

# Podiatry



## >>What is Podiatry?

Podiatry is the diagnosis and treatment by medical, surgical, electrical, mechanical or manual methods of ailments or disorders of the foot or foot related structures and appropriate preventative treatment and education;

(Definition as derived from the *Tasmanian Podiatrist's Registration Act 1995*)

Podiatrists are health professionals who are trained in the diagnosis and treatment of ailments or disorders of the foot or foot related structures and preventative treatment and education. Podiatrists practice across the age continuum from children through to the elderly.

## Where do Podiatrists work in Tasmania?

In Tasmania podiatry is represented across the full public/private divide providing for the full scope of practice. Access to podiatric surgery is limited to one or two practices state-wide. Access to domiciliary

- Services is also very limited
- Podiatrists within Tasmania work in a variety of areas including:
- Public and private hospitals
- Community health centres
- Diabetes centres
- Private practice
- Aged care facilities
- Home care services
- Industry

## How do Podiatrists work in DHHS?

Podiatrists within DHHS are employed via Acute Health and Community Health Services. Podiatry is undertaken at the Royal Hobart and Launceston General Hospitals and via community health centres and rural health facilities state-wide. Public Podiatry delivers the full scope of podiatric practice including limited surgery. Most activity is focused on chronic disease management programs eg foot health status screening for persons with diabetes

## What qualifications are required to practice?

Podiatrists in Tasmania need to be registered to practice in line with the *Podiatrist's' Registration Act 1995*. To achieve registration podiatrists need to demonstrate to the Registration Board that they have completed a recognised tertiary institution qualification

### Useful links

Tasmanian Podiatrists Registration Board  
[www.podregtas.com](http://www.podregtas.com)

Australasian Podiatry Council  
[www.apodc.com.au](http://www.apodc.com.au)