



Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

ePod SEPTEMBER 2013 PODIATRISTS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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CONTENTS

- BOARD MEETINGS
- NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS
- BOARD COMMITTEE WORK
- INTRODUCTION OF NEW FEES
- PODIATRIC SURGERY
- PRACTISING WITHOUT AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)
- PODIATRY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (PBA) & ANZPAC
- SECRETARIAT
- VULNERABLE CHILDRENS BILL/ CHILDRENS ACTION PLAN
- UPDATE REGISTER

BOARD MEETINGS

Recent meetings were held on 8 and 9 August and further meetings for 2013 will be held on 7 and 8 November.

Meetings for 2014 are planned for 27 & 28 February, 8 & 9 May, 31 July, 1 August, and 30 & 31 October.

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board is very pleased to advise that two new members have now been appointed by the Minister of Health to fill the 2 positions left on the departure of Terry Bradshaw and Julianne Jackson.

The Board is grateful to both Terry and Julianne as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively, for their valued expertise, time and hard work, and to Terry especially for his skilled leadership in his role as Chair.

The two new Board members are **Bruce Baxter** of Christchurch and **Steve York** of Whangarei who were appointed to the Board in June for a 3 year term, and were welcomed by the Board at their first meeting on the 8 August. The Board looks forward to working with Bruce and Steve in the coming years with the benefit of their additional contribution of skills, experience and knowledge.

The Board is confident that under the excellent leadership of the current Chair Leigh Shaw, and Fiona Angus as Deputy Chair, it will continue to be a positive, productive, successful team as a regulator, fulfilling its legislative role of protecting the health and safety of the public.

BOARD COMMITTEE WORK

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced podiatrists (7 years or more) to join a pool of practitioners who are available to undertake work for the Board serving on various committees. These would include Competence Review Committees and Professional Conduct Committees (PCCs).

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FEES:

The Board has consulted on the introduction of a number of new fees that it reluctantly feels is necessary to put in place for the commencement of the 2014 APC year. The proposed fees and disciplinary levy (including GST) were:

- Disciplinary Levy (\$195)
- Non-practising Inactive Maintenance Fee (\$100)
- Recertification fee for further scopes of practice in:
 - Podiatric Surgery (\$175)
 - Podiatric Radiographic Imagery (\$20)

The Board had allowed for a 2 month consultation period and this closed on 9 September. Five responses were received, including one from Podiatry NZ. The Board has duly considered all of the feedback and taken it into full account. It has deliberated and decided on a reduction to the:

- disciplinary levy (now \$175) and
- inactive maintenance fee (now \$85).

To clarify, it was decided that the following fees (including GST and showing the breakdown including the disciplinary levy) will now be introduced for 1 April 2014:

APC fees

Podiatrist	\$817+ \$175	\$992
Podiatrist & Podiatric surgeon	\$817+ \$175+\$175	\$1,167
Podiatrist & Podiatric surgeon & PRI	\$817+\$175+\$20+\$175	\$1,187
Return to practice (incl 50% of DL) (from 1 January)	\$408+\$87.50	\$495.50
First time registrant/new grad (incl 25% of DL) (from 1 December)	\$204+\$43.75	\$247.75
Renew APC if after 31 March (and held previous year)	\$920+\$175	\$1,095
Renew APC & PS (after 31 March)	\$920+\$175+\$175	\$1,270
Renew APC & PS & PRI (after 31 March)	\$920+\$175+\$20+\$175	\$1,290

Inactive Maintenance fee

Inactive Maintenance (incl DL)	\$85 + \$175	\$260
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Many health regulatory authorities have charged practitioners a disciplinary levy and non-practising registrants an inactive maintenance fee to remain on the Register, for a number of years now.

Unfortunately the Board now finds itself in a position where it can no longer absorb these costs and must now introduce a disciplinary levy to all registrants and inactive maintenance fee to non-practising registrants.

