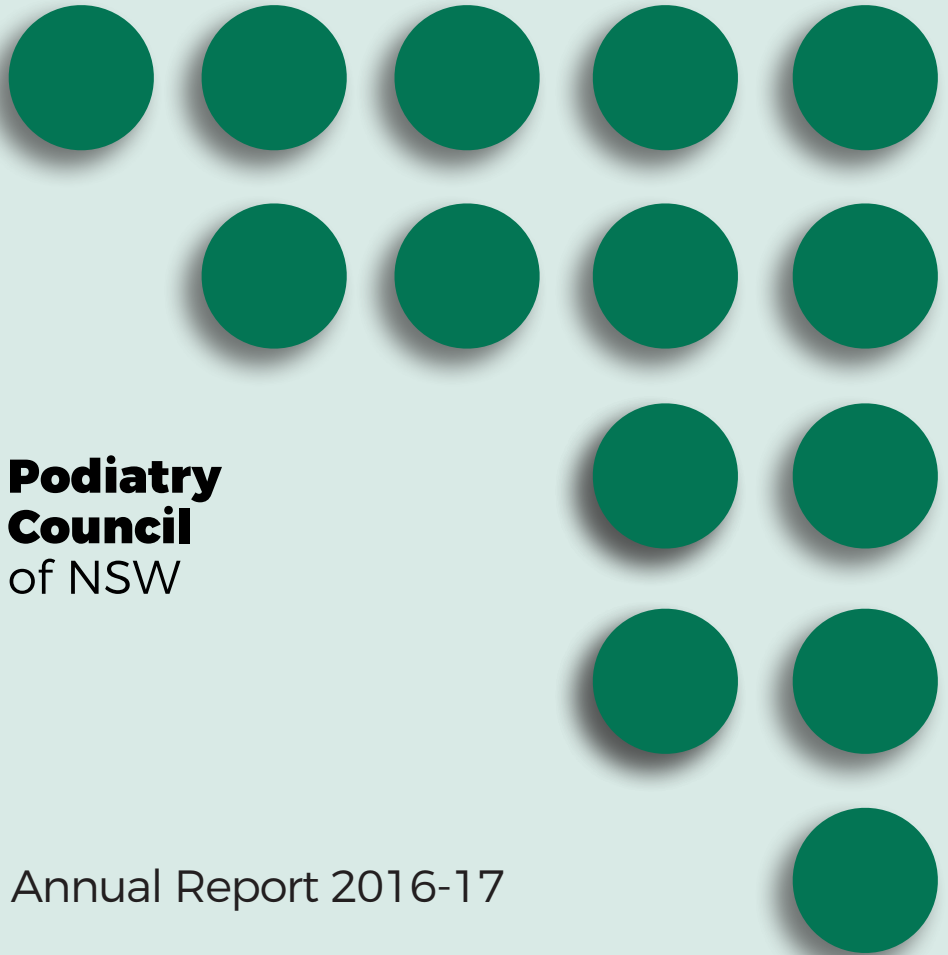




**Podiatry
Council**
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



President's Message



I am pleased to submit the 2017 Annual Report for the Podiatry Council of New South Wales (Council).

As in previous years, there was steady growth in the volume of complaints managed by the Council this year, the details of which you will find in this Annual Report.

Many podiatry practitioners would be aware that a registration surcharge for NSW practitioners was introduced some years ago in order to ensure the Council had the necessary resources to carry out its regulatory functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW). I am pleased to report that the Council's financial position is steadily improving, although there is still a gap to be bridged before the Council can achieve its equity target. The Council is mindful of the impact the surcharge has on practitioners and continues to work with our regulatory partners to ensure fees paid by practitioners are allocated appropriately and transparently and that our costs are carefully controlled.

The Council welcomed the opportunity to contribute complaints data to the Podiatry Board of Australia's review of notifications since commencement of the national scheme in 2010. The analysis of complaints and notification data allows us as regulatory partners to better understand the issues that have led to complaints and the types of regulatory activity that has occurred in response. We will continue to work alongside the National Board to ensure that we are able to both contribute to the development of and to use quality data to inform our regulatory activities.

