: 02 9219 0277
Email: podreg@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
www.podreg.health.nsw.gov.au

Podiatrists Registration Board of Victoria

Phone: 03 9286 1888
Email: registrar@podboardvic.vic.gov.au
www.podboardvic.vic.gov.au

Podiatrists Board of Australian Capital Territory

Phone: 02 6205 1601

Podiatry Board of South Australia

Phone: 08 8443 9669
Email: pbsa@saboard.com.au
www.pbsa.saboard.com.au

Podiatrists Registration Board of Western Australia

Phone: 08 9481 0977
Email: wclark@mjwa.com.au
www.podboard.wa.gov.au

Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania

Phone: 03 6249 1377
Email: secretary@podregtas.com
www.podregtas.com

Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

Phone: 64 4 499 7979
Email: podiatristsboard@regboards.co.nz
www.podiatristsboard.org.nz

OFFICE CONTACTS

The Office of Health Practitioner Registration Boards (OHPRB) is open to the public between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and is located at:

Level 19, Forestry House
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Executive Officer: Mr J O’Dempsey

Director (Board Support & Advisory Program):

Mr M Demy-Geroe

Principal Coordinator (Board Support & Advisory Program): Mrs Pauline Portier

Tel: 61 7 3234 1164 **Fax:** 61 7 3225 2527

Email: podiatry@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Web: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Executive Officer
Podiatrists Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438
BRISBANE QLD 4001

