PODIATRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD *of* VICTORIA

Pod/MRsub

Nauru House
Level 32,
80 Collins Street,
Melbourne 3000.
Tel: 03 9258 6777
Fax: 03 9949 3735

28 April 2003

Ms Sarah Box
Senior Research Economist
Productivity Commission PO
Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Sarah,

I refer to our discussions on 8 April 2003 in relation to the Podiatrists Registration Board's submission. As discussed I am pleased to provide the Boards preliminary comments.

1. Differing Academic Standards between States.

   Presently, in Victoria graduates are required to complete a 4 year University degree course to become qualified in podiatry and eligible for registration as a podiatrist. The Board considers that the clinical practice of podiatry is uniform across Australia and it is concerned that there are differing academic standards for registration in some states. In South Australia graduates are only required to complete a 3 year tertiary course, and the Curtain University in Western Australia is considering offering only a 2 year masters program. Once graduates have completed these courses and gained registration in their State they are eligible for registration in Victoria via the Mutual Recognition Act despite the fact that their Academic standard may be at a lower level.

2. Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition.

   Overseas qualified practitioners must sit and pass a NOOSA examination prior to becoming eligible for registration in Australia. However, people with overseas qualifications can circumvent this process by gaining registration in New Zealand and then in Australia through the Trans Tasman mutual recognition.

Yours sincerely,

M
Registrar