

Mr Jason Warnock
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
c/o the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

3rd December, 2010

RE: Consultation paper on Podiatry Guidelines for Endorsement of Scheduled Medicines

Dear Mr Warnock,

The Department of Podiatry at La Trobe University would like to briefly comment on the PodBA's recent consultation paper.

Firstly, we would like to thank the PodBA for helping decipher the complexity related to the ESM standard - the guideline should help prospective applicants considerably.

Our other comments relate to giving potential applicants clarification of how they may meet ESM pathway standards:

▶ **Refreshing theoretical knowledge at the start of the ESM pathway process.**

We believe that there should be stronger statements in the guidelines to indicate that a 'refresher or update' in the academic/theoretical content of therapeutics would be advisable for both pathways, prior to undertaking the web-based case studies (if required), and mentoring/supervised practice (if required).

As some applicants will have completed their original undergraduate or postgraduate therapeutics studies up to 15 years ago, a short formal course would appear a sensible approach. Perhaps a statement linking this refresher/update to the required 10 hours of extra CPD required for endorsed Podiatrists could be made?

▶ **Giving examples of appropriate supervised practice.**

We wonder whether giving some examples of what may formulate appropriate supervised practice could be helpful to guide applicants? For instance, rather than applicants shadowing an existing prescriber during 'normal' clinical sessions (in which prescribing may or may not take place), it may be appropriate for applicants to attend a consolidated case study session (with other applicants seeking endorsement) with the prescriber to discuss prescribing issues.

Sincerely,



Dr Adam Bird
Head, Department of Podiatry

