



Please include in the email to us your full name and date of birth. This will enable us to ensure that we enter the email address against your record on our database.

Please be assured that the Board will be judicious in its use of email to you to provide you with updates and reminders of Board activities and actions. Any email address provided by you will not be made public nor will it be provided to third parties.

BOARD'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011

The Board has now finalised consideration of consultation replies and has approved its *Strategic Plan 2007-2011*.

The Board would be pleased if you would peruse the Plan which articulates the directions, priorities and strategies that the Board will pursue during 2007-2011.

The *Strategic Plan 2007-2011* is available at www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au in the Publications section.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

Applications for renewal of registration should have been completed and received by the Office by 30th June 2008. Failure to renew by the due date results in an additional fee being paid to restore to the register. The Application for Restoration Notice is available on the Board's website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au.

Registrants are reminded that restoration to the register is effective from the date the notice is received by the Office, not from 1st July and restoration is only available until 30th September 2008.

REMINDER: Registrants must complete the mandatory disclosure on the 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, restoration is approved, but the Board may deal with the matter under Part 7 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*.

FEES INCREASE EXPLAINED

In your 2008 renewal of registration you will have noted this year's fees have increased. This one-off increase above the standard 3.9% CPI increase applied to your 2008 renewal of registration fee. The Board realises registrants may have questions relating to a fee increase and provided an information bulletin with the renewal of registration form to explain the associated reasons. This information has been reproduced and follows in this newsletter.

As you may be aware, the introduction of mandatory criminal history screening is proposed for all registered Queensland health professionals from early 2009.

The introduction of criminal history screening, and associated increases in costs arising from disciplinary and standard development demands, must be funded by the Boards regulating the registration of health professionals in this State.

The establishment of a separate Office of the Medical Board has also meant some benefits in economies of scale and cost-sharing have been reduced for other registration Boards.

The Board's only source of funding are fees generated by registration and it is these fees which fund the entire process of registering suitably qualified health practitioners providing safe and competent health service delivery to the public.

The Board has applied the increase to the registration fee as this is the only fee which has a global impact on Board income. Approximately 90% of the Board's annual income is through payment of the registration fee by registrants.

Excluding any new significant demands on the Board's funding base, the Board's budget projections surrounding this fee increase has been reliably forecast for three years.

The Board has worked to limit fee increases in the past, with the most recent increase in April 2006 reflecting only that required to respond to the Consumer Price Index.

The Board takes seriously any decision affecting registrant fees and makes every effort to control and minimise handing on costs to our registrants wherever possible.

DRAFT REGENCY OF PRACTICE POLICY

(AT RENEWAL)

The Podiatrists Board has finalised its reGENCY of practice policy. The Board would like to thank all those who participated in the rounds of consultation undertaken to develop this policy.

All 12 Boards administered by the OHPRB have referred the final draft policies to the government for conversion into regulations that bring reGENCY of practice into operation.

The Board will not be able to release its final reGENCY of practice policy until the government has approved the regulations. To date, the draft policies have not been converted to regulations.

ADVERTISING

On 27th July 2007 the Board approved the following statement regarding advertising by Podiatrists:

Podiatrists advertising professional services must comply with the advertising provisions of the *Podiatrists Registration Act 2001*. If a podiatrist is uncertain if their advertising complies with the legislation, they should seek their own legal advice.

The advertising provisions are at section 128 of the Act which is available on the website: www.legislation.qld.gov.au

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 8, Forestry House
160 Mary Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Executive Officer:
Director (Board Support & Advisory Program)
Director (Registration Services Program)
Principal Coordinator (Board Support & Advisory Program)

Fax: 61 7 3225 2527
Email: podiatry@healthregboards.qld.gov.au
Website: www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au

Correspondence should be addressed to:
Executive Officer
Podiatrists Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Phone :
Registrations 07 3225 2532
Other Enquiries 07 3225 2505
Professional Standards Program (complaints and investigations) 07 3225 2467
Health Assessment and Monitoring 07 3405 6013

Mr J O'Dempsey
Mr M Demy-Geroe
Ms T Stenzel
Ms Pauline Portier



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The following Members of the Board were appointed on 30 November 2007 for a period of four years:

Registrant Members

Jason Warnock (Chairperson)
Matthew Cichero
Lloyd Reed (Deputy Chairperson)
Nerylie Whitecross
Paul Bennett

Public Members

Anne-Marie Hunter
Peta Frampton
Edward Howard

Lawyer Member

David Jacobson



Caption: The Podiatrists Board of Queensland as at 20 June 2008: back row (l to r) Peta Frampton, David Jacobson, Paul Bennett; front row (l to r) Nerylie Whitecross, Jason Warnock, Lloyd Reed, Anne-Marie Hunter; absent: Matthew Cichero, Edward Howard

FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to all registrants who responded promptly to the renewal of registrations. On 1st July, Queensland had 472 podiatrists registered.

