

## Fact sheet

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7 March 2014

### Fact sheet: Becoming a registered podiatrist or podiatric surgeon

In order to call yourself or claim to be qualified as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon you must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board).

The Board has published a statement to help practitioners decide whether or not they should be registered. The statement, titled *When is it necessary to be registered as a podiatry practitioner?* can be found under the [Registration and endorsement](#) tab on the Board's website.

The Board is governed by the provisions of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (National Law). The National Law can be found on the [legislation page](#) on the AHPRA website.

To become registered, you must meet:

- the requirements of the National Law in relation to eligibility and qualifications for registration; and
- the Board's registration standards.

Section 53 of the National Law outlines the requirements for qualifications for general registration:

*An individual is qualified for general registration in a health profession if—*

*(a) the individual holds an approved qualification for the health profession; or*

*(b) the individual holds a qualification the National Board established for the health profession considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies, to an approved qualification; or*

*(c) the individual holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), relevant to the health profession and has successfully completed an examination or other assessment required by the National Board for the purpose of general registration in the health profession; or*

*(d) the individual—*

*(i) holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), that under this Law or a corresponding prior Act qualified the individual for general registration (however described) in the health profession; and*

*(ii) was previously registered under this Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification.*

Section 58 outlines the qualifications for specialist registration. It essentially mirrors section 53 but refers to an approved qualification for the specialty.

An approved qualification is defined in the National Law as a qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study for the profession.

You can find out whether an accredited program of study (course) is approved by the Board as providing a qualification for registration by checking the online searchable *Approved Programs of Study* list on the Board's website under the [Accreditation](#) tab.

If your course is *not* listed on the National Board website there is a risk that you will not graduate with an approved qualification.

### How the National Law works

The National Law sets out the responsibilities of the Board, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council.

### The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board)

[www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au)

The primary role of the Board is to protect the public in accordance with the National Law. The Board's responsibilities include:

- registering suitably qualified and competent practitioners who are eligible for registration
- developing registration standards, codes and guidelines
- overseeing the receipt, assessment and investigation and managing notifications (complaints) about the performance, conduct or health of practitioners (except in New South Wales which has a co-regulatory system), and
- approving accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration.

The Board is supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

### The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

[www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)

AHPRA administers the National Scheme and provides operational and administrative support to the Board in its core role of protecting the public. The work of AHPRA is overseen by the [Agency Management Committee](#).

### The Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC)

[www.anzpac.org.au](http://www.anzpac.org.au)

ANZPAC is the independent accreditation authority for the podiatry profession.

ANZPAC's responsibilities include:

- developing accreditation standards for approval of the Board
- assessing and accrediting podiatry programs of study (courses) and education providers against approved accreditation standards
- assessing overseas trained podiatrists who wish to apply for registration in Australia

Accreditation standards help to ensure that education providers and programs of study provide students with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to competently practise podiatry in Australia.

Under the National Law, the accreditation function is at arm's length from the Board. The Board does not make a decision about approval of a program of study for the purpose of registration in the podiatry profession until the program of study has been accredited by ANZPAC.

If ANZPAC decides to accredit a podiatry program of study, under the National Law it must provide a report to the Board for its consideration. The Board then decides whether to approve the program as providing a qualification for registration.

Although ANZPAC assesses the program of study and the education provider against the approved accreditation standards, ANZPAC only accredits the program of study.

ANZPAC monitors accredited programs of study to ensure that the education provider and the program continue to meet the approved accreditation standards. If ANZPAC believes the program of study and education provider no longer meet an approved accreditation standard, under the National Law ANZPAC must either impose conditions on the accreditation to ensure it meets the accreditation standard in a reasonable time or revoke the accreditation.

If ANZPAC revokes the accreditation of a program of study, under the National Law, the Board's approval of that program of study is taken to be cancelled at the same time.

#### **For more information**

- The requirements for becoming a registered podiatrist or podiatric surgeon are published on the Board's website at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au)
- Additional information is also published on the AHPRA website at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)
- ANZPAC's website includes information about the accreditation process and the process for assessment of the qualifications and skills of overseas trained podiatrists: [www.anzpac.org.au](http://www.anzpac.org.au)
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)