

Response template for the public consultation on the proposed change to the protected title for the podiatry speciality of podiatric surgery

September 2024

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Making a submission

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Consultation closes on 8 November 2024.

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Question A

Are you completing this submission on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Your answer:

☐ Organisation

Name of organisation: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Contact email: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☒ Myself

Question B

If you are completing this submission as an individual, are you:

☐ A registered health practitioner?

Profession: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☒ A member of the public?

☐ Other: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question C

Would you like your submission to be published?

☐ Yes, publish my submission **with** my name/organisation name

☒ Yes, publish my submission **without** my name/ organisation name

☐ No – **do not** publish my submission

Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' to make it clear that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery? Why or why not?

I do not think this is necessary, I do not find the term Podiatric Surgeon confusing, in fact I think the term Podiatric Surgeon depicts their precise role and function. I worry that changing their title will cause unnecessary angst and confusion with the public.

I have had surgery performed on me by podiatric surgeons and have found my surgeon each time to be completely professional and competent as a surgeon. On no occasion did my surgeon pretend to be a medical practitioner.

I understand that podiatric surgeons are fully trained surgeons specialising in feet alone. They carry out full surgical procedures in a hospital, so why shouldn't they have the title of Surgeon if that is what they do? I don't understand the fuss, they have been called surgeons in the past, it is their rightful title, they have earned it, so who is trying to take this away from them now and why?

As an example of how titles can be confusing I can think of an analogy of a doctor studying to become a specialist surgeon, only to now be called a 'Mister' again, isn't that MORE confusing to the public? If you were introduced to me as a surgeon I would find DOCTOR rather than MISTER less confusing. The title needs to be clear for the public, so a podiatric surgeon should be referred to as a surgeon not as a specialist podiatrist.

2. Do you have an alternative suggestion for the protected title? If yes, how would your suggested title achieve the same result as 'surgical podiatrist' in providing greater clarity to consumers?

No, I don't have an alternative name to suggest that gives them their full respect.

It has been their title, they have put in a lot of specialist surgical studies to earn this title, I think to go back to calling them podiatrists again is demeaning.

3. What are the potential impacts for consumers of the proposed change in title?

Confusion, I'm sure, the opposite to what you are trying to achieve. If that were to happen the public would not be certain if they have been referred to the correct practitioner for their foot problems, they would think they have been referred to a 'specialist' podiatrist and might be reluctant to go for surgery there. I certainly hope that this isn't the real intention for the change and that there are no vested interests in the proposal.

If you do change their title then in fairness to the podiatric surgeons, you would need to carry out a public campaign to alert the public to the changes and what that means. Wouldn't that be a headache for all, but if you don't do this then the podiatric surgeon would surely suffer in the marketplace, and I don't think that would be fair or what you intend.

4. What are the potential impacts, including potential costs, for podiatric surgeons of the proposed change in title?

If I was a podiatric surgeon and my title was changed to podiatrist again (regardless whether you call them 'surgical') I would not be happy about it. I would feel a loss of respect for the hard work and study I put into becoming a surgeon. I would feel aggrieved.

The title of surgical 'podiatrist' would lower their marketplace status and competitiveness, with the public opting to go to a 'surgeon' instead. This would surely make it harder to get patients and this would impact on their practices and their income. If I put myself in their situation, I would find this to be grossly unfair.

5. Are there any unintended consequences the Board might not have considered in relation to the proposed change of title?

If the Board is seriously interested in avoiding public confusion, then leave the present title of Podiatric Surgeon stand, it has been in use for a very long time and we, the public, are aware of who they are. I have not come across a surgical podiatrist who tries to make out that they are doctors, this becomes obvious through the consultation and especially when we need to discuss Medicare benefits and hospital admissions. It becomes patently clear and you don't need to put a 'tag' on them saying 'non doctor'

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☒ Myself

☐

☐

Question B

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☒ A registered health practitioner ☐

Profession ☐ Podiatrist

☐ A member of the public ☐

☐ Other ☐ [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question C

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Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' to make it clear that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery? Why or why not?

