



POSITION STATEMENT

The following is a statement on behalf of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) in relation to the Independent Review of the Regulation of Podiatric Surgeons

The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) would like to thank Professor Ron Paterson ONZM, The Podiatry Board of Australia (PBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for conducting the Independent Review of the Regulation of Podiatric Surgery in Australia (the review). The ACPS welcomes the findings that Podiatric Surgery in Australia is well-established, generally well regulated and safe, supported by robust and comprehensive training and registration requirements. We are committed to strengthening Podiatry and Podiatric Surgery in Australia to ensure that it continues to flourish.

We agree that there is a growing demand for foot and ankle surgery in Australia. Failure to integrate Podiatric Surgeons into the broader healthcare system will continue to restrict public access to this vital healthcare service. The public currently faces lengthy waiting times for orthopaedic surgeons and limited coverage from health insurance products to seek podiatric alternative services. As a result, many Australians are not getting the care they need.

The review provides a clear pathway to strengthen and develop Podiatric Surgery in Australia. The ACPS looks forward to working with all stakeholders to increase and improve the provision of safe and quality foot and ankle surgical care to the Australian public.

Although the ACPS welcomes the majority of the recommendations put forth by Professor Paterson, the suggestion that AHPRA investigate a change of specialist title for Podiatric Surgeons does not, in our view, improve public safety, access to services or understanding. The title "Podiatric Surgeon" is an accurate and internationally recognised description of the significant work that specialist Podiatrists undertake. The ACPS looks forward to actively participating in consultations with AHPRA to demonstrate the importance of retaining this meaningful title.

The ACPS is dedicated to ensuring safe Podiatric Surgical training and practice, consistently aiming to exceed regulatory standards. Patient safety is at the heart of Australian Podiatric Surgery and forms the foundation from which all Podiatric Surgeons practice their profession.

2 April 2024