



**Annual  
Report  
2015-16**

**Podiatry  
Council**

of New South Wales

# President's message



*Podiatry Council  
of New South Wales*

I am pleased to introduce the 2015-16 annual report for the Podiatry Council and to give this overview.

Following significant changes to the Council's membership last year, the 2015-16 year was much more stable and allowed the Council to spend time focusing on infection prevention measures and improving relationships with co-regulators and professional associations.

Complaints activity was consistent during the year. The Council dealt with 28 cases over the period (15 new), with 22 of those resolved by the end of the year. More information about the complaints is included in the body of this annual report.

Infection control standards were an area of focus for the Council this year. As part of its responsibilities to protect the public, the Council conducts routine inspections of podiatry practices to ensure compliance with standards of infection prevention. During the year, inspectors visited the practices of 47 podiatrists for this purpose. For the most part, practices are performing to the standard, but where there are areas for improvement, the Council is able to support practitioners in recognising these areas and implementing improvements proactively. To support practitioners in this regard, the Council has done several things this year, including updating and publishing its guidelines for routine inspections; presenting infection prevention workshops at the 2016 state podiatry conference; and including information on common issues and how to resolve them in our newsletter to practitioners.

During 2016, the Council had consultation meetings with both the Podiatry Board of Australia and the Australian Podiatry Association (NSW). The Council considers these relationships to be important to ensure collaboration in our roles to protect the public and to support the profession in providing safe and high quality care to the community. We look forward to continuing and strengthening these engagements during the year ahead.

The Council is very appreciative of the help and support it receives from the HPCA. In particular, the support of our Executive Officer Mr Michael Jaques and Assistant Executive Officer Ms Christine Gursen is greatly valued and highly appreciated.

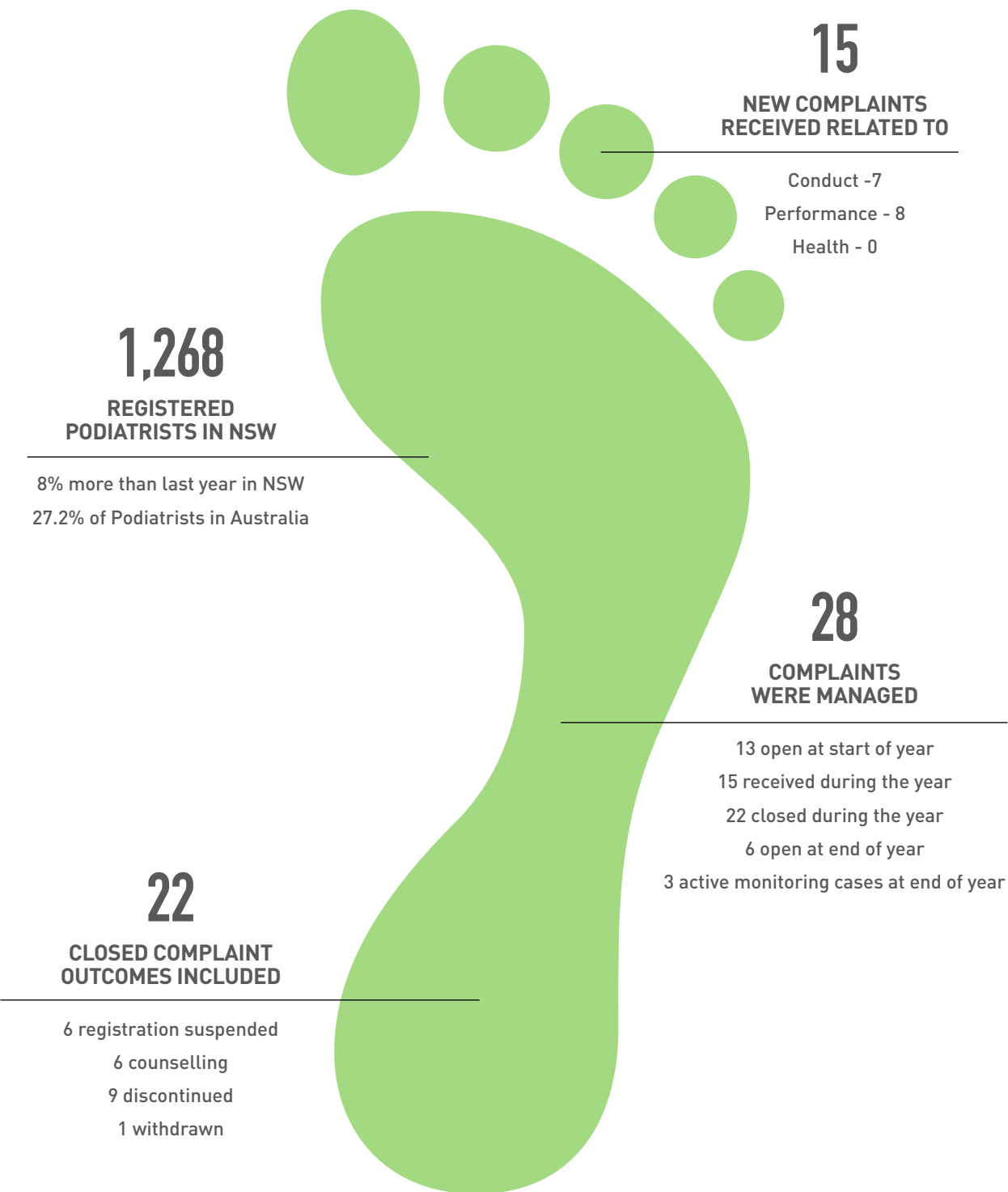
I would also like to acknowledge the podiatrists who have recently offered to share their knowledge and expertise by putting their names forward to assist the Council by serving on various committees or panels when the need arises. Whilst we don't need to regularly call on their expertise, we wish to thank these practitioners for their willingness to contribute to the activities of the Council.