If you want to check that the Office has received your registration payment and not got lost in the mail, go to the Board website, www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au, click on "check registration", enter your name, (this will bring up your details) type your name in the "surname, given name" field to indicate the registration period.

Unfortunately, the request for email addresses has not been as successful. Only 65% of registrants have notified the Board of an email address. If you do have a current email address, or you have a new email address, please forward it to: email@healthregboards.qld.gov.au. Include your name and date of birth, to ensure it is applied to the appropriate registrant.

The Board has been working towards enabling access for registrants to

an extended range of local anaesthetics and a list of restricted drugs and poisons for surgical podiatrists, under the *Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 7) 2006*. The Board considers advice from the Board's Drugs Advisory Committee. This Committee consists of experts in this field and clinicians. The Board will soon announce progress in this area.

Registrants are reminded that it is your responsibility to work within your scope of practice. Take the time to adequately document the management of your clients. Ensure you record the diagnosis, assessment, treatment and advice provided to clients.

Podiatry will be part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme to be implemented on 1st July 2010. This will involve significant changes for our profession and I urge every registrant to keep informed of this process. The article in this newsletter is a good start. Queensland will retain a state office of the national agency.

The Board will continue to work for the people of Queensland, to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that podiatrists are fit to practise.

Jason Warnock

USE OF SCHEDULED DRUGS

The Board's Drugs Advisory Committee has convened four meetings and recently appointed the following additional members:

Dr John North (Orthopaedic Surgeon)
Dr Denise Powell (General Practitioner)
Mr Anthony Short (Private Practitioner)
Mr Jason Warnock (Podiatrists Board of Queensland)

The Committee is currently working on a number of projects, namely:

- the development of draft *Guidelines for the use of therapeutic drugs by Podiatrists*;
- an Assessment Standard to determine a surgical podiatrist's skills in prescribing; and
- the development of the following Continuing Professional Education courses, in conjunction with the Queensland University of Technology:
 - ◆ one-day upgrade upskilling program, including an OSCE, for registrants who have previously not had access to 2% lignocaine or the other local anaesthetics ;
 - ◆ one-day upgrade upskilling program, including an OSCE, for surgical podiatrists and registrars to upgrade their knowledge of the Drugs and Poisons Regulation and specific restricted drugs used in Queensland; and
 - ◆ one-day upgrade upskilling program which reviews the content required in preparation for the assessment standard for surgical podiatrists.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEME

On 26 March 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the implementation of the national registration and accreditation scheme for the nine professions of chiropractic, dental, medical, nursing & midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and psychology. It has also been agreed that podiatry is a special case and accordingly it will automatically be included in the national registration scheme. The Health Workforce Inter Governmental Agreement was also approved to progress the implementation of the scheme.

The Agreement provides for implementation of the scheme from 1st July 2010. There will be at least one local presence of the national office in each State and Territory.

The objectives of the national scheme, to be set out in the legislation, are to:

- provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered;
- facilitate workforce mobility across Australia and reduce red tape for practitioners;
- facilitate the provision of high quality education and training and rigorous and responsive assessment of overseas-trained practitioners;
- have regard to the public interest in promoting access to health services; and
- have regard to the need to enable the continuous development of a flexible, responsive and sustainable Australian health workforce and enable innovation in education and service delivery.

The scheme will operate under the following principles, to be set out in the legislation:

- it should operate in a transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair manner;
- it should ensure that fees and charges are reasonable; and
- it should recognise that restrictions on the practice of a profession should only occur where the benefits of the restriction to the community as a whole outweigh the costs.

Meetings have been convened between representatives of the 10 professions, Queensland Health and the National Implementation Team, headed by Dr Louise Morauta, to progress the implementation of the scheme.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF PODIATRY REGISTRATION BOARDS (ANZCPRB)

Mr Jason Warnock has attended a number of meetings of ANZCPRB. Items of national interest are discussed at these meetings, but in particular the establishment of the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) has been progressed. The purpose of ANZPAC is to establish an independent organisation to assess and accredit podiatric education programs and to advise and make recommendations relating to podiatric education and practice. Preliminary funding has been provided by all the registration boards for a Working Party to develop a proposal and Terms of Reference for the establishment of ANZPAC.

POLICIES & GUIDELINES

The following policies and documents which provide guidance for registrants in the practice of their profession are listed on the Board's website: <http://www.podiatryboard.qld.gov.au/publications.htm>

- Guidelines for Standards of Practice
- Guidelines for Assistants in Podiatry – Foot Care Assistants
- Infection Control
- Orthotic Therapy, Sterilization and Diabetes
- Statement on Sexual Relationships between Health Practitioners and their Patients
- Surgery by Podiatrists

The following information about complaints is extracted from the Board's 2006-2007 Annual Report as the 2007-2008 data is not available.

