

## Snapshot of the public consultation

### Who is the Podiatry Board of Australia?

The Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) protects the public by regulating podiatrists and podiatric surgeons. As part of its role, the Board develops policies, codes and guidelines that provide guidance to the profession.

### What is happening?

The Podiatry Board of Australia (Board) is reviewing its [Guidelines for podiatrists working with podiatric assistants in podiatry practice](#) (the guidelines).

### What is the Board proposing?

The Board is proposing to replace the current guidelines with new high-level guidance that would explain how the Board's Code of conduct, professional capabilities and other relevant regulatory standards apply when a podiatrist is working with an assistant.

If the proposal is supported the Board would develop additional resources to complement the guidance. This would include case studies to provide examples of how the Code of conduct would be applied in different clinical scenarios, including roles and responsibilities of the podiatrist and assistant in each case, culturally safe practice and examples of informal and formal training and qualifications of assistants.

The Board is inviting responses to specific questions and general comments on the draft proposed guidance for working with assistants in podiatry practice.

### What does this mean for consumers?

The Board estimates that the potential impact of replacing guidelines with high-level guidance would be minimal as it does not introduce any new requirements, rather it explains how existing professional obligations for safe and effective podiatry care apply when a practitioner is working with an assistant in their practice.

The Board does not anticipate any negative impact on practitioners, patients and consumers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other stakeholders arising from the proposal.

### Why is the Board proposing this change?

The Board considers that the current guidelines for working with podiatric assistants are no longer fit for purpose and prefers to use a less prescriptive and more contemporary approach to providing guidance to support practitioners working with assistants in their podiatry practice.

### Where do I get more information?

Please refer to the public consultation paper.

### How to make a submission?

You can use the submission template to provide your feedback and send it by email it to: [podiatryconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:podiatryconsultation@ahpra.gov.au). The public consultation closes on **17 February 2025**.