

THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA

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CIRCULAR TO REGISTERED PODIATRISTS

Renewal of Registration Year ending 31 December 2006

Registered podiatrists are invited to renew their registration for the year ending 31 December 2006. If you wish to obtain a certificate of registration for this year please complete the details on the attached application form and return to me with the prescribed fee of \$290. Please note that no GST is included as the fees have been exempted under section 81 of *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*.

There are several issues that podiatrists will need to consider when renewing registration for next year.

Non Practising Podiatrists

Should any registered podiatrists not have practised podiatry within the past five (5) years, the Board is required to issue a certificate of registration only if they meet current requirements for registration. If you fall into this category and wish to continue registration, please contact me to obtain the requirements of the Board.

The questions in this year's renewal form have been re-phrased as the Board wishes to obtain a profile of the extent of any non-practicing periods during the past 5 years. This is because the Board is developing a policy on the issue of recency of practice. If there are periods during the past 5 years when you have not practiced please complete the details where requested on the form.

Please note that the existing policy will continue with only those podiatrists who have not practiced at all during the past 5 years being required demonstrate that they meet the current registration requirements.

Due Date and Fine for Late Payment

The due date for receipt of all applications for renewal is 31 December 2005. Podiatrists who do not submit all the required details by this date will incur a late fee of \$58.00. Unfinancial podiatrists as at 31 January 2006 will be removed from the register as prescribed in section 36 (8) of the Podiatrists Registration Act.

Should a podiatrist be removed for this reason they may apply for restoration to the Register (the prescribed restoration fee, in addition to the annual renewal fee is \$145).

Professional Indemnity Insurance

As you are aware, podiatrists need to provide evidence of professional indemnity cover in order to obtain a certificate of registration for the 2006 year. This evidence would 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.

Podiatrists who do not satisfy the Board's requirements in this area will not be issued with a certificate of registration and their name will be removed from the register in accordance with section 36(9) of the Act.

Infection Control Guidelines

The Board has participated in the development of National Infection Control Guidelines For Podiatrists. These have been prepared by the Australasian Podiatry Council on behalf the Podiatrist Registration Boards. This is an important and welcome achievement as each Board has previously had its own document with resulting inconsistency between jurisdictions. This publication is available on the Council Web Site using the following link.

http://www.apodc.com.au/infection/nat_infection_control.pdf

The Board also has a limited supply of bound copies of the Guidelines. These can be purchased from the Board for a cost of \$25 (inclusive of postage and GST). If any podiatrist wishes to purchase a bound copy please include the above fee with your renewal payment and a copy will be posted to you.

Board Web Site

A web site for the Board is currently under construction and will be completed shortly. The address is www.podregtas.com. The site will provide detailed information about the Board and its responsibilities including registration, policies, renewal of registration, complaints and publications. A list of currently registered podiatrists will also be included on the site. Comments and suggestions on the information on the site is encouraged.

Please contact me if you have any questions about these matters.

Tony Sansom
SECRETARY

14 November 2005