

Dear Member

I'm writing to inform you that we are aware that 60 Minutes, the Channel 9 television show, will be running a story on podiatric surgeons this coming Sunday night. We also understand this story may be published in other media outlets.

Whilst we are not privy to the specifics this story will focus on, we can infer that podiatric surgery will not be discussed in a positive light. The Australian Podiatry Association (APodA) was not contacted by the 60 Minutes team to participate/comment on this story.

Podiatrists will be aware of the recent independent review into podiatric surgery regulation launched by the Podiatry Board of Australia. It is important that this review be given the opportunity to be completed, for due process to be fulfilled, all sides to tell their story, and recommendations to be drawn by the independent reviewer.

I think it's important that all members are aware that this story will break and whilst podiatric surgeons are supported by the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons this story has the potential to unduly cast a shadow on the podiatry profession.

I would like to ask that all our podiatry members take a few minutes to understand the review that is taking place and if your patients question you in light of this story, I ask you use the facts below to discuss it.

Below are the facts about podiatric surgeons and the review:

1. An independent review of Podiatric Surgery regulation was recently initiated by the Podiatry Board of Australia (PBA)
2. The aim of the review is to gain a complete understanding of the reasons for podiatric surgeon notifications and how to most effectively minimise these.
3. Podiatric surgeons in Australia are regulated under the national law and must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia (PBA)
4. Only individuals who hold current specialist registration with the PBA are permitted to use the professional title of podiatric surgeon in Australia and must comply with PBA standards, codes and guidelines including continued professional development
5. There are currently 41 podiatric surgeons registered in Australia, compared to over 6,000 podiatrists who are registered and regulated under the national law
6. Podiatrists are qualified to perform minor surgeries, these minor surgeries are far less complex and carry far less risk than many of the surgeries performed by registered podiatric surgeons and other surgeons, such as orthopaedic surgeons performing foot and ankle surgery.



By our community standing together we hope to ensure any negativity derived from this story is not cast more broadly.

We will be watching with earnest when the story breaks, and we will be in touch again next week after we have seen the contents of the story.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Yours sincerely,

Nello Marino

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Podiatry Association (APodA)