

## ***THE PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA***

P. O. Box 240 Claremont Tasmania 7011 Phone (03) 62491377 Facsimile (03) 62494292  
[www.podregtas.com](http://www.podregtas.com) Email: secretary@podregtas.com

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Please address all correspondence to:  
The Secretary  
The Podiatrists Registration Board of Tasmania  
P.O. Box 240  
Claremont TAS 7011

4 September 2008

### **Attention: Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee**

### **Response to Discussion Paper dated 13 August 2008**

The Podiatrists Registration Board would like to provide the following comments on the matters discussed in the above discussion paper.

#### **Disciplinary Arrangements**

In Tasmania each Board manages its own disciplinary processes with protocols in place with the Health Complaints Commissioner in relation to the respective roles of Boards and the HCC for individual complaints.

Arrangements need to be established as a matter of urgency for a single disciplinary mechanism that covers all the registered professions. Further work need to occur on the disciplinary structures as there are potentially three bodies that will manage complaints, the Health Complaints Commissioner, an independent body (for serious complaints) and the Boards (for less serious matters).

#### **Timeframe for Implementation**

The timeframe is challenging. It is important that the consultation and decision making process be thorough and not adversely impacted upon by the pressure to deliver the new arrangements by 1 July 2010. Extension of the timeframe to ensure delivery of viable arrangements is preferred to hasty decisions which could place the consumer at risk.

#### **Transition Phase**

It is understood that there will be a transition period after the proposed implementation date for the full implementation of the scheme. It is likely that Boards may have continued to exist by this time so it is imperative that resources during this period come from the national boards and the national agency.

## **Protection of Practice and Title**

Although not within the discussion in the consultation paper the Podiatrists Registration Board is of the view that the legislation should ensure that both the practice of podiatry and the occupational titles that relate to podiatry should be protected. The Australian and New Zealand Council of Podiatry Registration Boards has previously provided the COAG Health Working Group with a list of titles and practices it considers should be protected. I understand that the ANZCPRB intends to write further on this issue.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Sansom  
SECRETARY