



Piede Pty Ltd

Dear Podiatry Board,

I have read the new proposed guidelines for CPD and agree with many of the changes. I would like to express my disapproval at one of the changes.

“Point 1.1b, which states that CPD must include at least 5 hours of face to face education in an interactive setting.”

I don't see the benefit in mandating that podiatrist **MUST** interact with other podiatrist/health professionals to maintain registration. As all podiatrist hold at least a basic undergraduate university degree then they should be capable of researching and developing there own skills without the need for “face to face” involvement. If the podiatrist wants this face to face setting then they can seek this out, but to mandate that it is required is stating that you believe this form of education is more beneficial than other forms, which I believe to be incorrect. Many university courses are now being conducted on an external basis which reduces “face to face” education. Obviously the universities believe that this form of external education with limited “face to face” exposure is not a disadvantage to students. Therefore the movement in education seems to be away from “face to face” learning and you want to mandate this in our CPD. Seems to be a backward step that is not following educational trends. There is nothing to prevent an individual undertaking “face to face” education if this is what they desire. It should not be mandated as a compulsory part of the CPD required for registration. As an 18 year registered podiatrist, I should have the right to choose whether I want to interact with other health professions or whether I can learn more from doing my own research and professional development. I should not have to seek out others that want to develop their own skills in the same area as me. I am in private practice, and therefore I am in a

competitive business environment, where if my superior knowledge is financially beneficial then I should not have to share this with others because you force me to have face to face education sessions. I can't see other major companies sharing their knowledge and professional advantage to their competitors. If I have spent the time over years improving areas of my podiatry practice which should benefit my patients, not other podiatrists or health professions that didn't put in the time and effort that I have. This business advantage is something that comes from hard work and years of research and development that gives me a market advantage in private business and is of benefit to my clients. This knowledge should not have to be shared or distributed to others.

Therefore I do not agree with adding this compulsory point to the guidelines. I believe it should not be revised, but totally removed.

Many thanks

Cameron Branchi