

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 These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere.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 These details will not be published in any summary of the collated feedback from this consultation.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: [REDACTED]

Contact [REDACTED]

☐ Myself

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

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

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?

██████████ agrees with the proposal to change the protected title for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery to 'surgical podiatrist' in that this variation ensures greater clarity that the practitioner is a specialist podiatrist who performs surgery.

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?

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

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

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



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☐ 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?

We support Surgical Podiatrist and think that there should be consumer engagement and education to inform the general public. We also note that the safety and quality issues mainly focused on a small number of clinicians, rather than the whole profession.

We feel a name change would not address the safety and quality issues in the report and was probably more reflective of pressure from external parties to remove the term surgeon. Although there was a survey of consumers suggesting otherwise, this may be related to protection of title by other professions.

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

As in point 1, there should be consumer engagement and education to inform the general public. Impacts for consumers may be better served by a number of other strategies to improve general safety and understanding.

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

This may impact private sector podiatrists the most. Difficult to say the costings exactly as there are so few here (three). There may be an impact on referrals but if they are well known and there are existing relationships this may not be so impactful.

In the public sector there would be little change.

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

Not that we can think of.