No. I don't see how changing from a noun to an adjective improves clarity and I do not think it will improve anything. I don't see how this name change will make the consumer assume that they have not gone to medical school. A name change and focussing on semantics won't resolve the serious issues at hand. I have never had the experience of a patient bringing this matter up, being confused about the level of skill and care they will receive when I refer them to a Podiatric surgeon. I do this on a regular basis to Victorian based Podiatric surgeons, and at the risk of sounding biased, have never had a patient with a poor outcome. In saying this, part of my referral process does involve explaining that a Podiatric surgeon is a Podiatrist who has done far more speciality training to be able to perform certain procedures. At no point do I say that they have gone to medical school.

Personally, I think it would be more effective to leave the title as it is and significantly improve on the education process, CPD's, and potentially including an adjunct medical surgeon during the education and assessment process for Podiatric surgeons. I also think, general podiatrists maybe need to do a better job at informing their patients of what a Podiatric surgeon is, as I have been taught to do. Most referrals to Podiatric surgeons I believe would come from Podiatrists so I feel we can have a greater impact on improving clarity than a simple name change would. Additionally, Podiatric surgeons could have a policy whereby each of their patients are provided with information about their profession and qualifications.

The real issue at hand here is not the potential for confusion regarding a title, it's the patient. It's the level of care the patient receives, and whether they were provided with the outcome that they expected. After reading the report I can see that setting patient expectations and actually providing those expectations is definitely something that needs to be improved. This is actually the case with all surgeons, not just Podiatric surgeons. Over the years I have had many patients who have received very poor outcomes after procedures performed from Orthopaedic surgeons and very little is ever done about this. They are often protected by the public system and patients have no idea that they can turn to AHPRA for help. Keep in mind patients often don't know the name of their surgeon that was seen in the public system, which is total opposite to seeing a privately funded Podiatric surgeon. I personally have had surgery in the public system and have absolutely no idea who the surgeon was as none of this information was provided to me. Clarity is an issue with the whole health system.

Another significant issue seems to be the discipline/punishment/regulation of those who have received a notification. AHPRA and the Podiatry Board need to do a better job of implementing processes that ensure that these individuals are made to revisit their education so that future patients are appropriately cared for. I would also suggest that repeat offenders should not be able to perform surgery again. The report has suggested that 100% of notifications have been for Podiatric surgeons who have each had at least 1 or more notifications. If these are genuine notifications related to serious breaches, where do we draw the line? How many breaches/notifications should someone be allowed to make? Is 1 not too many? From what I understand there is a small number of Podiatric surgeons who are placing a negative light on the profession. If many of these breaches are from Podiatric surgeons who have been away from the education system for an extended period, I agree that they need implement a better way of keeping up to date with recent protocols, procedures, and policies.

I would like to also point out that I was at the recent conference and was informed that vascular surgeons are now able to do an extra short course on how to fix foot deformities. This is apparently because there is a shortage of Orthopaedic surgeons wanting to perform surgery on feet and ankles; and we still have a large backlog of patients who need foot and ankle procedures. Do we really think this is going to produce better outcomes than implementing the existing Podiatric surgeons in our public system? We have Podiatric surgeons who have many years of experience performing foot and ankle surgery, I think it would be more effective to start using their expertise in the public system and fix the glut. I literally have patients waiting 1.5 to 2 years, in pain, for foot and ankle procedures to be performed because they do not have the funds to go down the private route. There is no reason why we cannot use the services of a few Podiatric surgeons who have been selected, endorsed, and work in conjunction with Orthopaedic surgeons.

2. Do you have an alternative suggestion for the protected title? If yes, how would your suggested title achieve the same result as 'surgical podiatrist' in providing greater clarity to consumers?

No. I believe it should stay as it is but there should be some significant changes as previously mentioned including education, assessment, and monitoring/regulating. Additionally, there should be more effort made by referring clinicians to ensure that their patients know exactly who they are being referred to.

3. What are the potential impacts for consumers of the proposed change in title?

This will contribute to further restrictions and barriers to Podiatric surgeons obtaining access to medicare, funding as whole and the public system. This will only hurt the consumer and not provide any kind of resolution to the increased wait times the people are experiencing. We are an ageing population, who are more obese, and the need to for foot ankle surgery will only continue to increase. This will only lead to further impairment of the consumer quality of life. Why aren't we more focused on how we can help more people, sooner?

