

THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA

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

Email secretary@podregtas.com www.podregtas.com

CIRCULAR TO REGISTERED PODIATRISTS

Renewal of Registration Year ending 31 December 2007

Registered podiatrists are invited to renew their registration for the year ending 31 December 2007. 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 \$300. 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, you will need to provide further information to enable the Board to assess whether you meet these requirements.

The requirements of the Board are outlined in its Recency of Practice Policy (2/2006) that has been developed during the year. A copy of the policy can be obtained from the website.

Due Date and Fine for Late Payment

The due date for receipt of all applications for renewal is 31 December 2006. Podiatrists who do not submit all the required details by this date will incur a late fee of \$60.00. Unfinancial podiatrists as at 31 January 2007 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 \$150).

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 2007 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.

The Board has also decided to require podiatrists to provide evidence of arrangements when renewing their policy. As most policies are for a financial year this means that podiatrists should provide evidence of professional indemnity insurance when they renew their policy in May/June 2007. A reminder will be circulated about this requirement in May 2007.

Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards

This Council has recently been established and Tasmania hosted its most recent meeting. The role of the Council is to

- Assist Podiatry Registration 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 co-operative action by the Registration Boards; and
- Be responsible for consulting with other stakeholders, e.g. Government, on issues of national significance.

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Proposed National Registration Scheme

COAG has agreed to establish a national health registration scheme by July 2008 to apply to the nine occupational groups registered in all states and territories. Podiatry is not currently one of the listed occupations (as not subject to registration in the Northern Territory) but the inclusion of other health occupations will be considered during the implementation of the scheme.

The Board is aware that consultations have commenced on how the national scheme could be implemented but there is limited information available at this early stage. Further information on this proposal can be obtained from the COAG website www.coag.gov.au.

Board Policies

The Board has developed the following new policies during 2005-06 and these may be obtained from the website.

- Provision of names and addresses of registered podiatrists
- Recency of practice
- Personal information protection policy
- Advertising policy

Board Web Site

The Board's website address is www.podregtas.com and provides detailed information about the Board and its responsibilities including registration, policies, renewal of registration, complaints and publications. Requirements for registration including all relevant forms may be obtained from the site.

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

Tony Sansom
SECRETARY

14 November 2006