

**THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF  
TASMANIA  
NEWSLETTER      SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Professional Indemnity Insurance**

As podiatrists may be aware, the Board requires evidence of ongoing professional indemnity insurance. As most policies are for a financial year this means that podiatrists are obliged to provide evidence of renewal of their policy.

**It would be appreciated if this evidence could be provided to the Board by 30 September 2009. Information may be forwarded by email, facsimile or post.**

This evidence will usually be in the form of a copy of your insurance policy schedule and receipt of payment or a letter from your employer advising that you are included in your employer's insurance arrangements.

All practising podiatrists are required to provide these details. Non-practising podiatrists who wish to continue registration should provide a statement outlining the reasons for seeking an exemption from the requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance.

**Board Membership**

The Board welcomes three new members: Frank Ederle, Helen McCausland and James Walker who have been appointed for three year terms. Frank is currently Executive Officer for the Legal Professions Board of Tasmania and has experience in complaint handling and legislative matters which will be invaluable. Helen and James will be known to many

podiatrists. James has previous Podiatry Board experience having served on the ACT Podiatrists Registration Board including a term as Deputy Chair. Helen has wide experience as a practicing podiatrist including work in the United Kingdom.

Podiatrist members Toni, James and Helen currently work in public and private practice so the perspectives of both these sectors are available to inform board discussions.

Thank you to previous Board members Janice Mason, David McKay and Kay Gunn for their contribution as board members during the past 6 years and ongoing focus on the public interest.

**Members of the Board**

Current members of the Board are:

<b>Podiatrists</b>	<b>Expiring</b>
Toni Nash (Chair)	25 May 2011
James Walker	13 July 2012
Helen McCausland	13 July 2012

**Lay Persons**

Sarah Piggott	27 April 2011
Frank Ederle	13 July 2012

## **National Registration and Accreditation Scheme**

Implementation of the new single national registration scheme as agreed by Australian health ministers is continuing with a commencement date of 1 July 2010. The national legislation (Bill B) will be progressed via the Queensland parliament in November 2009.

Membership of the new national boards, including the Podiatry Board of Australia have now been finalised and attached is the announcement of appointments to the national boards. It is expected that the first meetings will occur within the next few weeks.

In addition to the national professional boards there will be local committees for the larger health professions, although smaller jurisdictions such as Tasmania may not have local committees for all professions. As these details become clearer, the Board will notify you of developments as they arise.

It is understood that Tasmania will have a single office which will support all professional Boards. The staffing and accommodation arrangements are presently being determined with all staff and systems to be in place by April 2010 to provide three months to fully transition to the new scheme by 1 July 2010.

The Tasmanian Government will shortly be considering legislation to establish the local complaint and disciplinary arrangements.

It is anticipated that podiatrists registered as at 30 June 2010 will transfer automatically to the national register. There will be a number of transitional arrangements that will impact on podiatrists and information on these will be advised as the national board and national agency are established and commence operation.

### **Providers of Basic Foot Care**

The Board has recently considered the supervisory responsibility of podiatrists who employ or manage staff such as podiatry assistants or foot care assistants. A policy has been developed and is attached – a copy can also be obtained from the Board's website.

### **Use of Scheduled Drugs**

The joint project between the Board and the Australian Podiatry Association - Tasmania to extend prescribing rights to Tasmanian podiatrists is now well underway.

Members of the Board and the Association recently had further discussions with the Department of Health and Human Services and discussed the consultation process and options for obtaining the input from key stakeholders and interest groups.

### **Board Annual Report 2008-09**

A copy of the Board annual report for 2008-09 is attached.

### **Board Contact Details**

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