

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

Renewal of Registration Year ending 31 December 2010

Registered podiatrists are invited to renew their registration for the 2010 year. If you wish to obtain a practising certificate for this year please complete the details on the enclosed application form and return 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.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

Legislation has now been passed in Queensland that establishes a national registration scheme for 10 health professions. Legislation is being introduced in all States and Territories to adopt this scheme from 1 July 2010 so from that point all registrants are included in the national scheme.

During the first year of operation of the new scheme, all registrants across Australia will be brought into the same registration cycle. The new renewal date for podiatry is 30 November.

There will be no change for you until the expiry of your existing registration after 1 July 2010. The new fee levels will apply from that point. Your first registration under the new scheme may be shorter or longer than a 12-month period to bring you into the new renewal cycle. Your registration fee will be adjusted to take account of the shorter or longer period.

If you are currently registered in a number of jurisdictions, you will only have one registration under the new scheme. The fee for your first renewal under the new scheme will be adjusted according to the registration with the latest expiry date.

If you are a registered practitioner in Tasmania on 30 June 2010, you will automatically be registered under the new scheme from 1 July 2010.

Prior to commencement of the new legislation, you will be personally advised of how your current registration translates into registration under the new scheme (including how any endorsements placed on your current registration translate). It is expected that this will occur around April 2010.

If you currently have any conditions placed on your registration or have made undertakings to the board relating to your registration, these will be carried forward to your registration under the new scheme.

The Podiatry Board of Australia has recently released a consultation paper on registration standards and related matters. The paper proposes that professional indemnity insurance, continuing professional education and recency of practice (three years) will be a requirement of ongoing registration.

Further information is available from the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au

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). A copy of the policy can be obtained from our website. <http://www.podregtas.com/boardpolicies.htm>

Due Date and Fine for Late Payment

The due date for receipt of all applications for renewal is 31 December 2009. 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 2010 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

Podiatrists need to provide evidence of professional indemnity cover in order to obtain a certificate of registration. Some podiatrists have already provided this documentation following the request from the Board earlier this year. Other podiatrists must provide his information and this requirement is highlighted on the renewal form.

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.

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.

The *Health Practitioners Regulation National Law Bill 2009* provides that the Ministerial Council may approve a scheduled medicines endorsement.

In the event that this approval is forthcoming it will be necessary for the Tasmanian *Poisons Act 1971* to be amended to enable the endorsements to operate in Tasmania. A Working Party is being formed to progress these activities which are being coordinated by John Ramsay and Associates.

A reference group of key stakeholders is currently being established to develop and refine a proposal for broader consultation. It is expected that consultation will be completed by May 2010 with a final position being developed for formal consideration by Government.

Email Addresses

Please indicate your current email address on the renewal as this will ensure that relevant information about the transition to national registration can be readily circulated.

Members of the Board

Current members of the Board are:

Podiatrists	Expiring
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

Board Contact Details

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