



Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa

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JANUARY 2009

E NEWSLETTER

The Board would like to wish all podiatrists a happy and successful new year.

RE-CERTIFICATION COMPETENCE PROGRAMME

The Board is pleased with the operation of the revised Re-Certification Competence Framework (PBRFC) Programme and will be conducting the first audit in June and July 2009. Practitioners whose names are allocated for this random audit, will be advised by mid-February.

The Board would like to stress that this is an educational exercise designed to encourage on-going competence and lifelong learning, not a punitive one at all. The results will be forwarded to audit participants by the end of September 2009.

Please note for those practitioners who have been in practice for the past 4 years, you will be required to provide logbooks and records under both the earlier system for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 APC years, and your logbook and documentation (Forms 2, 3 and 4 of your Professional Development Plan) for the 2008/2009 APC under the current system.

The Board would like to thank both former Chair and current member Trevor Tillotson and current member Terry Bradshaw who contributed so much to this project for the Board.

The Board would like to remind practitioners that the requirement level set out in the Framework, is to ensure the *minimum* competencies required of practising practitioners under the HPCA Act 2003. This acknowledges the various high level, and often invasive, clinical activities described in the various registered scopes of practice for podiatrists.

The Board's intention in setting a minimum annual credit requirement, is to enable practitioners to maintain flexibility in their practices and to complete re-certification programmes, insofar as possible as is convenient to them. The Board's primary obligation is to ensure the safety of the public and therefore, that practitioners are competent to practice.

ENDORSED CONTINUING PODIATRIC EDUCATION

The Board recommends and provides endorsement for courses and

conferences for the PBRCF, submitted to the Board for that purpose. Endorsement guarantees recognition of credits claimed, if adequate evidence is provided in the logbook, however the Board may still accept other courses for PBRC credits if the auditor deems it to be at an appropriate level.

(Please refer to PBRCF Form 3 Activity Record in the Recertification Framework document.)

The Board welcomes contact from course providers, presenters and practitioners providing details of courses they are requesting for endorsement for the PBRCF. The required information is outlined in a pro forma, which is available on the website home page for your convenience.

The Board receives constant queries and is continually updating the list of endorsed courses, which is also available on the Board's website (under practitioners / re-certification requirements.)

ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

The Board is pleased to advise that the APC renewal fee has not been increased for the 2009-2010 year and the Registrar would like to encourage practitioners to return their completed applications and fees **well before 31 March 2009**. Renewal forms will be sent out in February and again, please endeavour to return them early.

Please remember that payments cannot be processed without receipt of the fully completed application form.

A reminder also that if you do not intend to practice during the 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 period, you must complete and return the Non-practising Declaration attached to your APC renewal form.

The Board requires that you notify any address or phone contact changes, and thanks those of you who do so promptly.

MINIMUM COMPETENCIES FOR REGISTRATION

The Board is pleased to advise that preliminary work is being carried out in collaboration with Australia (through ANZPAC – Australia and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council) on a Minimum Competencies review, and a consultation process with the profession will be undertaken shortly. The Board would like to encourage practitioners to participate in this process.

This document is the basis for the audit and accreditation process that the Board is required by the HPCA Act 2003, to undertake on the New Zealand educational institution that provides podiatric education (ie: AUT).

PRESCRIBING RIGHTS UPDATE

The Board has submitted a further Application for Consideration of Extended Prescribing Authority for Registered Podiatrists to the Ministry of Health in November 2008, and looks forward to hearing back from the Ministry shortly.

The Board has worked towards the establishment of a Podiatrists Board Multidisciplinary Podiatrist Prescriber Monitoring Panel as part of the New Prescribers Advisory Committee's requirements.

The work on this submission has been a very long process and the Board looks forward to its implementation next year. Again, the Board would like to acknowledge the hard work and long hours that Trevor Tillotson has invested in this project over the years.

OVERSEAS TRAINED REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to remove unnecessary barriers to registration and to help alleviate the current shortage of podiatrists in New Zealand, the Board had reviewed and modified the entry level requirements for overseas trained podiatrists.

The former clinical Stage II exam was replaced by a new Open Book Exam, based on cultural competence and health practitioner legislative requirement knowledge.

This exam has been prepared for the Board by AUT and is a precondition for registration in New Zealand for overseas trained podiatrists.

For those practitioners who were granted registration in the interim period, before the exam became available, the exam requirement will be attached to their re-certification and be required to be completed before the 2010/2011 Annual Practising Certificates expire.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board is very fortunate to have such knowledgeable and dedicated Board members. Trevor Tillotson had served the Board as Chairperson since 2002 and the Board is indebted to his dedication and excellent leadership.

In February 2008 Michele Garrett was appointed Chairperson, and again the Board is very lucky to be guided by such a knowledgeable and skilled Chair. Michele has served as a Board member previously for the past 5 years.

Current membership is:

Michele Garrett (Chair),
Auckland
Merron Wilkes (Deputy Chair),
Wellington
Trevor Tillotson,
Wellington

Terence Bradshaw,
Upper Hutt
Julianne Jackson,
Upper Hutt
Geoffrey Mariu (lay member),
Whanganui
Wendy Neilson (lay member),
Tauranga

Note: Board members attend meetings and undertake Board activities as independent persons responsible to the Board as a whole. Members are not appointed as representatives of professional organisations.

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

The Ministry of Health is currently accepting nominations for any new Board member positions that may arise in November 2009. For any current practitioners that may be interested in serving on the Board, please contact **Veronica Lovell**, Corporate Planning and Reporting, Ministry of Health, 04 470 0616, veronica_lovell@moh.govt.nz. Nominees may also wish to complete the on-line application form (and attach their CV) at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/apps/statcom/mittees.nsf/application?open>

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings planned for 2009 will be held on 6 March, 10 July and 6 November.

NEW ADMINISTRATION UNDER HEALTH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES SECRETARIAT (HRAS)

The Board is pleased to advise that, along with the other four Registration Boards previously using the services of RBS (the Optometrists & Dispensing Opticians Board, Dietitians Board, Chiropractic Board and Osteopathic Council), the move to the new secretariat structure has been completed. The new office is now relocated at Level 3, Freemason House, 195-201 Willis Street, Wellington.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Current podiatrists 290

Those with further Scopes of practice:

Podiatric surgeons 13

Pod Radiographic Imagers 6

AUT new graduates (Dec 2008) 35

CONTACTING THE BOARD

For all queries please contact the

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