



**Podiatry
Council**
of NSW

Podiatry Council of NSW

Annual Report 2018-19

JOINT ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 15 NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL CHINESE MEDICINE COUNCIL
CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL DENTAL COUNCIL MEDICAL COUNCIL MEDICAL RADIATION PRACTICE COUNCIL NURSING
AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OSTEOPATHY COUNCIL
PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL PHARMACY COUNCIL PHYSIOTHERAPY COUNCIL PODIATRY COUNCIL PSYCHOLOGY COUNCIL

President's Message



**Podiatry
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of NSW

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2018/19 on behalf of the Podiatry Council of New South Wales.

This year saw a large increase in complaints about podiatrists in NSW. Whilst clinical care remains a significant reason for complaints, growth in complaints relating to advertising matters is noted. I take this opportunity to remind practitioners of their responsibilities to advertise their services and qualifications consistent with the National Law. Whilst the vast majority of practitioners are compliant with the requirements, there remains room for improvement for some. I note that the National Board and AHPRA publish guidance on their website which supports practitioners when developing advertising material.

The Council and Podiatry Board of Australia have continued to work together to support and improve the operation of the national scheme. In addition to regular stakeholder meetings between both organisations, we conducted a joint complaints and notifications workshop in March 2019. The workshop allowed us to review risk assessment practices and is part of ongoing work to ensure consistency across jurisdictions in the national scheme.

Podiatrists in NSW would be aware that a registration surcharge has been in place for practitioners working in NSW for a number of years. Council has always been reluctant to impose this surcharge but had done so in conjunction with tight expenditure management measures to ensure the financial stability of Council. I am pleased to report that these strategies have resulted in significant improvements to the Council's financial position. The surcharge to registrants was halved during the 2018-2019 financial year. A decision has not been made yet for the 2019 fee.

The work of Council is reliant on the staff of the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA). I would in particular like to acknowledge the Podiatry Council's Executive Officer Asha Mears and Program Officer Christine Gursen for their hard work and professionalism on behalf of Council. We benefit greatly from the expertise and professional judgement of podiatrists who, on behalf of Council, perform roles on panels and committees. I would like to thank these practitioners for their support of Council's activities. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the Health Care Complaints Commission, who have a pivotal role in the operation of health care regulation in NSW and work in collaboration with the Council in our shared activities.

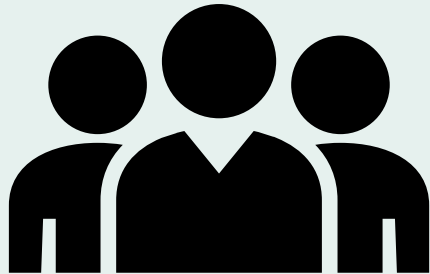
Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Mr Ebenezer Banful, Ms Verona Du Toit and Dr Kristy Robson to the Podiatry Council. They give generously of their time and expertise to achieve the objectives of the Podiatry Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Taylor', located below the main text of the message.

Mr Luke Taylor
President
Podiatry Council of New South Wales

2018-19 Summary

PODIATRISTS



1,506

Registered podiatrists in NSW

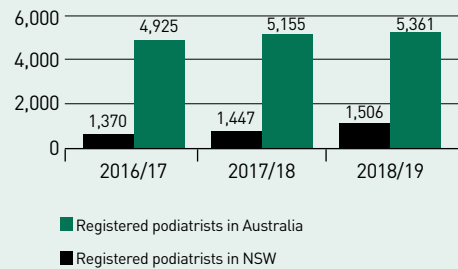
28%

of Australian podiatrists practise in NSW

3%

of NSW podiatrists had complaints made about them

3 year trend in number of registered podiatrists

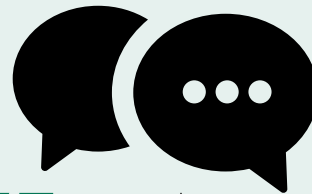


COMPLAINTS ABOUT PODIATRISTS



7

cases were open at the beginning of the year



47

complaints were received about 42 podiatrists in 2018/19

0

No mandatory notifications were received



45

cases were closed during the year

Complaints were mainly from:

