

**PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA  
PO BOX 70, COLLINS STREET WEST 8007**

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**GUIDELINE: RECOGNITION OF POST GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS**

Section 12 of the *Health Professions Registration Act 2005* ('the Act') provides a power for the Podiatrists Registration Board to recognize certain qualifications of podiatrists, in addition to those qualifications required for registration. Section 12 (2) provides for applicants for registration or registered podiatrists to apply to the Board to have the particulars of a qualification that is recognised by the Board noted on the Register of Podiatrists against their name.

Section 30 of the Act provides powers for the Board to maintain a Register of Podiatrists and to note on the register against a registered podiatrist's name qualifications that the podiatrist possesses that are recognised by the Board under section 12.

Section 12(4) requires the Board to publish at least once a year the list of qualifications that the Board recognises, on its website and in a publication circulating among registered podiatrists.

**Additional qualification: Podiatric Surgery**

The Board considers the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons ("FACPS") to be the main body of review and training in relation to the practice of podiatric surgery.

The Board recognises a Fellowship from the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons as an 'additional qualification' for the purposes of section 12 of the Health Professions Registration Act. Practitioners who have obtained this qualification may apply to the Board to have these details noted on the Register of Podiatrists against their name.

**GUIDELINE: THE PRACTICE OF PODIATRIC SURGERY**

Under the Health Professions Registration Act 2005, there is no legislated restriction on the scope of practice of podiatrists. However, in the interests of public safety the Board advises it does not regard a podiatrist competent to safely perform reconstructive and/or plastic surgical procedures (eg osteectomy, neurectomy, tenotomy) unless the following requirements are met:

1. Practitioners must possess, or be eligible for, Fellowship of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (FACPS). Eligibility for Fellowship may be accepted by the Board following a review of a podiatrist's surgical qualifications and due examination as required by the Panel of Examiners of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons to ensure equivalence with Australian standards in podiatric surgery. Other podiatrists are advised to restrict their scope of surgical practice to those procedures which are components of the undergraduate podiatry curricula within Australian universities.
2. Registrars (trainees) of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons may undertake such procedures as part of Fellowship training but only under the direct supervision of a fellow of the College.
3. Podiatrists with overseas qualifications who believe they should be recognised by the Podiatrists Registration Board of Victoria to perform reconstructive and or plastic surgical procedures (eg osteectomy, neurectomy, tenotomy) must submit themselves for review by the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (the peak professional body for podiatric surgery in Australia).