

**THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF
TASMANIA
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2008**

The purpose of this Circular is to provide information about recent developments including implementation of the national registration arrangements, the Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards and preparation of a submission for prescribing rights for podiatrists in Tasmania.

This circular asks Podiatrists to provide documentation in respect of professional indemnity insurance and also a calibration certificates for the steriliser(s) used for infection control.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

As podiatrists may be aware, the Board requires 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 2008.

It would be appreciated if this evidence could be provided to this office by 31 July 2008. Information may be forwarded by email, facsimile or post.

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.

Steriliser Maintenance and Calibration

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.

Calibration is the routine checking and maintenance of the steriliser's measuring devices including the timer, gauges and displays. It is carried out by a skilled service technician using NATA accredited measuring equipment.

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.

A certificate should be provided for each practice address should sterilisation be carried out at more than one location. A group practice may provide a certificate and indicate the podiatrists that practice from that location.

A copy of the most recent steriliser calibration certificate should be provided to this office by 31 July 2008.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

The Australian Government, along with state and territory governments have signed an intergovernmental agreement to establish a single national registration and accreditation scheme from 1 July 2010.

Although podiatry is not included in the initial nine professions within the scheme it is expected that podiatry would be added as soon as practicable after 1 July 2010.

The Agreement outlines the approach to implementing these arrangements with a national agency to be established to commence the scheme under the governance of the Australian Health Ministers Council.

Further information about the scheme, including a copy of the intergovernmental agreement can be obtained from the Council of Australian Governments website. www.coag.gov.au

Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards (ANZCPRB)

The ANZCPRB is now operational and is meeting regularly, having developed a work program. A representative of the Board attends meetings of this Council.

Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC)

This Council has now been established. 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.

The Council has recently 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.

David McKay is the Board's nominee on ANZPAC.

Use of Scheduled Drugs

John Ramsay and Associates have 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 podiatric prescribing and expanded access to scheduled drugs in Tasmania.

There will be consultation with key stakeholders including the podiatry profession and other health professional groups in developing this submission.

Brochure - Getting the most from your visit to the podiatrist

The Board has produced a brochure *Getting the most from your visit to the podiatrist - Helpful hints for your consultation*. This provides information for clients about podiatry, the information should provide when seeing a podiatrist and question that they should ask.

Copies will be distributed shortly

Members of the Board

Current members of the Board are:

Podiatrists	Expiring
Janice Mason (Chair)	9 March 2009
David McKay	9 March 2009
Toni Nash	25 May 2011
Lay Persons	
Sarah Piggott	27 April 2011
Kay Gunn	9 March 2009

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