The Board is mindful of the economic pressure these further fees may impose on some registrants but at this stage it has no other option.

The Board will reassess the situation in two years, with the intention of removing or significantly reducing the disciplinary levy if possible.

PODIATRIC SURGERY:

A further reminder to podiatric surgeons of the Board's further recertification requirements for 2014.

- Advanced Life Support (4 hours minimum biennially)
- Advance Wound Care (5 hours minimum annually)
- 2 case studies: Board templates to be used (annually)
- CQI evidence: surgical practice audit (annually)

EVIDENCE IS TO BE ATTACHED TO APC RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

PRACTISING WITHOUT AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)

This is a reminder for practitioners who do not hold an APC that should an opportunity arise for you to practice for a brief, perhaps unexpected period of time, you are still required to hold a current APC and would be practising illegally as a podiatrist should you not have this. To save embarrassment please contact the Board should this situation arise.

The Board wishes to draw your attention to an Extract from Buddle Findlay Lawyers Newsletter:

“Practitioners must renew their APC on time or face the consequences

The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal has disciplined four practitioners for practising without a current practising certificate (APC), with penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,500 and orders of censure. These and other recent decisions of the Tribunal highlight the importance of the APC as part of the regulatory regime, the absolute responsibility that practitioners have to ensure that their APC is renewed on time, and the firm approach taken by the Dental Council with regards to "late renewals".

In each of the five cases, the Dental Council had sent a number of reminders to the practitioners using the contact details supplied. Where reminders were not received because of a change in details, the Tribunal noted that the responsibility for, and consequences of not, advising the Dental Council of these changes lay with the practitioner. Further, while reminders were helpful, *"it is the responsibility of every practitioner to ensure that the application is made and the appropriate fees paid in a timely fashion such that the practising certificate is issued before the previous one expires. Otherwise, the responsibility is then on the practitioner not to practise until the renewed certificate is received"*. The practitioners were censured, fined, and ordered to contribute to costs. [544/Dth12/229P](#), [555/Dtech13/232P](#), [556/Dtech13/233P](#), [550/Dtech13/243P](#), and [554/Dtech13/236P](#).”

PODIATRY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (PBA) & ANZPAC (Australia & NZ Podiatry Accreditation Council)

The Board continues to grow and foster its valued relationship with the PBA and hopes to further align its recertification requirements with the Australian model to enable and improve ease of trans-Tasman movement for podiatrists.

The Board is now also utilising its membership in ANZPAC further with the qualification and skills assessment of overseas trained podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

SECRETARIAT

Discussions are continuing among all of the health Responsible Authorities (RAs) with regular meetings of the HRANZ group (Health Regulatory Authorities of New Zealand) to work towards some arrangements for further sharing and working together in a joint secretariat grouping. The Board is already aligned with the Occupational Therapy Board in a "cluster" group with two other smaller RAs.

Since the office move in 2013 where the Board is now co-locating in ASB House with a number of larger RAs including the Dental Council, Physiotherapy Board, MSS and Medical Radiation Therapy Board, further efforts are currently underway for this group to work more closely together over a range of services.

VULNERABLE CHILDRENS BILL/ CHILDRENS ACTION PLAN

Social Development Minister Paula Bennett has announced the intention to introduce legislation which includes a number of changes to protect vulnerable children and help give them a better start in life. The Children's Action plan is a multi-agency 10 year plan to address this issue.

The Ministry of Health is playing a key role in implementing this and will be engaging with its partners in the health sector around workforce provisions in the legislation. As a result there may be some future further requirements for health practitioners when applying for registration and APCs. Information about this initiative is available at

<http://www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz/>

UPDATE REGISTER

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) requires that you **notify the Board of any address change** within one month. This is important to ensure you do not miss out on any posted information. Please also advise the Board of any email and phone number changes as well.

CONTACT

For all queries please contact the Registrar, Annabel Whinam

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