Patients - **15**
Member of the public - **13**

Complaints were mainly about:

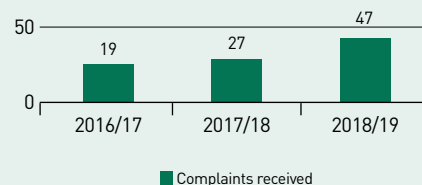
National Law breach or offence - **21**
Clinical care - **17**



9

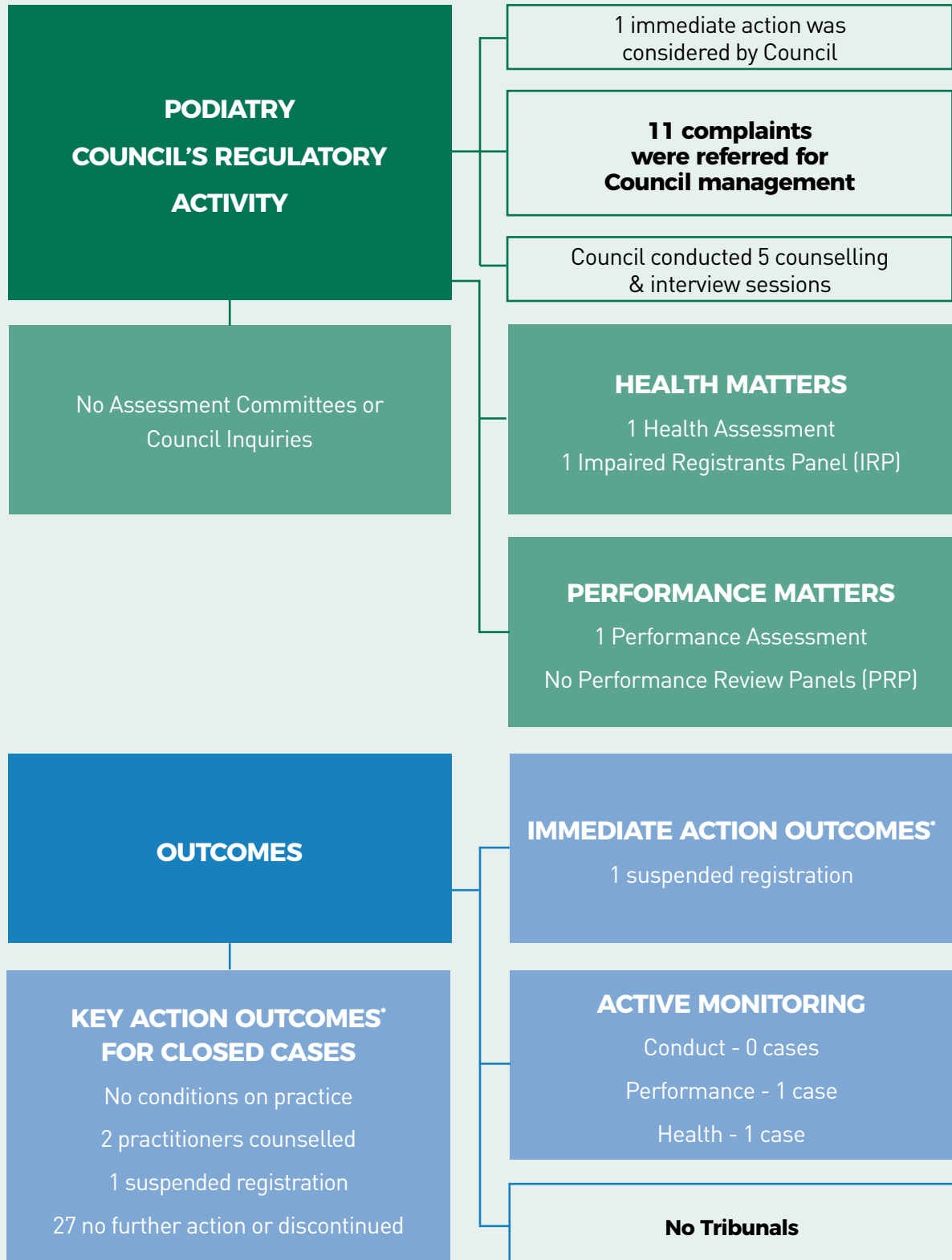
cases were open at the end of the year

3 year trend in number of complaints about podiatrists



2018-19 Summary

PODIATRY COUNCIL'S REGULATORY ACTIVITY - MATTERS CONCLUDED



*Not all outcomes are included & a complaint may have more than one outcome

Council Members

Four members sit on the Podiatry Council as set out in the National Law.

Council members are nominated by the Minister for Health and appointed by the Governor.

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 Governor appointed Mr Luke Taylor as President of the Podiatry Council.

The Governor appointed Dr Kristy Robson as Deputy President of the Podiatry Council.

Executive Officer

Ms Asha Mears is the Executive Officer for the Podiatry Council.

The Executive Officer is part of a team of 11 led by Ms Farina Bains. This team works with 11 of the health professional Councils.

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 12 times during the year.

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

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date first appointed	Current Term of Office*
President Luke Taylor	10	12	1 July 2015	1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020
Deputy President Kristy Robson	9	12	1 July 2015	1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020
Verona du Toit	9	12	1 July 2015	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021
Ebenezer Banful	10	12	1 January 2011	1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019

* 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 assist the Council to undertake regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)
- Assessment Committee

The Podiatry Council appointed one Impaired Registrants Panel during the year.

Table ii: Regulatory Committee and Panel Membership

Impaired Registrants Panel
Chair Dr Karen Arnold
Council Members N/A
Non Council Members Ms Jessica Knox Mrs Peta Tehan

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 iii: Podiatry Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
University of Newcastle – Presentation to students on regulation in NSW	Verona du Toit – Council Member
Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit, NSW Ministry of Health – Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 review stakeholder meeting	Luke Taylor – President
AHPRA – Activity Based Costing Meeting	Luke Taylor – President
National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents Joint Meeting	Luke Taylor – President
NRAS Combined Meeting and Research Summit	Luke Taylor – President
Australian Podiatry Association – Stakeholder meeting	Luke Taylor – President Kristy Robson – Deputy President Ebenezer Banful – Council Member
Podiatry Board of Australia – Joint Notifications Workshop	Luke Taylor – President Kristy Robson – Deputy President Ebenezer Banful – Council Member

Council Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Podiatry Council website provides easy access to information about the Council and its work, publications, the complaints process and an online complaint form.

As part of the engagement plan for the Podiatry Council and the National Board, representatives from each attended three teleconferences and met twice during the year.

Other stakeholder engagement activities included a meeting with the Australian Podiatry Association.

Overseas Travel

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

Remuneration

Remuneration for Council members aligns with the Public Service Commission Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees. Council members receive additional payment for interviews, counselling sessions, immediate action inquiries, Council Inquiries and panels. No additional payments are made for other regulatory work such as official visits, committee meetings, training, conferences or preparation for meetings.

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

Podiatry Council member remuneration rates are as follows.

President	\$4,465 per annum
Deputy President	\$4,214 per annum
Council Members	\$3,665 per annum

Education and Research Account

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

Accounts Performance 2018/19	\$
Revenue	318,023
Operating expenditure	141,781
Gain / (loss) on disposal	[4]
Net result	176,238
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	654,648

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$66,716.

The Podiatry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 is as follows.

Budget 2019/20	\$
Revenue	285,732
Operating expenditure	200,745
Net result	84,987

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