4. What are the potential impacts, including potential costs, for podiatric surgeons of the proposed change in title?

Greater barriers mean less access to funding to be able to perform procedures and help improve consumer/patient quality of life and ability to perform usual activities of daily living. This change could affect any potential for being involved in the public system in the future. This change could also potentially lead to greater insurance premiums for Podiatric surgeons due to the suggestion of insufficient qualification. An increase in premiums will obviously have to be passed on to the consumer/patient, which will then make procedures more expensive. This will then potentially lead to less consumers/patients going to a Podiatric surgeon and instead opt to go on the waiting list for the public system as they have no choice. This will then further increase public system wait times and effect the overall health of our consumers/patients. Overall, I see that this proposed change could lead to the profession being killed off as its too costly to become a part of and no new students/registrars will be interested in being a part of this profession.

5. Are there any unintended consequences the Board might not have considered in relation to the proposed change of title?

Yes. The previously mentioned increase in barriers to funding, future access to being involved in the public system and being able to help with excessive wait times. Consequently, there may be no future interest in becoming a Podiatric surgeon. I already know of 1 case where someone had gotten to the point of being an endorsed prescribing podiatrist and Podiatric registrar, then has quit this whole process of becoming a Podiatric surgeon as they felt there was no future in becoming Podiatric surgeons.

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☐ Myself

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Profession: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☐ A member of the public? YES

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Question C

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Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' to make it clear that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery? Why or why not?

No I do not. I think it minimises the work of podiatric surgeons and adds more confusion. I believe a title change will create an unfair competitive advantage for the orthopaedic surgeons, as podiatric surgeons will be perceived as podiatrists with advanced training, rather than fully accredited surgeons who have completed exhaustive training in specialised foot and ankle surgery. It is important to emphasise the use of the title Podiatric Surgeon is entirely consistent with the title Orthopaedic Surgeon.

I also think "podiatric surgeon" is a more self-explanatory title that is clearer than "surgical podiatrist" is.

2. Do you have an alternative suggestion for the protected title? If yes, how would your suggested title achieve the same result as 'surgical podiatrist' in providing greater clarity to consumers?

No I do not. I have never experienced confusion with the term podiatric surgeon, nor do I know anyone who has. I think it should stay the same. I also think the transition to calling them surgical podiatrists would be confusing.

3. What are the potential impacts for consumers of the proposed change in title?

I truly believe it would increase confusion amongst consumers, and make them feel less inclined to be operated on by someone without "surgeon" in their title. I personally would feel more comfortable going into surgery with a doctor whose professional title was xxx surgeon. This may in turn, reduce the number of people that receive surgeries for fear of potential risks.

4. What are the potential impacts, including potential costs, for podiatric surgeons of the proposed change in title?

Surgical Podiatrist is a misnomer and no such term exists in the world. It suggests the surgeon is an advanced podiatrist, not a specialist having completed an exhaustive training program of foot and ankle surgery, within their field of scope of practice. Podiatric Surgeon, means their training places them as, first and foremost, 'surgeons' uniquely skilled in foot and ankle surgery. Any proposed change to this title would put the emphasis of the training and expertise entirely in the wrong place and not alleviate confusion but add to it.

I also think that it could negatively impact the way podiatric surgeons view themselves and their profession, feeling as though the public and other medical professionals view what they do as 'less than'.

5. Are there any unintended consequences the Board might not have considered in relation to the proposed change of title?

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Profession: Podiatric Surgeon

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Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' to make it clear that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery? Why or why not?

I do not support the proposal to change the protected title of "podiatric surgeon" to "surgical podiatrist." The title "podiatric surgeon" has long conveyed the level of specialised training, expertise, and responsibility involved in providing surgical treatment for foot and ankle conditions. Altering this title could introduce confusion, undermining the public's understanding of the advanced qualifications associated with this role, and could ultimately compromise patient safety by permitting individuals with insufficient training to misuse a less-specific title.

There are several key reasons for my stance:

1. Clarity and Respect for Surgical Expertise

The term "surgeon" indicates an advanced and highly specialised skill set, which is essential in communicating the gravity and complexity of surgical care to patients. When patients see the title "podiatric surgeon," they are assured that the practitioner has received intensive training in podiatric surgery. The term "surgical podiatrist" may weaken this understanding, possibly leading patients to undervalue the level of surgical care they are receiving.

