



30 November 2023

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you as the outgoing Chair of the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans (ACPD) to seek your support and advocacy in advance of pending negative publicity about podiatric surgery in Australia. We are aware that 60 Minutes, the Channel 9 television show, will be running a story on podiatric surgeons on Sunday night 3<sup>rd</sup> December. We also understand this story may be published in other media outlets. Whilst we are not privy to the specifics this story will focus on, we can infer that podiatric surgery will not be discussed in a positive light.

I hope that you will read the following information provided by the Australian Podiatry Association and consider this important opportunity for proactive support of the podiatry community, particularly podiatric surgeons. The Australian Podiatry Association (APodA) was not contacted by the 60 Minutes team to participate/comment on this story.

Below are the facts about podiatric surgeons and the review:

- An independent review of Podiatric Surgery regulation was recently initiated by the Podiatry Board of Australia (PBA)
- The aim of the review is to gain a complete understanding of the reasons for podiatric surgeon notifications and how to most effectively minimise these.
- Podiatric surgeons in Australia are regulated under the national law and must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia (PBA)
- Only individuals who hold current specialist registration with the PBA are permitted to use the professional title of podiatric surgeon in Australia and must comply with PBA standards, codes and guidelines including continued professional development
- There are currently 41 podiatric surgeons registered in Australia, compared to over 6,000 podiatrists who are registered and regulated under the national law
- Podiatrists are qualified to perform minor surgeries. These minor surgeries are far less complex and carry far less risk than many of the surgeries performed by registered podiatric surgeons and other surgeons, such as orthopaedic surgeons performing foot and ankle surgery.



Thank you in advance for your support,

Kind regards

*(Faint, illegible text)*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Robinson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

A/Prof Caroline Robinson

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