Podiatric surgeons are concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the foot and ankle. Podiatric surgeons are uniquely qualified to care for bone, joint, ligament, muscle and tendon pathology of the foot and ankle, including:

- Structural deformities, including bunions, hammertoes, painful flat foot and high arched foot deformity, bone spurs
- Heel pain
- Nerve entrapments
- Tendon and soft tissue problems
- Degeneration and arthrosis of the joints of the foot and ankle
- Skin and nail conditions
- Congenital deformities
- Trauma-related injuries, including fractures and dislocations and post-traumatic arthrosis

Podiatric surgeons are legally recognised by State and Federal Governments to perform surgery.

Podiatric surgeons have undergone extensive post graduate training in foot and ankle surgery.

They perform a significant percentage of foot operations in Australia each year.

Podiatric surgeons have a long history of safe practice in Australia.

Podiatric surgeons adhere to the same hospital protocols as other surgical specialties.

Podiatric surgeons work within team environments to enhance outcomes.

Research has proven podiatric surgery to be effective.

This brochure has been prepared by the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons. For more information, please visit the ACPS website www.acps.edu.au
Podiatric surgeons are podiatrists who have completed extensive, post-graduate medical and surgical training, which enables them to perform reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle. The qualifications of podiatric surgeons are recognised by Australian State and Federal Governments. Podiatric surgeons are included within both the Health Insurance Act and the National Health Act.

In Australia, podiatric surgeons principally operate in private hospitals within a surgical team, which includes anaesthetists, medical practitioners, surgical assistants and nursing and hospital staff. Podiatric surgeons adhere strictly to the same hospital protocols as other surgical specialties. Patient care and safety is paramount and the surgical team works closely together to ensure each patient receives the highest quality of care and respect.

Generally, a vast majority of foot and ankle surgery can be performed as day case surgery, or overnight stay if necessary. Surgery is performed under local or general anaesthesia. In the post-operative setting, each patient is followed closely and managed according to their individual needs and phases of recovery.

Research

The ACPS places an important focus on research and this is an integral requirement of the training process. Fellows and surgical registrars are encouraged to undertake research projects pertaining to the broad and intricate field of foot and ankle surgery, contributing to the progression of scientific knowledge.

Podiatric Surgery and YOU

Around the world, podiatric surgery has a long history of leadership and innovation in the field of foot surgery. Podiatric surgeons are unique, having dedicated their energy over many years in research, investigation and mastery of medical and surgical therapeutics of the foot and ankle. For most disorders there is more than one form of treatment and management of foot and ankle problems may involve surgery, medicines, casts or splints and allied therapies. A podiatric surgeon will discuss the merits of conservative and surgical treatment options for each individual patient and help one to select the best treatment plan to enable an active and functional life.