

# THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA NEWSLETTER      APRIL 2009

## Chairperson's Message

This is a brief newsletter to advise registered podiatrists about current activities of the Board. It has been a busy period for the Board – in addition to general operations there have been some key projects underway. These include developing a joint proposal with the Australian Podiatry Association - Tasmania for podiatrists to have access to additional scheduled drugs; working with other states and territories developing the national accreditation body for podiatry; and, ongoing participation in the development of a national registration and accreditation scheme.

The terms of office of three members of the Board have recently expired. Janice Mason and David McKay have completed two 3 year terms and therefore cannot be considered for a further term. Kay Gunn has completed a three year term and has now resigned from the Board having recently moved interstate. Members are to be thanked for their activities as board members and ongoing focus on the public interest.

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently arranging for nominations and the appointment of persons to these vacancies for a further term. In the meantime current members will continue their roles for up to six months as provided under the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*.

## Members of the Board

Current members of the Board are:

<b>Podiatrists</b>	<b>Expiring</b>
Janice Mason (Chair)	9 March 2009
David McKay	9 March 2009
Toni Nash	25 May 2011
<b>Lay Persons</b>	
Sarah Piggott	27 April 2011

## 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 Board has responded to a number of discussion papers during the past few months and is also a party to matters raised by the Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards.

Positions on the national Agency Management Committee (that will provide the necessary administrative support for the scheme) have recently been advertised and it is expected that positions on the ten national Boards will be advertised shortly.

The Board participates on a Tasmanian liaison group convened by the Department of Health and Human Services which discusses local issues that need to be addressed in the transition to the new arrangements. One of the important matters to be resolved is the complaint and disciplinary arrangements to be developed in Tasmania.

In terms of registration it is anticipated that podiatrists registered as at 30 June 2010 will transfer 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 discussed the responsibility of podiatrists who may refer a client to someone (who is not a podiatrist) for basic foot care. It is considered that as long as the referral is clearly for a pedicure or similar basic foot care services then the referring podiatrist is unlikely to be implicated should the care provided be sub-standard or breach the Podiatrists Registration Act or other legislation.

The supervisory responsibility of podiatrists who employ or manage staff such as podiatry assistants or foot care assistants has also been considered by the Board and a policy is being developed on this issue.

### **Sterilisation Maintenance and Calibration**

All podiatrists have now provided copies of documentation for the steriliser they use for their instruments. Thank you for your cooperation. Adequate infection control procedures are essential in order to manage the risk of infection for clients, podiatrists and other practitioners. The Board has a policy on infection control which may be obtained from our website. There is a national infection control manual for podiatrists that has been endorsed by all Australian podiatry registration boards. A printed copy can be purchased from the Board or downloaded via our website.

### **Continuing Education**

Continuing professional education is a requirement of ongoing registration as a podiatrist in South Australia, New South Wales and New Zealand. It may also become a requirement of re-registration under the new national scheme.

The Board strongly recommends that all podiatrists regularly participate in professional continuing education activities.

### **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. A draft submission seeking prescribing and access rights to a range of scheduled drugs has been developed.

There have been initial discussions with the Department of Health and Human Services about the issues involved in extending prescribing rights to Tasmanian podiatrists. After the draft submission has been revised, the Board and Association will write to the Department formally advising them of the wish to extend prescribing rights and the intention to commence stakeholder consultation.

The Board and Association will write to key stakeholders explaining the proposed changes and offering to meet with them to discuss the proposal. Further information will be available when the consultation process begins.

### **Client Records**

Although there is no legislation to specify how long client records are to be maintained, it is recommended from a practical perspective, adult records should be retained for at least seven (7) years after the last treatment of a client by the registrant/provider, and child records until the person is 25 years of age.

Podiatrists in the public sector should refer to Disposal Schedule No 20 for patient and medical record disposal for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Podiatrists in the private sector should refer to policies of the profession and, where relevant policies of their employer if considering disposing of client records.

Where it is appropriate to destroy client records, podiatrist should ensure that it is done so as to maintain confidentiality, for example secure shredding by a third party provider.

### **Advertising Policy**

Podiatrists are reminded of the Board policy on advertising which may be viewed on its web site. In particular use of acronyms in advertising material should be limited to qualifications or credentials that are well known to the public. For example acronyms may be used for academic qualifications. However it is considered that professional memberships should be stated in full i.e. Member of the Australian Podiatry Association.

### **Board Contact Details**

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