



Submission.

Australasian Podiatry Council.

On behalf of podiatrists nationally.

Australian podiatrists play a significant role in managing the health of Australians and in the main they see themselves as health professionals ahead of being entrepreneurs and business owners. Approximately 87% podiatrists practice in a private or community setting and about 50% of podiatry businesses operate under a company structure. The vast majority of these businesses would be considered micro to small business.

Registered health professionals are already subjected to a regulatory system aimed at protecting the public and funded by registrants. Each podiatrist already pays registration fees of around \$350 per annum to fund a regulatory system that protects the public and provides a disciplinary process through a registration board with significant powers.

The regulatory burden on health professionals is already significant. Health professionals are subject to significant regulation at a local government, state government and federal government level, all of which carry a cost which is borne by health professionals and the Australian public. Our members are often treating Australians suffering from debilitating conditions who are also some of the poorest in the country. An increase in the cost of compliance will add additional cost to the provision of health care services to some of Australia's poorest citizens.

We also wish to highlight that podiatrists along with many other health professionals formed professional associations to facilitate ongoing learning, standards, codes and guidelines and to promote and encourage the profession. The professional association is registered as a public company limited by guarantee which is the most common structure for professional associations in Australia. Increasing the compliance costs for professional associations will additionally add to the cost of maintaining membership and pursuing practice to a high standard.

We urge the Australian Government to recognise that small business makes a remarkable contribution to the economy and society in Australia. Government must encourage and support small business and must avoid loading micro to small businesses with compliance costs that large business might reasonably absorb.

We call on the Australian Government to exempt both small business and public companies limited by guarantee from additional compliance costs resulting from this review.

About the Australasian Podiatry Council:

The Australasian Podiatry Council (APodC) is the peak national body for podiatrists and their clients in Australia. The APodC represents over two thousand podiatrists in all related commonwealth government consultations and committees and has been the national voice of podiatry for the media, government and the Australian public for over fifty years.

Questions regarding this mission may be directed to:

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