



Health Ministers' Meeting

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Dr Kristy Robson
Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia
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Dear Dr Robson

Approval of a change of specialist title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery and consequential changes to approved registration standards

Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2025 on behalf of the Podiatry Board of Australia (PodBA) providing advice on the outcome of consultation on a proposed change of specialist title for podiatric surgery, per recommendation 4 of the *Independent review of the regulation of podiatric surgeons*.

I am pleased to advise the Ministerial Council has approved the recommended change of podiatric specialist title to surgical podiatrist in accordance with section 13 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory. The consequential changes to approved registration standards to ensure that the correct title is cited are also approved under section 12 of the National Law.

Thank you for providing the Board's consultation report. We note that feedback provided on the potential benefits, impacts and risks associated with a change to the protected title were considered, as well as the other following factors in making this recommendation:

- the paramount guiding principle of the National Law to protect the public and ensure public confidence and trust in the podiatry profession
- the importance of consumers having clear, understandable information to help them make an informed decision about who will provide their healthcare, and
- the findings of the independent review, including that consumers and patients of podiatric surgeons are confused about the meaning of the title podiatric surgeon and the qualifications held by podiatric surgeons and continued use of the title 'podiatric surgeon' is confusing and problematic.

Health Ministers agree that the case for a change of protected title to better protect and inform consumers has been made. We welcome the expected clarity for consumers to enable more informed decisions to be made when seeking specialist advice about foot issues.

Ministers also agree with the proposed transition period of around 12 months to help mitigate one-off costs for affected practitioners. We note the Board will develop and publish information for podiatric surgeons to inform and educate patients, consumers, other health professionals and associated networks to support the transition to the new title.

Thank you for bringing the Board's proposal to Health Ministers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Picton', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Picton MP
Chair
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22 / 9 / 2025