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STATEMENT RE surgery by podiatrists

Podiatric surgery is a legitimate specialty recognised and practised in most western countries including Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the Podiatrists Board of Queensland said today.

Board Chair Jason Warnock said podiatrists have been performing surgery in Australia since 1975.

“The Board is concerned people are confused over surgery by podiatrists. We want to make sure people know podiatric surgery is a legitimate specialty, practised internationally, and managed in this country by Federal and State agencies so the public interest and safety is protected,” Mr Warnock said.

Qualified, registered podiatrists are able to diagnose and treat pathology of the foot and lower limb and are legally able to use local anaesthesia to perform skin and nail surgical procedures.

To perform surgery, podiatrists undertake extensive specialised postgraduate training and education in podiatric medicine and surgery and are qualified to care for bone, joint, ligament, muscle and tendon pathology of the foot and ankle.

The Board requires Fellows of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) to report annually to demonstrate ongoing professional competence.

“The public can be confident of the international standing of surgery of podiatrists and the Board’s commitment to protecting the public interest and maintaining standards of practice and public confidence in the profession,” Mr Warnock said.

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