



Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

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AUGUST 2014

PODIATRISTS BOARD NEWSLETTER

EMAIL registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz

WEBSITE www.podiatristsboard.org.nz

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BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met on 31 July and 1 August. Further meetings this year will be held 30 & 31 October.

Meetings planned for 2015 are 26 & 27 February, June (dates to be confirmed), 20 & 21 August, and 12 & 13 November.

PRACTISING WITHOUT AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)

There are currently 351 practising podiatrists holding an APC.

The Board wishes to remind all registrants that it is essential they hold a current APC before they commence practice, and under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA) it is illegal to practice without one.

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

HPDT DECISION

The Board has had an HPDT case recently that has found a podiatrist in breach of the HPCA Act by practising podiatry without an APC for a number of years.

The matter was investigated by the Board's Professional Conduct Committee (PCC), a charge laid under the HPCA Act and was heard by the HPDT on 21 May 2014.

The HPDT decision included a requirement for the Board to publish its findings in the Board Newsletter.

Summary of decision of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal for publication – Pod13/271P – Ms Nina Williams.

At a hearing on 21 May 2014, the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal considered a charge laid by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC), appointed by the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand, against Ms Nina Williams, podiatrist of Marton.

The Charge was that Ms Williams practised the profession of podiatry between April 2007 and May 2013 while not holding a current practising certificate.

The Tribunal found the charge established and censured Ms Williams. The Tribunal imposed a fine of \$2,500 and ordered Ms Williams to pay \$2,500 as a contribution towards the costs of and incidental to the hearing.

The Tribunal also made the following recommendations:

- *That if an application is made to the Board by Ms Williams for an APC, the assessment that the Board makes on the application include such matters as are required to achieve compliance by Ms Williams with the Recertification Programme at that time.*
- *That Ms Williams be encouraged to seek assistance from mentors or peers in the future if she is in any professional difficulties such that she cannot comply with requirements.*

The full decision of the Tribunal can be viewed at:

<http://www.hpdt.org.nz/Default.aspx?Tabid=427>

This finding reflects the seriousness with which practising without an APC (albeit very part-time), is taken by the Board and the HPDT.

ON-LINE ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC) RENEWAL PROCESS

The Board is very pleased to advise that an on-line option is planned for practitioners to be able to renew their APCs for the 2015-2016 practising year. This function is expected to be available early next year.

Emails will be sent to all current practitioners before the end of 2014 with confirmation of this new function and instructions about the process.

All practitioners will be able to login to the Board's website, create their own password, update any addresses and contact details themselves and apply for their APC (with their own data prepopulated).

For those choosing not to practice applications to remain on the Register and pay the Inactive Maintenance fee will also be available.

Further information will be also be available in the next Newsletter.

WEBSITE

The Board's website is undergoing a re-development and practitioners and members of the public will see a fresh new look in the new year.

PBRCF AUDIT

- **SELECTION POLICY**

Practitioners are again advised that policy now requires all renewal applications for Annual Practising Certificates received **after 31 March** (where the practitioner has held an APC the preceding year) may result in that practitioner's name being included in the following year's PBRCF Audit process.

- **REQUIREMENTS**

A reminder to all practitioners selected for PBRCF audit that is it the previous 4 years' (or quadrennium) worth of your continuing competency records that the Board wishes to view. For some of you this may require sending in 2 logbooks, as your previous quadrennium may span the timeframe for example, of the last 2 years of your previous logbook and 2 years of your current logbook.

- **CCME**

It is essential that documentation evidence is provided for activities claimed in this area.

PODIATRY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (PBA)

The Board looks forward to hosting the representatives of PBA at its meeting in the afternoon of 30 October 2014, and to continue working together on a number of matters of mutual interest.

ANZPAC (Australia & NZ Podiatry Accreditation Council)

The Board values its membership in ANZPAC and is pleased with the current arrangements with ANZPAC providing qualification and skills assessments of overseas trained podiatry and podiatric surgery registration applicants for the Board.

ANZPAC are currently reviewing the Entry-Level Accreditation Standards and Competency Standards for the podiatry profession and are at the first draft stage of the process.

PodiatryNZ

The Board's Executive Committee meetings regularly include an invitation to PodiatryNZ representatives to attend and the Board values this collegial contact.

PodiatryNZ runs a number of courses and activities throughout the year that are eligible for PBRCF credits. Please refer to their website <https://www.podiatry.org.nz/> for information on their current courses.

To avoid confusion about the two organisations, a chart is being developed that will clearly outline and clarify the roles that both the Podiatrists Board and PodiatryNZ fill.

- The Podiatrists Board's legislated role is to protect the health and safety of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure podiatrists are competent and fit to practice.
- PodiatryNZ's role is "to advance the quality of and access to podiatry in New Zealand".

AUT

The Board values its contact with the School of Podiatry and the Head is invited annually to address the Board at their meeting.

The Board has successfully completed its Informal Audit of the Podiatry School for 2014. This process is generally undertaken annually apart from every 4 or 5 years when ANZPAC provides a full accreditation process for AUT.

In October each year the Board Registrar usually provides a presentation to all third year students on some background of the Board's functions, and the registration, certification and continuing competence requirements for practising podiatrists in NZ.

SECRETARIAT

The Board is continuing with its current arrangement within the Occupational Therapy Board secretariat and the office support it provides, and it has found this "cluster" model (with a few other smaller Boards) to be very successful.

The Board's office is also co-located with a number of other larger health Regulatory Boards over two office floors and this has proved to be an effective and efficient arrangement with a shared reception and a host of other facilities.

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).

DEATH NOTICES

The Board would like to express its condolences to the family of the following practitioner who has passed away recently:

- Anna Christina Geursen (80-00035)

UPDATE REGISTER

Please ensure the Board has your correct address.

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 from the Board. This includes correspondence the Board may post to registrants who are non-practising, regarding a revision of the Register (under section 144 of the HPCA Act) whereby the Board is able to remove registrants from the Register if no response is received to posted correspondence on 2 occasions over a 7 month period.)

Please also advise the Board of any email and phone number changes as well.

CONTACT

For all queries please contact the Registrar, Annabel Whinam

registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz

Phone: 04 4740 706 or Fax: 04 918 4746

**Postal Address: PO Box 10-202, Wellington 6143, NZ or
Physical Address: Level 10, ASB House, 101 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.**