

# National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement

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May 2022

## Statement purpose

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Statement (Statement)<sup>1</sup> explains the potential impacts of a proposed registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the Statement are:

1. The potential impact of the proposed revisions to the registration standard on the health and safety of patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
2. The potential impact of the proposed revisions to the registration standard on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
3. Engagement with patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The National Boards' Health and Safety Impact Statement aligns with the *National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#)*, *[National Scheme engagement strategy 2020-2025](#)*, *[the National Scheme Strategy 2020-25](#)* and reflect key aspects of the revised consultation process in the *[Ahpri Procedures for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#)*.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires Ahpra to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the Health Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is our initial assessment of the potential impact of a proposed revised *Registration standard: Specialist registration for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery* on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This assessment will be updated after consultation feedback.

**1. How will this proposal impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community? Will the impact be different for vulnerable members compared to the general public?**

The draft revised registration standard does not change current requirements for specialist registration in the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery. The draft revised registration standard proposes minor changes to the current registration standard, including editorial changes to improve readability and clarify current requirements.

The Podiatry Board of Australia (Board) has considered the impacts that the proposal could have on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly on vulnerable members of the community.

In doing so, the Board considered the National Scheme's key objective of protecting the public by ensuring only practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. The proposed revised registration standard supports that objective by ensuring that only practitioners who are appropriately trained and qualified to practise the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery in a competent and ethical manner are granted specialist registration.

Specialist registration clearly indicates to patients and consumers that the podiatric surgeon is qualified and competent to practise podiatric surgery.

The Board does not expect that the revisions to the registration standard will have any adverse impacts on patient and consumer safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. However, our engagement through consultation will help us to better understand possible outcomes and meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality.

**2. How will consultation engage with patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community?**

In line with our [consultation processes](#) the Board is undertaking wide-ranging consultation. We will engage with patients and consumers bodies, peak bodies and other relevant organisations to get input and views from vulnerable members of the community.

In our consultation questions, we have specifically addressed whether the draft revised registration standard will impact on patient, client and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community, which will also help us better understand possible impacts and address them.

**3. What might be the unintended impacts for patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community? How will these be addressed?**

The proposal does not change current requirements for specialist registration and does not propose additional requirements that would impact on patients and consumers. The Board does not expect there to be any unintended impacts for patients and consumers, including vulnerable members of the community.

However, the consultation process will help us to identify any potential or unintended impacts. We will fully consider and take actions to address any unintended impacts for patients and consumers that may be raised during consultation.

**4. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will the impact be different for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?**

The proposal does not change current requirements for specialist registration and does not propose additional requirements that would impact on practitioners, patients and consumers. Therefore, the Board does not expect there to be any potential impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as a result of the proposal.

The Board's engagement through wide-ranging consultation will help us to identify any potential impacts and meet our responsibilities to protect safety and health care quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

**5. How will consultation about this proposal engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?**

The Board is committed to the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and [cultural safety](#).

As part of our consultation process, we will engage with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders to ensure there are no unintended consequences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In our consultation questions, we have specifically addressed whether the proposed revised registration standard will result in any potential negative or unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples which will also help us better understand possible impacts and address them.

**6. What might be the unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will these be addressed?**

The proposal does not change current requirements for specialist registration. Therefore, the proposed revised registration standard should not impact on quality of services or access to services.

The Board has considered what might be any unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. While the Board does not expect there to be any unintended impacts, our engagement with relevant organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will help us to identify any potential impacts.

We will consider and take action to address any other potential negative impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that may be raised during consultation.

**7 How will the impact of this proposal be actively monitored and evaluated?**

Part of the Board's work in keeping the public safe is ensuring that standards, codes and guidelines are regularly reviewed. If approved, the Board will review the revised standard at least every five years.

However, the Board may review the standard earlier, in response to any issues which arise or new evidence that emerges to ensure the standard's continued relevance, workability and maintenance of public safety standards.