



# Podiatry Council of NSW

Annual Report 2017-18

# President's Message



I am pleased to submit the 2018 Annual Report for the Podiatry Council of New South Wales (Council).

The Annual Report details the complaints activity for the Podiatry Council this year. Whilst numbers remain low, they continue to grow steadily over time. Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss complaints data with practitioners at the NSW Podiatry Conference in May 2018. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect upon issues that have led to notifications and share that knowledge so we as a profession can improve. We look forward to continuing this conversation with practitioners, professional associations, education providers and co-regulators alike.

The work of Council relies on the support of the HPCA staff. The HPCA has undergone significant organisational changes in the last year, however Council has benefited particularly from the leadership of Ms Christine Gursen during this transition. We look forward to continuing to work with the support of HPCA in 2018/19.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Council, Dr Kristy Robson (Deputy President), Ms Verona du Toit (practitioner member) and Mr Ebenezer Banful (legal member) for their contributions. As a small Council, the work is spread amongst a small number of hands, so their contributions are very significant. I welcome the recent reappointment of Ms du Toit and Mr Banful to continue their work with Council.

The Podiatry Council looks forward to continuing its work alongside our regulatory partners at the Health Care Complaints Commission, the Podiatry Board of Australia, HPCA and AHPRA over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Taylor'.

**Mr Luke Taylor**

President

Podiatry Council of New South Wales

## Regulation of Podiatrists in 2017/18

# SNAPSHOT



### Practitioner information

**1,447**

podiatrists  
registered in NSW

5.6% more than  
last year

28.1% of registered  
podiatrists in Australia

**26**

NSW podiatrists  
had complaints made  
about them

10 more than last year

1.8% of registered  
podiatrists in NSW



### Complaints received

**27**

new complaints  
were received

8 more than last year

2 complaints were  
mandatory notifications

40.7% of complaints  
were about boundary  
violation (n 11) followed  
by:

- National Law breach and National Law offence – 3 complaints each and
- behaviour, billing, health impairment and hygiene – 2 complaints each

**33.3%**

of complaints were from  
patient (n 9) followed by:

- relative – 5 complaints
- member of the public and other practitioner – 3 complaints each



### Complaints managed

**9**

complaints were  
managed directly  
by the Council

1 more than last year

**2**

assessments and  
hearings were  
concluded

2 less than last year

**1**

immediate action was  
considered or taken  
by Council

Same as last year

**0**

outcomes for  
closed complaints  
involved cancelled  
or suspended  
registration or  
conditions on practice  
or counselling or  
interview



### Practitioners monitored

**1**

case was being actively  
monitored at year end

0 conduct

1 performance

0 health

## Council Members

Four members sit on the Podiatry Council as prescribed by the National Law.

Registered podiatry practitioner members:

- Mr Luke Taylor BApp Sci (Pod), Grad Cert (Diabetes)
- Dr Kristy Robson PhD, MHSc(Education), DipHSc (Podiatry)
- Ms Verona du Toit MAppSc (Ex&SpSc), AssDipPod, BTeach (AdvocEd)

Legal member:

- Mr Ebenezer Banful BA (Hons), MA, LLB (Hons), GDLP

The NSW Governor appointed Mr Luke Taylor as the President and Dr Kristy Robson as the Deputy President of the Podiatry Council.

## Executive Officer

Ms Asha Mears is the current Executive Officer for the Podiatry Council. Mr Michael Jaques was the previous Executive Officer. Ms Farina Bains and Mrs Christine Gursen also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA Combined Councils Team.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

## Council Meeting Attendance

The Podiatry Council met 11 times.

**Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office**

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date of First Appointment	Current Term of Office
Mr Luke Taylor – President	10	11	1 July 2015	1 July 2017 - 30 June 2020
Dr Kristy Robson – Deputy President	10	11	1 July 2015	1 July 2017 - 30 June 2020
Ms Verona du Toit	10	11	1 July 2015	1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018
Mr Ebenezer Banful	11	11	1 January 2011	1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels
- Performance Review Panels

The Podiatry Council did not appoint any regulatory committees during the year.

## Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Podiatry Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

## Meetings and Events

The Podiatry Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

**Table ii: Podiatry Council representation at meetings and events**

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
AHPRA Forum - Responsible advertising in health care	Mr Luke Taylor – President Mr Ebenezer Banful – Council member
AHPRA & HCPC UK Research Seminar - Using data and intelligence to drive improvement	Mr Luke Taylor – President
The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation International Congress	Mr Luke Taylor – President
National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting	Mr Luke Taylor – President
Podiatry Association NSW and ACT State Conference	Mr Luke Taylor (presenter) – President Dr Kristy Robson (presenter) – Council member
Podiatry Board of Australia Meeting	Mr Luke Taylor - President

## Overseas Travel

The Podiatry Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

## Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

## Education and Research Account

The Podiatry Council maintains an Education and Research account. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

## Financial Management

The Podiatry Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

<b>Accounts Performance 2017/18</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	326,144
Operating expenditure	206,397
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(42)
<b>Net result</b>	119,705
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	478,696

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$65,737.

The Podiatry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

<b>Budget 2018/19</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	310,964
Operating expenditure	184,531
<b>Net result</b>	126,433

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.