The Podiatry Council continued its focus on infection prevention initiatives during 2016-17. The Council was again active in education presenting interactive workshops at the Australasian Podiatry Council national conference. The Council's infection control inspection protocols for practitioners are published on our website and I encourage practitioners to also use the self-audit tool recently published by the National Board. The Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) Monitoring Inspections and Scheduling Unit continues to carry out routine inspections at practices to promote compliance and maintain community confidence in the high standards of infection control of the profession.

The work of the Council relies significantly on the behind the scenes support of the HPCA staff. The Council wishes to acknowledge their support and assistance which enables the Council to effectively undertake its role. Of particular note is the support given to the Council by our Executive Officer, Mr Michael Jaques and Assistant Executive Officer, Ms Christine Gursen. I would like to also thank my colleagues on the Council, Dr Kristy Robson (Deputy President), Ms Verona du Toit (practitioner member) and Mr Ebenezer Banful (legal member) for their contributions. As a small Council, the work is spread amongst a small number of hands, so their contributions are very significant.

The Podiatry Council looks forward to continuing its work alongside our regulatory partners at the Health Care Complaints Commission, the Podiatry Board of Australia, HPCA and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency over the forthcoming year.



Luke Taylor
President
Podiatry Council of New South Wales

Regulation of
Podiatrists in 2016/17

Summary overview



19

**New complaints
received during the
year related to**

Conduct – 6
Performance – 11
Health – 2

1 complaint was a
mandatory notification



1,370

**Registered Podiatrists
in NSW**

8% more than the previous year
27.8% of Podiatrists in Australia
1.2% of Podiatrists in NSW had
complaints made about them –
16 practitioners



25

Complaints managed

6 open at start of year
19 received during the year
1 immediate action matter
4 assessments and hearings concluded
23 closed during the year
2 open at year end
0 active monitoring at year end



23

Outcomes for closed complaints*

8 no further action
8 discontinued
5 referred to another body
2 counselling

* A complaint may have more
than one outcome

Council Communications

The Podiatry Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with podiatrists and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation that included workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

Council Members

Four members sit on the Podiatry Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

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

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

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

Executive Officer

Mr Michael Jaques is the Executive Officer for the Podiatry Council and Ms Christine Gursen is the Assistant Executive Officer.

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 11 times during the year.

Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Mr Luke Taylor – President	9	11	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2020
Dr Kristy Robson - Deputy President	11	11	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2020
Ms Verona du Toit	9	11	1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018
Mr Ebenezer Banful	10	11	1 January 2011 – 30 June 2018

* 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

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Podiatry Council did not appoint any regulatory committees or panels during the year.

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.

Podiatry Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
NRAS Conference	Mr Luke Taylor	Participant
Australasian Podiatry Conference, Melbourne	Mr Luke Taylor Dr Kristy Robson	Presenter Presenter

Overseas Travel

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

Other Council Activities

The Podiatry Council engaged authorised persons from the Monitoring, Inspections and Scheduling Unit (MISU) of the HPCA to conduct infection control inspections at podiatry practices across NSW. Nineteen practices employing 43 podiatrists were assessed for compliance against the relevant standards and guidelines. Common deviations from the standards were:

- use of domestic washing machines for clinical linen
- absence of personal protective equipment
- cracks in seating and flooring
- inadequate sterilisation records and procedures
- inadequate environmental and waste management procedures.

The inspection reports assisted Council decision making about identified issues of concern and follow up action to improve compliance with standards and guidelines.

Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

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

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

Education and Research Account

The Podiatry Council maintains an Education and Research account to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

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 2016/17	\$
Revenue	299,382
Operating expenditure	174,702
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
Net result	124,680
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	352,941

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$64,224.

The Podiatry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

Budget 2017/18	\$
Revenue	317,820
Operating expenditure	179,109
Net result	138,711

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