

Katy Gallagher  
ACT Minister for Health  
Chair Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council  
[nraip@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:nraip@dhs.vic.gov.au)

16 July 2009

Dear Minister,

RE: EXPOSURE DRAFT - Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009

Thank you for providing the NSW Podiatrists Board with the opportunity to make the following submissions to the exposure draft Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009.

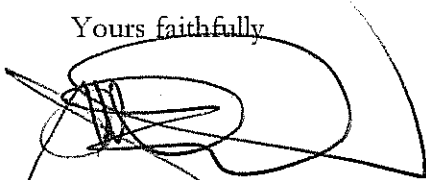
The NSW Board strongly recommends that appropriate specialties within podiatry are included under section 12 of the Act. Specialist recognition provides protection to the public through identification and regulation of practitioners. Inclusion of this will ensure that appropriately qualified and regulated podiatrists only perform podiatric surgery.

The NSW Board strongly supports the following items:

- Part 7, Division 6, section 101, which provides as a condition of continuing registration, that the registered health practitioner must complete the continuing professional development program required by the National Board. This provision will ensure that only those health practitioners with currency of practice and continuing education will provide health services.
- Part 7, Division 7, section 104, which provides for registration of students undertaking an approved program of study. The inclusion of this provision to register students will ensure that complaints and health issues can be dealt with whilst the student is undertaking study and will ensure continued management of any outstanding disciplinary or health issues once a person has successfully completed a program.
- Part 8, Division 1, Section 150(1) "This section applies if a person was registered in a health profession but is no longer registered in the profession". This provision will enable the national board to take action against podiatrists who have failed to renew their registration as a means of avoiding disciplinary action

- Part 8, Division 5, section 168 “Immediate suspension or imposition of condition”. This will assist the boards to protect the public whilst investigations and proceedings take place.
- Part 8, Division 4, section 166 “relationships with health complaints entity”. This is the model currently used by our Board and has been shown to be effective over many years.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amanda McEacharn', written over a circular scribble.

Amanda McEacharn  
Acting Registrar  
NSW Podiatrists Registration Board