

**PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD  
TASMANIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

## **THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA**

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Please address all correspondence to:  
The Secretary  
The Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania  
P.O. Box 240  
Claremont TAS 7011

22 August 2008

The Hon Lara Giddings  
Minister for Health and Human Services  
10 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Ms Giddings

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Podiatrists Registration Act 1995*, we have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report of the Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Yours Sincerely

Janice Mason

## **Charter**

The Podiatrists Registration Board is established under the provisions of the *Podiatrists Registration Act 1995* to exercise the functions, powers and objectives imposed in it under the Act. The Board must perform its functions and exercise its powers so as to:

- Ensure that podiatric services provided to the public are of the highest possible standard.
- Ensure that persons practice podiatry according to the highest professional standard.
- Guard against unsafe, incompetent and unethical podiatric practices.

## **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.

## **Membership of the Board:**

The current membership of the Board is:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term</b>
Ms Janice Mason (Chair), Podiatrist	3 years concluding 9 March 2009
Mr. David McKay, Podiatrist	3 years concluding 9 March 2009
Ms Toni Nash, Podiatrist	3 years concluding 25 May 2011
Ms Sarah Piggott	3 years concluding 27 April 2011
Ms Kay Gunn	3 years concluding 9 March 2009

During the year Sarah Piggott and Toni Nash were appointed for a further three year term on the Board.

## **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 2008-09**

### **Board Meetings**

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

	Number of Meetings Attended
Ms Kay Gunn	4
Ms Janice Mason	4
Mr. David McKay	4
Ms Toni Nash	4
Ms Sarah Piggott	4

### **Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards**

The Board participated in meetings of Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards (ANZCPRB) held in October 2007 and February 2008. The role of the ANZCPRB is to

- Assist Boards in Australia and New Zealand to carry out their functions by sharing information, knowledge, expertise and experience;
- Initiate, develop and monitor the implementation of policies and procedures that are of national significance and which require cooperative action by the Registration Boards;
- Be responsible for consulting with other stakeholders on issues of national significance.

## **Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC)**

ANZPAC is an independent organisation to assess and accredit podiatric education programs that provide eligibility for registration as a podiatrist in Australia and New Zealand. David McKay is the Board's representative on the ANZPAC Board of Management.

The Council appointed a Project Officer to evaluate and report the different models of course accreditation and professional accreditation currently in existence in Australia and New Zealand. This project was undertaken during 2007-08 and is being considered by the Council in order to implement a viable accreditation model.

## **National Registration of Health Professionals**

The Board has continued to monitor developments in the implementation of a national registration and accreditation scheme as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments.

## **Board Web Site**

The Board has a web site that provides comprehensive information about its activities that is of interest to both podiatrists and the general public. The web address is [www.podregtas.com.au](http://www.podregtas.com.au). The following framework indicates the range of information available through the website.

- The role of the Board and purpose of regulation.
- Registration requirements and how to apply for registration.
- Explanation of podiatry and links to other registration boards and professional organisations.
- Publications including annual reports, circulars and board policies.
- A list of currently registered podiatrists.
- How to make a complaint to the board.

## **Disciplinary**

The Health Complaints Commissioner sought the views of the Board in relation to a complaint it had received and investigated. The Board concurred with the Commissioner's view that the complaint should be dismissed.

Central to the complaint was the issue of communication between the podiatrist and the client. As a result the Board has developed and distributed a brochure "You and your podiatrist" to provide information to clients about podiatry as well as a context to assist podiatrists in their practice. Copies have been distributed to all podiatrists and is also available from the Board's website.

## **Expansion in Access to Scheduled Drugs**

Podiatrists currently have access to a limited range of local anaesthetic drugs provided they have the necessary skills and training in this area. For some time the Board has been discussing the need to expand the range of drugs that suitably trained podiatrists may access. Most other Australian jurisdictions are in the process of developing similar proposals.