COMPLAINTS UNDER THE REGISTRATION ACT

The Board received one complaint during 2006-2007 under the Registration Act concerning advertising by non-registrants that used the word podiatry. The matter was closed following assessment after the non-registrants concerned agreed to amend their advertising. There were no complaints carried over from 2005-2006 under that Act.

The Board also dealt with two complaints about advertising by registered podiatrists received under the Professional Standards Act that, following assessment, the Board decided they were more appropriately dealt with under the Registration Act. In both cases the Board sought an explanation from the registrant concerned and then closed the matter after reinforcing the requirements of the Registration Act concerning advertising of professional services.

COMPLAINTS UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ACT

The following tables and supporting information provide summary information in relation to the Board's handling of complaints, investigations, disciplinary proceedings and health assessments under the Professional Standards Act during 2006-2007.

NEW COMPLAINTS

The Board received 11 new complaints under the Professional Standards Act in 2006-2007. The following table outlines the source and nature of the complaints and information received.

Source of complaint/information	Number of complaints received 2006/2007	Nature of complaints
Consumer or consumer's representative	5	1 x adverse treatment outcome 1 x treatment – inadequate 1 x holding out/misrepresentation 1 x statutory compliance 1 x communication – insensitive/rude
Other entity	6	3 x commercial advertising 1 x adverse treatment outcome 1 x holding out/misrepresentation 1 x competence
Referred by Health Quality and Complaints Commission	0	
Other information	0	
Total	11	

ACTION TAKEN ON NEW COMPLAINTS AT THE END OF ASSESSMENT

All new complaints are assessed to determine whether the complaint appears to provide a ground for disciplinary action and, if so, whether the complaint should be first investigated.

The following table outlines the outcome of assessment for the complaints received during 2006-2007.

Action taken on receipt of complaint	Number of complaints
Continue to be assessed	2
Closed after assessment	2
Referred to HQCC	1
Investigated	3
Dealt with under Registration Act	2
Disciplinary proceedings commenced	1
Total	11

No complaints were carried over from 2005-2006 into the current reporting year.

INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED

Investigations	Number
Investigations open at the beginning of the reporting year	4
Investigations commenced in the reporting year	3
Investigations closed in the reporting year	4
Ongoing investigations	3
Total costs	\$5,883

The four investigations closed during 2006-2007 related to one podiatrist. The three ongoing investigations relate to two podiatrists.

The following table reports the primary issue identified in each complaint that gave rise to an investigation.

Nature of investigations conducted	Number
Inappropriate commercial activities	3
Adverse treatment outcomes	2
Competence	1
Administrative practice	1

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings	Board level	PCRCP	HPT
Disciplinary proceedings ongoing at the beginning of the reporting year	0	3*	2
Disciplinary proceedings commenced in the reporting year	1	0	3*
Disciplinary proceedings closed in the reporting year	1	0	2
Ongoing disciplinary matters	0	0	3

* = Board elected to withdraw the charges, see further information below

The disciplinary proceedings completed by the Board during 2006-2007 related to a podiatrist who failed to renew his registration resulting in him inadvertently practising unregistered for a number of years. Following a hearing the Board found that a ground for disciplinary action had been established and the registrant was reprimanded.

The two matters completed in the Health Practitioners Tribunal relate to a single podiatrist. The charges related to a podiatrist who had been convicted in criminal proceedings on a number of counts of indecent treatment of children arising from his inappropriate treatment methods. In addition to the criminal convictions, the registrant was found to have video-taped women undressing in an adjacent room at his practice premises without their knowledge or consent. The podiatrist was no longer registered at the time of the Tribunal hearing and the Tribunal ordered that he would not be entitled to re-register for a period of two years. In the event of future registration, the podiatrist will be subject to conditions, including chaperoning while treating patients under the age of 16 years and ongoing psychiatric treatment.

The three matters that were ongoing before a Professional Conduct Review Panel from the previous reporting year relate to a single podiatrist. The podiatrist elected to have the matters heard by the Health Practitioners Tribunal and, accordingly, the matters were referred to the Health Practitioners Tribunal in the reporting year. After further consideration of the available evidence, the Board decided it was no longer appropriate to continue pursuing the matters in the Tribunal and elected to withdraw the charges. The charges will be formally withdrawn in the next reporting year.

The following table reports the primary issue identified in disciplinary matters conducted during 2006-2007.

Nature of disciplinary matters conducted	Number
Standard of care	3
Inappropriate treatment	2
Statutory compliance	1

EMAIL CONTACTS FOR THE REGISTER

The Board has asked all applicants to provide their email contact details for storage electronically. Electronic capture of these addresses will enable the Board to communicate with registrants in a more timely and effective way, particularly in providing important reminders to registrants such as when the annual renewal of registration is due.

An analysis of the responses has resulted in 65.31% of podiatrists providing valid email addresses for the register.

If you have not supplied a current email contact address to the Board, and you do have such an address, it would be appreciated if you could provide it to the Board by emailing it to: email@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