2. Importance of a Protected Title for Patient Safety

Changing this protected title could allow for potential misuse if the title "podiatric surgeon" is no longer maintained, making it easier for individuals without the appropriate training to use this title. The act of removing the protected title would mean that any podiatrist may call themselves a protected title without the qualifications and evidence based practice of someone who has undertaken years of further training. The clarity provided by a protected title helps ensure that only those with full surgical qualifications use it, which is fundamental to patient safety and upholding high standards in podiatric surgical care into the future.

3. Consistency with International Standards

Internationally, the title "podiatric surgeon" is recognised, providing patients with a clear and consistent understanding of this role. If Australia adopts a different title, it could cause confusion for patients, especially those familiar with international terminology, and might erode the professional standing of Australian podiatric surgeons on not only a local level but globally.

4. Rigorous and Collaborative Training Pathway

Podiatric surgeons undergo comprehensive training specifically in foot and ankle surgery, working closely with general practitioners, anaesthetists, and other medical specialists. This collaboration is critical to ensuring surgical competence and patient safety. The title "podiatric surgeon" reflects this commitment and helps reassure patients of the practitioner's advanced skills in managing complex surgical cases.

2. Do you have an alternative suggestion for the protected title? If yes, how would your suggested title achieve the same result as 'surgical podiatrist' in providing greater clarity to consumers?

An alternative title I suggest is "Podiatric Surgeon (Specialist Podiatrist)". This designation maintains the critical term "surgeon," which is essential in communicating the level of specialised surgical training and the scope of procedures we perform, while also clearly identifying that we are podiatrists with a specialised focus in surgery. This combined title serves to protect public understanding and aligns with international norms, ensuring clarity and safeguarding patient trust.

Here's how "Podiatric Surgeon (Specialist Podiatrist)" would achieve clarity and communicate the practitioner's qualifications to consumers:

1. Retaining the Term "Surgeon"

Including "surgeon" in the title preserves the important distinction that this role involves a high level of surgical expertise, which patients inherently recognise as an indication of specialist training. This title honours the gravity of the surgical risk as well as the care that we provide, helping patients understand that this is not a general podiatric service but a specialised role in the diagnosis, management, and surgical treatment of foot and ankle conditions.

2. Clarifying the Podiatry Profession

Adding "Specialist Podiatrist" helps clarify to the public that podiatric surgeons are podiatrists by profession, who have progressed through rigorous additional training to attain a specialist qualification. This distinction is crucial for transparency, as patients can immediately identify that we are specialists within the field of podiatry. This clarity helps patients differentiate us from other types of surgeons while emphasising the unique, in-depth knowledge we bring to foot and ankle care.

3. Educational Efforts to Enhance Patient Understanding

Additional efforts could be made to ensure clarity for consumers by:

- Educational Campaigns: Providing resources through the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons and AHPRA, explaining what a "Podiatric Surgeon (Specialist Podiatrist)" does, the training required, and the type of surgical care offered.

- Clinic and Practice Materials: Clear information in clinics, websites, consents, and informational brochures that outlines the qualifications and scope of a podiatric surgeon's role, using plain language to bridge any gaps in patient understanding.

- Online Directories and Profiles: Updating professional directories and profiles with a brief description of "Podiatric Surgeon (Specialist Podiatrist)" to reinforce public understanding, including details of training pathways, collaborations with other healthcare providers, and the type of surgical care available.

4. Consistency Across Healthcare Settings

This combined title can be used in all healthcare contexts – from referral systems to clinical notes and hospital interactions – allowing general practitioners, allied health providers, and other specialists to communicate clearly with patients about the role and expertise of podiatric surgeons. This consistency allows for greater public understanding and awareness whilst aiding patients in making informed decisions about their foot and ankle care.

3. What are the potential impacts for consumers of the proposed change in title?

The proposed change in title from "podiatric surgeon" to "surgical podiatrist" could significantly impact not only consumers but also healthcare referrers. The shift may introduce ambiguity about the qualifications and surgical expertise of practitioners, affecting the trust and efficiency of referral pathways. Here are some key impacts on both consumers and referrers:

1. Diminished Clarity about Specialist Qualifications

For both patients and referring practitioners, the term "podiatric surgeon" clearly indicates advanced surgical training and a dedicated skill set. Changing this to "surgical podiatrist" risks diminishing this understanding, potentially leading referrers, such as general practitioners and other non-GP specialist referrers, to assume that the title represents a podiatrist with basic surgical skills rather than a specialist. This misconception could result in referrers being uncertain about the appropriate cases to

refer to podiatric surgeons, thereby limiting access to specialised surgical care for patients with complex conditions.