John Ramsay and Associates has been appointed by the Board and the Australian Podiatry Association - Tasmania to develop a submission to the Minister for Health and Human Services seeking to amend the *Poisons Act* and the *Podiatrists Registration Act* to enable prescribing by podiatrists and expanded access to scheduled drugs in Tasmania.

### **Advice of Indemnity Arrangements and Steriliser Calibration**

The Board continues to require podiatrists to provide evidence of professional indemnity insurance arrangements as a condition of registration.

The Board has decided that podiatrists should provide evidence that the steriliser that they use has recently been calibrated. This should be via a calibration certificate from an appropriately licensed company. Appropriate steriliser maintenance and calibration is an essential aspect of practice management and infection control. The national infection control guidelines state that sterilisers should be subject to at least annual preventive maintenance including calibration.

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

No application for information under the Freedom of Information Act was made to the Board during the reporting year.

### **Telepodiatry**

In response to a question from an interstate practitioner the Board considered the issue of podiatrists undertaking “telepodiatry”. It is clear that podiatrists providing a telehealth service should be registered in the state that the patient resides (i.e. Tasmania) as well as their own state.

### **Registration Fees:**

Statutory fees charged for the Board’s services were unchanged as follows.

Application Fee	\$150
Annual Fee	\$300
Late Fee	\$60
Restoration Fee	\$150

**Finance:**

A copy of the Annual Financial Statement is attached. A surplus of \$7,800 was achieved for the year, which was in line with budget expectations. The budget for 2008-09 is as follows

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b>
Applications	5,000.00
Renewals	20,000.00
Other	500.00
Input Tax Credits	2,200.00
Bank Interest	2,500.00
GST Collected on Sales	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,200.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>\$</b>
Sitting Fees	8,000.00
Travel and Accommodation	3,000.00
Web Site Development & Support	400.00
Audit Fees	600.00
ANCCPRB & ANZPAC	2,000.00
Proposal for Scheduled Drugs	7,000.00
Bank Charges	200.00
Honorarium	10,300.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
Merchant Charges	650.00
GST paid to suppliers	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,350.00</b>

**Register of Podiatrists****Reconciliation of Additions and Removals from the Register**

Total on Register as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2007		72
<b>Additions</b>		
Applications Approved	10	
Restorations	1	11
<b>Removals</b>		
Non-payment of annual fees	6	
Expiry of short-term registration	2	8
Total on Register as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2008		75

## Profile of Registered Podiatrist

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
Applications & restorations approved	10	10	12	14	11	16	18	11
Podiatrists Registered as at 30 June	58	61	59	68	69	71	72	75

## Demographic Profile as at 30 June 2008

### Gender

Male 29, Female 46

### Age

20-29 years	20
30-39 years	25
40-49 years	17
50-59 years	9
60 years an over	4

### Region of Registered Address

Southern Tasmania	36
Northern Tasmania	15
North Western Tasmania	15
Interstate/Overseas	7

### Contact Details of the Board:

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**Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania**  
**Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2008**

<b>Cash Receipts</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>Cash Payments</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance from last Account	39,484.82	32,751.07	Honorarium	9,800.00	9,500.00
Application Fees	4,550.00	6,025.00	Audit Fees	550.00	500.00
Renewal Fees	20,110.00	19,500.00	Sitting Fees	5,400.00	5,050.00
Infection Guidelines	0.00	0.00	Infection Guidelines	0.00	0.00
GST Collected for ATO	77.64	39.49	ANZPAC Fees	1,281.00	0.00
GST Received from ATO	1,471.00	1,276.00	Web Site Development	234.55	698.07
Interest	2,585.77	1,764.23	Travel, Accommodation, Meals	2,306.17	4,257.46
Other	776.43	447.14	Bank Charges	169.65	134.90
			Other Expenses	0.00	45.45
			GST paid to suppliers	1,353.90	1,525.36
			Merchant Charges	589.45	606.87
			Balance to next Account	47,370.95	39,484.82
	<b>69,055.66</b>	<b>61,802.93</b>		<b>69,055.66</b>	<b>61,802.93</b>

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 \$47,370.95 as shown in the Statement.

Chairperson

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Secretary

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