**Mr Luke Taylor**

President

Podiatry Council of NSW

# Regulation of Podiatrists in 2015/16 Overview



## Regulation of Podiatrists in NSW in 2015/16

### Year in summary

As at 30 June 2016 NSW had 1,268 registered podiatrists representing 27.2% of the 4,655 podiatrists registered to practise in Australia. There was an increase of more than 8% on the 1,167 podiatrists registered in NSW last year.

During the year the Podiatry Council of NSW managed 28 complaints including:

- 13 open matters at the start of the year
- 15 new complaints received during the year.

By year end 22 complaints had been closed and six matters remained open.

The 15 new complaints received this year were about 15 practitioners representing 1.2% of NSW registered podiatrists. There were two less complaints this year compared with the 17 complaints received in 2014/15.

New complaints received this year included one mandatory notification.

Complaints were received from five patients; three relatives of a patient or practitioner; three employers; three insurance companies; and one from another source.

Complaints received about NSW podiatrists related to:

- Conduct – 7 complaints
- Performance – 8 complaints
- Health – 0 complaints.

No complaints required immediate action consideration.

After Council consultations with the HCCC, five of the complaints received during the year were referred for Council management.

No matters were referred to NCAT.

Three counselling/interview sessions were concluded.

Outcomes for the 22 matters closed during the year were as follows.

Outcome	Number
Registration suspended	6
Counselling	6
Withdrawn	1
Discontinued	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

At year end three cases were being actively monitored, including one conduct matter and two performance matters.

### Council Membership

Section 41E of the Law prescribes that there are four members of the Podiatry Council appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered podiatry practitioners:

- Mr Luke Taylor BApp Sci (Pod), Grad Cert (Diab) – President
- Ms Kristy Robson MHS (Ed), Dip HSc (Podiatry) – Deputy President
- Ms Veronica Du Toit MAppSc, AssDipPod, BTeach.

Legal member:

- Mr Ebenezer Banful GradDip, LLB(Hons2A), GDLP.

### Attendance at Council Meetings

The Podiatry Council met on 11 occasions. Attendance at the meetings was as follows.

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Mr Ebenezer Banful	10	11
Ms Veronica Du Toit	8	11
Ms Kristy Robson	11	11
Mr Luke Taylor	10	11

### Executive Officer

The Podiatry Council is supported by Mr Michael Jaques, Executive Officer and Ms Christine Gursen, Assistant Executive Officer, both employed by the HPCA.

### Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Podiatry Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

### Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels. The Podiatry Council did not establish any of these bodies during the reporting period.

## Meetings and Conferences

The Podiatry Council was represented at the following meetings and conferences.

Name of Meeting or Conference	Attendance
Council Presidents' Forum	Mr Luke Taylor Ms Kristy Robson
Australian Podiatry Association (NSW & ACT) Scientific State Committee	Mr Luke Taylor Ms Kristy Robson
Australian Podiatry Association - Board Meeting	Mr Luke Taylor
Joint meeting with the Podiatry Board of Australia	Mr Luke Taylor Ms Kristy Robson Ms Verona du Toit

## Overseas Travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

## Council Communications

The Podiatry Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to podiatrists, podiatry students and the community. The website is updated regularly and includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The Podiatry Council also distributes electronic newsletters to podiatrists with a principal place of practice in NSW. Further information is available at [www.podiatrycouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.podiatrycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

## Other Council Activities

The Council engaged authorised staff of the Monitoring, Inspections and Scheduling Unit to conduct infection control inspections at podiatry practices across NSW. Of 16 practices inspected, 47 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.

## Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council was as follows.

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

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees for the conduct of Council Inquiries and for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities if held on a day other than the Council meeting. Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

## Financial Management

The Podiatry Council's accounts performance as reported in the Financial Statements was as follows.

Accounts Performance 2015/16	\$
Revenue	266,285
Operating expenditure	178,765
Gain/(loss) on disposal	82
<b>Net result</b>	<b>87,602</b>
<b>Net cash reserves (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>215,886</b>

\* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of \$63,126.

The Podiatry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is as follows.

Budget 2016/17	\$
Revenue	279,794
Operating expenditure	217,144
<b>Net result</b>	<b>62,650</b>

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