

# 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 2005

### Membership of the Board:

The current membership of the Board is:

Member	Term
Ms Janice Mason (Chair), Podiatrist	3 years concluding 23 February 2006
Mr. David McKay, Podiatrist	3 years concluding 23 February 2006
Ms Toni Nash, Podiatrist	3 years concluding 10 April 2008
Ms Sarah Piggott	3 years concluding 10 April 2008
Mr. Julian Edwards	3 years concluding 23 February 2006

### Board Meetings and Membership:

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

	Number of Meetings Attended
Ms Gaile Stebbeings	3
Mr. Julian Edwards	4
Ms Pam Hyland	3
Ms Janice Mason	4
Mr. David McKay	4
Ms Toni Nash	1
Ms Sarah Piggott	1

### 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 2004-05**

#### **Footcare Assistants**

The Board continued to consider the employment of footcare assistants within the Tasmanian 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 further communicated the Minister for Health and has sought further information from the education sector about the proposed direction in training of these persons and the scope of practice.

The Board has developed guidelines to clarify the scope of foot care practice that may be undertaken by non-podiatrists.

#### **Health Insurance Commission Provider Registration**

The Board has agreed to provide the Health Insurance Commission with the names of podiatrists removed from the Register to enable them to maintain a current list of podiatrists registered in Tasmania.

#### **Joint Meeting of Boards, Podiatry Schools and the Australasian Podiatry Council**

This joint meeting was held in Wodonga in September 2004. Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Difficulty experienced by some Universities in providing sufficient clinical training for the increasing number of students.

- The relatively low level of Commonwealth funding that Podiatry courses currently attract.
- Agreement to develop nationally agreed infection control guidelines.
- Expanding role of foot care assistants and the range of training courses being developed in this area.

### **Policy Development**

New policies were developed during the year 'Non-podiatric Foot Care Policy' and 'Public Interest Disclosure Act 2002 Procedures'. The following policies were reviewed and updated

- Policy and Guidelines – Podiatric Surgery
- Registration Policy
- Renewal of Registration Policy

### **Australasian College of Surgical Podiatrists Trainees**

The Board has agreed that registration fees for podiatrists undertaking residency training in Tasmania would be waived.

### **Meeting of Tasmanian Health Registration Boards**

The Board participated in a meeting of Tasmanian Health Registration Boards held in March 2005. Issues discussed included delays in the appointment of Board members and the need to streamline this and the concept of a tribunal for smaller Boards that would consider complaints against registered persons.

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

The response rate to the Board's of 32% was considered disappointing but the results provided an overview of compliance and areas that may require attention. Eye protection is still an issue as is storage of chemicals. The survey results were forwarded to the Australian Podiatry Association (Tasmania) with a request that its professional development activities include this issue. The results were also circulated to podiatrists with information on where information on occupational health and safety and workplace standards may be obtained.

### **Complaints**

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

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

David McKay is the Board's nominee on this Committee

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

The Australasian Podiatry Council is coordinating the development of nationally agreed guidelines in the areas of infection control. The Board is participating in this process and comments on draft document have been provided to the Council. This is a very useful

development that will result in greater consistency between registration boards and more efficient publication of these documents.

### **Expansion in Access to S4 Drugs**

At the moment podiatrists have access to a limited range of local anaesthetic drugs provided they have the necessary skills and training in this area. The Board considers that consideration should be given to expanding the range of S4 drugs that podiatrists may use.

### **Registration Fees:**

During the year the Board agreed to increase registration fees:

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Revised</b>
Application Fee	\$140	\$145
Annual Fee	\$280	\$290
Late Fee	\$56	\$58
Restoration Fee	\$140	\$145

### **Finance:**

A copy of the Annual Financial Statement is attached. A surplus of over \$8,000 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 the timing of expenditure on infection control guidelines that is now expected to be incurred in 2005-06. The Board's objective is to continue 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 2004		68
Additions		
Applications Approved	11	
Restorations		10
Removals		
Non-payment of annual fees	9	
Expiry of short-term registration	1	10
Total on Register as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2004		69

A profile of registered podiatrists for the past 10 years is summarised below.

	<b>95/96</b>	<b>96/97</b>	<b>97/98</b>	<b>98/99</b>	<b>99/00</b>	<b>00/01</b>	<b>01/02</b>	<b>02/03</b>	<b>03/04</b>	<b>04/05</b>
Applications & restorations approved	14	12	13	8	4	10	10	12	14	11
Podiatrists Registered as at 30 June	75	72	71	66	59	58	61	59	68	69

**Contact Details of the Board:**

Tony Sansom  
Secretary  
PO Box 240  
Claremont TAS 7011  
Phone 62 491377  
Fax 62 494292  
Email [adsansom@tassie.net.au](mailto:adsansom@tassie.net.au)

**Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania**  
**Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2005**

<b>Cash Receipts</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>Cash Payments</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2003/04</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance from last Account	19,520.03	12,623.80	Honorarium	8,250.00	8,000.00
Application Fees	4,370.00	4,950.00	Audit Fees	460.00	450.00
Renewal Fees	17,584.00	15,622.00	Sitting Fees	3,600.00	4,500.00
GST Received from ATO	937.00	763.00	Travel, Accom. Meals	1,530.56	799.18
Interest	1,027.47	748.43	Bank Charges	124.50	64.80
			Other Expenses	280.00	0.00
			GST paid to suppliers	964.64	909.30
			Merchant Charges	478.95	463.92
			Balance to next Account	27,749.85	19,520.03
	43,438.50	34,707.23		43,438.50	34,707.23

**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 \$27,749.85 as shown in the Statement.