2. Potential for Confusion and Misinformation

Without the term "surgeon" in the title, patients and referrers may question the practitioner's capacity to manage complex surgical cases. This confusion could lead some referrers to withhold referrals to podiatric surgeons, assuming they lack the expertise for advanced surgeries. Consequently, patients may be directed towards other specialists who may not possess the same level of focused training in foot and ankle conditions. This could delay appropriate care, result in unnecessary treatments, or place additional strain on other surgical disciplines, the health system more broadly and ultimately compromising efficient patient outcomes.

3. Risk of Misuse by Unqualified Individuals

Retaining the protected title "podiatric surgeon" is essential for both consumer and referrer safety, as it helps ensure that only those with full surgical qualifications and specialist training can claim this title. Without this protection, patients and referrers may find it challenging to distinguish between practitioners with true surgical specialty and those without, potentially leading to inadvertent treatment by inadequately trained providers. This would not only place patients at risk but also erode trust in the health system and the podiatric surgical specialty.

4. Impact on Trust and Confidence in Treatment

Both patients and referrers often rely on familiar healthcare terminology to understand the level of expertise a practitioner brings to a case. The title "podiatric surgeon" aligns with terms that denote specialist surgical capability, which reassures both patients and referrers that the practitioner is fully qualified to manage complex surgical needs. A change to "surgical podiatrist" could reduce confidence, making patients less inclined to review with these practitioners for complex cases. This hesitancy may undermine the role of podiatric surgeons within the multidisciplinary healthcare environment and limit patient access to timely and appropriate surgical interventions.

4. What are the potential impacts, including potential costs, for podiatric surgeons of the proposed change in title?

The proposed change in title from "podiatric surgeon" to "surgical podiatrist" could have several potential impacts on podiatric surgeons, both professionally and financially. This alteration may affect the professional standing of podiatric surgeons, influence patient trust, and increase administrative burdens, leading to both direct and indirect costs.

1. Erosion of Professional Recognition and Standing

The title "podiatric surgeon" acknowledges the specialised training and advanced skills that podiatric surgeons bring to the practice of podiatry. Changing this to "surgical podiatrist" risks diminishing this, as it no longer emphasises the depth of surgical expertise required for procedural practice. Podiatric surgeons could experience reduced respect from peers and other healthcare professionals who may misinterpret the title change as a downgrade in qualifications. This could also impact collaborative opportunities and referrals, ultimately affecting the quality of interdisciplinary care and the reputation of podiatric surgery as a profession.

2. Loss of Patient Trust and Reduced Caseloads

Patients are often reassured by familiar terms that convey advanced training and responsibility, and "surgeon" is one such term. Removing it from the title may lead patients to question the competence of podiatric surgeons to manage complex surgical cases, potentially reducing trust in the profession. This could translate into fewer direct consultations and referrals, especially for more advanced surgical interventions, ultimately impacting podiatric surgeons' caseloads and earnings. The loss of trust may also increase competition from other surgical specialties, as patients may choose providers with more clearly defined surgical titles. This in of itself will further overburden an already strained public health

system and private healthcare provided by surgical colleagues. All of this at a time when the independent review encourages further integration into our state health systems.

3. Increased Costs Related to Education and Public Awareness

A change in title would necessitate widespread educational efforts to ensure both patients and referrers understand what "surgical podiatrist" entails, including the level of training and the scope of procedures performed. Podiatric surgeons, the ACPs, and AHPRA will need to invest in marketing and public awareness campaigns, an endeavour that could be costly and time-consuming. This re-education would require new materials for clinics, websites, and marketing efforts, placing an additional financial burden on individual practitioners and professional bodies.

4. Administrative and Legal Costs Associated with Rebranding

Podiatric surgeons would likely need to undertake rebranding efforts to reflect the title change in all professional materials. This includes updating business cards, signage, websites, patient forms, and digital records, all of which carry associated costs. In some cases, business names include the term 'podiatric surgery' and this will be impacted quite highly. There may also be legal costs involved if practitioners are required to update their qualifications or titles on formal registrations, insurance policies, and legal documents. These adjustments represent both a financial and administrative burden, potentially detracting from time that could be spent on patient care and professional development.

