

Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania

Recency of Practice Policy

Policy Number 2/2006	Date Implemented 3/3/2006	Last Review N/A	Review March 2009
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Background and Rationale

This policy has been developed to provide a framework to ensure that podiatrists who have not practiced for a period of time can demonstrate that they still meet the requirements for entitlement to registration. The policy aims to ensure that the registration and re-registration process is current, transparent and facilitates the Boards decision-making process on applicants 'ongoing competencies' for practice in Tasmania.

The Boards functions as pertaining to the Act include;

- (a) Supervise the practice of podiatry,
- (b) To monitor the standard and provision of podiatric services in this State and
- (c) To monitor the standards of education and training in Podiatry.

In addition to this the Objectives of the Board includes;

- (a) Ensure that podiatric services provided to the public are of the highest possible standard,
- (b) Ensure that persons practice podiatry according to the highest professional standard and
- (c) Guard against unsafe, incompetent and unethical podiatric practices.

Section 21 of the Podiatrists Registration Act 1995, outlines the requirements that all registered podiatrists are expected to meet at all times, namely;

21(1) An applicant is entitled to be registered as a podiatrist if the Board is satisfied that the applicant –

- (a) is eligible to apply for registration; and
- (b) has sufficient physical capacity, mental capacity and skill to practise podiatry; and
- (c) is of good fame and character; and
- (d) has an adequate command of the English language; and
- (e) is an Australian citizen or resides in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth.

21(2) notwithstanding subsection (1), the Board may determine that an applicant is not entitled to be registered if it is not satisfied that the applicant, when practising, will have adequate professional indemnification arrangements.

Policy

1. Podiatrists who have not actively practised podiatry in the preceding five (5) years must show that they would comply with requirements for entitlement for registration outlined in Section 21 of the Act. All details in the 'Assessment for Competency to Practice as a Podiatrist' should be completed and supplementary documentation provided.

2. The authorities for these requirements are Section 23 of (Inquiry into entitlement for registration of a new podiatrist) and Section 37(7) (Granting certificates of registration to podiatrists who have not practiced actively in the past 5 years).
3. Competence is defined as ‘the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for safe professional performance.’ This may be assessed by evidence of continuing professional development/education, submission of a professional portfolio, oral, written or practical examination, peer review, legal declaration and audit.
4. The Board or a sub-committee of the Board will assess all applications. Should the information provided demonstrate competence then the application may be approved.
5. Should the Board assess the application as not demonstrating competence then options available include:
 - Complete the Australasian Podiatry Council Examination.
 - Undertake a period of supervised practice and successfully complete any assessment as part of this supervision.
 - Other refresher training, or clinical or theoretical training as specified by the Board.
 - Refuse to approve registration or re-registration.
 - Approve registration or re-registration subject to conditions.
6. The Board may chose one or more of these options.
7. Details to be provided by applicants to enable the Board to assess competence are attached.

Approved

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Chairperson

Assessment for Competency to Practice as a Podiatrist

This document should be attached to your Registration Application

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Under Section 36 (7) 'The Board must not issue a new certificate of Registration to a registered person who has not actively practised Podiatry in the 5 year period preceding the due date unless it is satisfied that the person-

- (a) Complies with the requirements specified in section 21 (1)(b), (c), (d) and (e); and*
- (b) Would, if applying to be registered for the first time were eligible to apply for that registration.*

Podiatrists authorised to practise in Tasmania are regulated and accountable to the community for providing quality care through safe and effective and ethical practice, and for maintaining the competence to practice. Employers also have the responsibility to ensure that those they employ to provide a service are safe and competent to do so.

Competence is the combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and abilities that underpin effective performance in a profession. Continuing competence is the ability of Podiatrists to demonstrate that they have maintained competence in their area of practice.

It is reasonable for the public to expect that Podiatrists maintain their competence to practise. Consumer expectations, demographic and social changes, new technology, a greater focus on research and evidence based practice allow for Podiatrists to manage a wide range of health problems and underpin the need for Podiatrists to maintain their competence.

The accountability of Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania is to carry out their functions in line with the Podiatry Act 1995 and are committed to supporting continuing competence amongst Registered Podiatrists.

To assist the Board in determining your eligibility for Registration please complete the following questionnaire, providing as much detailed information as possible to assist in your application.

