

# THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA

P. O. Box 240 Claremont Tasmania 7011 Phone (03) 62491377 Facsimile (03) 62494292

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

### Membership of the Board:

The current membership of the Board is:

Ms Janice Mason (Chair)

Mr. David McKay

Ms Gaile Stebbeings

Ms Pam Hyland

Mr. Julian Edwards

### Board Meetings and Membership:

The Board met five times during the year and the number of meetings attended by each Board member were:

	Number of Meetings Attended
Ms Gaile Stebbeings	5
Mr. Julian Edwards	5
Ms Pam Hyland	5
Ms Janice Mason	5
Mr. David McKay	5

### Role of the Board:

The Board is responsible for administering the Podiatrists Registration Act 1995 including approving applications for registrations, maintaining a register of registered podiatrists and investigating any complaints or possible offences under the Act.

The Act outlines the following functions of the Board:

- to administer the scheme of registration;
- to supervise the practice of podiatry in this State;
- to investigate complaints and, as necessary, undertake disciplinary action against registered podiatrists;
- to prosecute offences against this Act;
- to monitor the standard and provision of podiatric services in this State;
- to monitor standards of education and training in podiatry;
- to advise the Minister on matters relating to this Act;
- such other functions as are imposed on the Board by this or any other Act or as may be prescribed.

## **Registration Policy:**

An important role of the Board is to ensure that persons practising podiatry in Tasmania have the appropriate training and qualifications. The categories of podiatrists who meet these requirements are:

1. Podiatrists who have successfully completed a current undergraduate course from an Australian School of Podiatry.
2. Podiatrists who are currently registered in another Australian State in accordance with Mutual Recognition Legislation.
3. Podiatrists registered in New Zealand in accordance with Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition.
4. Other overseas trained podiatrists who have completed requirements prescribed by the Australian Podiatry Council.

## **Activity Report 2003-04**

### **Footcare Assistants**

The Board became aware of the employment of footcare assistants within the public health system. The scope of practice of foot care assistants indicates that they may fall within the jurisdiction of the Podiatrists Registration Board as prescribed in the Podiatrists Registration Act 1995. The Board has raised its concerns with the Minister for Health and is seeking further information about the training undertaken by these persons and the scope of practice.

There is a range of persons who are not podiatrists who provide foot care services and this is an issue that is being discussed by podiatry boards throughout Australia. The Board is developing guidelines to clarify the scope of foot care practice that may be undertaken by non-podiatrists.

### **Occupational Health and Safety Survey:**

Responses to previous infection control surveys conducted indicated that there is opportunity for improvement in the area of occupational health and safety (OH&S). This is also a topic of national attention as Australian registration boards together with the Australasian Podiatry Council are developing national guidelines in OH&S.

The Board has therefore developed an Occupational Health and Safety Survey to assist podiatrists assess compliance with good practice and identifies any areas that require attention. The information will provide the Tasmanian podiatry profession with a valuable profile occupational health and safety practices.

## **Complaints:**

There were no complaints referred to the Board during 2003-04.

The Board suspended the registration of one podiatrist in accordance with Section 51 (1) d of the Podiatrists Registration Act 1995 for failure to meet specific requirements of the Board. The requirement of the Board related to the provision of evidence of professional indemnity insurance arrangements.

## **Australasian Podiatry Council Accreditation Reference Committee**

The Board nominated David McKay as its representative on this Committee

## **National Publication – Infection Control and Occupational Health and Safety**

The Board has agreed to contribute to the development of nationally agreed guidelines in the areas of infection control and occupational health and safety. This is a very useful development that will result in greater consistency between registration boards and more efficient publication of these documents. The Australasian Podiatry Council will coordinate these activities.

## **Access to Local Anaesthesia by Podiatrists**

The Board worked with the Pharmaceutical Section of the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that the licensing arrangements under the Poisons Act provided podiatrists with access to anaesthesia that is consistent with the current training courses.

## **Registration Fees:**

During the year the Board agreed to increase registration fees:

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Revised</b>
Application Fee	\$135	\$140
Annual Fee	\$270	\$280
Late Fee	\$54	\$56
Restoration Fee	\$135	\$140

## **Finance:**

A copy of the Annual Financial Statement is attached. A surplus was achieved for the year, this being higher than anticipated due to a greater number of applications received and an increase in the number of podiatrists renewing their registration and less payments for travel and accommodation. The Board's objective is to accumulate adequate reserves to ensure ongoing financial viability

## Register - Reconciliation of Additions and Removals from the Register

Total on Register as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2003		59
Additions-		
Applications Approved	13	
Restorations	1	14
Removals -		
Non-payment of annual fees	3	
Expiry of short-term registration	2	5
Total on Register as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2004		68

A profile of registered podiatrists for the past 9 years is summarised below.

	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04
Applications & restorations approved	14	12	13	8	4	10	10	12	14
Podiatrists Registered as at 30 June	75	72	71	66	59	58	61	59	68

### Contact Details of the Board:

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**Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania**  
**Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2004**

<b>Cash Receipts</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>Cash Payments</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2002/03</b>
	\$	\$		\$	\$
Balance from last Account	12,623.80	9,151.28	Honorarium	8,000.00	7,800.00
Application Fees	4,950.00	3,930.00	Audit Fees	450.00	400.00
Renewal Fees	15,622.00	13,156.00	Sitting Fees	4,500.00	3,300.00
Infection Control Guidelines	0.00	15.00	Travel, Accom. & Meals	799.18	2,070.24
GST Received from ATO	763.00	936.00	Bank Charges	64.80	40.75
GST collected on sales	0.00	1.50	GST paid to ATO	0.00	1.00
Interest	748.43	377.27	GST paid to suppliers	909.30	991.82
			Merchant Charges	463.92	339.44
			Balance to next Account	19,520.03	12,623.80
	34,707.23	27,567.05		34,707.23	27,567.05

**Notes to and forming part of the Accounts**

1. The financial statement has been prepared on a cash receipts and disbursements basis.
2. The only asset of the Board is the cash balance of \$19,520.03 as shown in the Statement.