5. Potential Loss of International Recognition and Opportunities

The title "podiatric surgeon" is recognised internationally, and changing it could lead to discrepancies in the global understanding of the role. Australian podiatric surgeons may face challenges if they wish to practise internationally, as the term "surgical podiatrist" may not be readily understood or respected outside Australia. This change could limit international career and research opportunities for Australian podiatric surgeons and create barriers in collaborating with international healthcare professionals. For practitioners involved in research or seeking to expand their practice beyond Australia, the loss of a universally recognised title may impact their professional advancement and limit opportunities for cross-border collaboration.

6. Impact on Insurance and Liability Costs

A shift in title may lead insurers to re-evaluate the scope and risk profile of podiatric surgeons, as the new title may imply a different level of responsibility or expertise. Insurers might adjust premiums or coverage requirements accordingly, potentially resulting in higher costs for practitioners. Additionally, any misperceptions among patients and referrers regarding the qualifications of a "surgical podiatrist" could increase the likelihood of disputes or misunderstandings, which could expose practitioners to heightened liability risks and potential legal expenses.

5. Are there any unintended consequences the Board might not have considered in relation to the proposed change of title?

The current protected title "podiatric surgeon" provides patients with a clear assurance that the practitioner has completed extensive, specialised training and certification specifically in podiatric surgery. This title signals a high standard of expertise and competency in complex surgical procedures for foot and ankle conditions. Removing this title protection opens the possibility for practitioners without comprehensive surgical training to use the title "surgical podiatrist," potentially misleading patients about their qualifications and surgical capabilities. Patients seeking advanced or complex surgical care might unknowingly consult practitioners lacking the full skill set necessary to perform these procedures safely and effectively, posing serious risks to their health and outcomes.

This dilution of title integrity could result in significant safety concerns and could compromise the standard of care. As the title loses its clear association with advanced surgical qualifications, patient and referrer trust in the podiatric surgery field may erode, ultimately undermining the credibility and professional reputation of podiatric surgery as a whole. This situation could discourage patients from

seeking the appropriate level of care and damage the public perception of podiatric surgery as a trusted, specialised field.

Response template for the public consultation on the proposed change to the protected title for the podiatry speciality of podiatric surgery

September 2024

This response template is the preferred way to submit your feedback to the public consultation on the Podiatry Board of Australia's proposed change to the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery.

Please provide any feedback in this document, including your responses to the questions in the text boxes on the following pages. The boxes will expand to accommodate your response. You do not need to respond to a question if you have no comment.

Making a submission

Please complete this response template and email to podiatryconsultation@ahpra.gov.au.

Consultation closes on 8 November 2024.

Publication of submissions

The Board publishes submissions at its discretion. The Board generally publishes submissions on its website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please advise us if you do not want your submission published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we will remove personally identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them, and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the Board.

The Board accepts submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence.

Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made them, unless confidentiality is requested.

Initial questions

To help us better understand your situation and the context of your feedback please provide us with some details about you. These details will not be published in any summary of the collated feedback from this consultation.

Question A

Are you completing this submission on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Your answer:

☐ Organisation

Name of organisation: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Contact email: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☒ Myself

Question B

If you are completing this submission as an individual, are you:

☒ A registered health practitioner?

Profession: Podiatrist

☐ A member of the public?

☐ Other: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question C

Would you like your submission to be published?

☒ Yes, publish my submission **with** my name/organisation name

☒ Yes, publish my submission **without** my name/ organisation name

☐ No – **do not** publish my submission

Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' to make it clear that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery? Why or why not?

I do NOT agree. I think this is a ridiculous decision. Ive never had patients, nor colleguges become confused with this title. I think changing this title would actually create confusion

2. Do you have an alternative suggestion for the protected title? If yes, how would your suggested title achieve the same result as 'surgical podiatrist' in providing greater clarity to consumers?

No, keep it the same

3. What are the potential impacts for consumers of the proposed change in title?

Greater confusion of the title. If anything I think the title change would belittle the current podiatric surgeons and discredit all their hard work they completed in a fellowship.

4. What are the potential impacts, including potential costs, for podiatric surgeons of the proposed change in title?

Less clients willing to see them due to confusion. I also think again, it discredits current Pod surgeons

5. Are there any unintended consequences the Board might not have considered in relation to the proposed change of title?

That this is reidiculous waste of time