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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of Footfiles.

We hope you enjoy catching up on the news at Podiatry WA and in our profession.

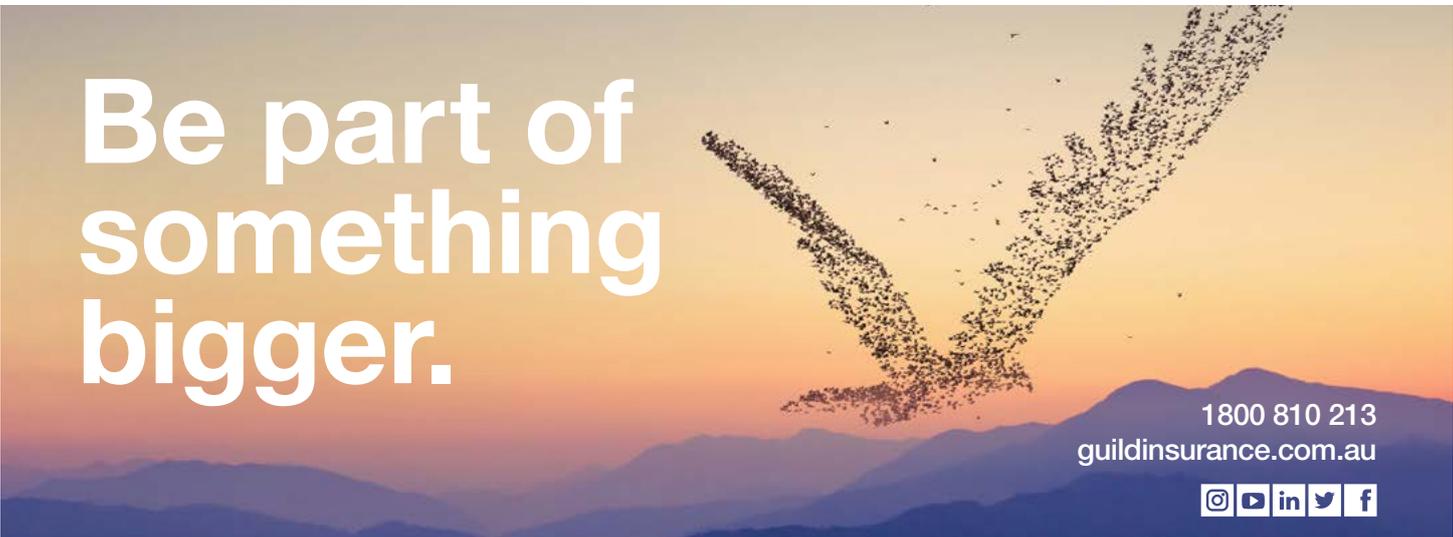
The Summer edition includes :

- President Dr Scott Westover's discussion on Covid 19 vaccination
- CPD report and reviews
- Board and staff for 2021
- Introduction to our new board members
- In the news and Covid 19 news articles

Wishing all our members a safe festive season.

Dr Corrina Petric (Podiatrist)

Footfiles Editor



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PRESIDENT'S Report

Dear Members,

Welcome to summer! Whether we want it or not the hot weather is here and when I say it is HERE... boy do I mean it is HERE! In the great Northwest of this state, we have already seen temperatures as high as 48 degrees. So if that is at the start of the summer season, what is it going to be like at the end of this season?

There are a lot of 'Ifs' and 'Whats' in most of our life's daily challenges and COVID-19 is most definitely proving to be one of the most hotly talked about areas!

I thought it most appropriate to devote this entire President's Report to the subject

of COVID-19 and its importance to us as a profession and us as a community.

I have included some national statistics key facts on COVID-19, and some useful messages on why we should vaccinate. Although Public Hospitals and Aged care Facilities now require Tier 1 and Tier 2 personnel to be fully vaccinated in order to keep their employment there will be those who choose the option to not vaccinate and that is THEIR DECISION. However, time has shown us as in other pandemics, that mass vaccination/immunisation, is the superlative way forward to minimise the horrific and devastating effects that these pandemics can perpetuate.

| MEASURE NAME | VALUE |
|--|------------|
| National - Total vaccine doses administered | 39,663,971 |
| National - Daily increase - Total vaccine doses recorded | 30,611 |
| National - Number of people 16 and over with 1 dose | 19,152,475 |
| National - Number of people 16 and over fully vaccinated | 18,163,730 |
| National - Population 16 and over | 20,619,959 |
| National - Number of people 16 and over with more than two doses | 536,892 |

92.9% of people aged 16 and over have had their 1st dose

88.1% of people aged 16 and over have had their 2nd dose

Getting vaccinated protects yourself, your family, elders, and community from getting really sick with COVID-19, or even dying. Everyone 12 years and over can book a vaccine now, at the time of writing this report. The COVID-19 vaccine gives us an added layer of protection against the virus and helps build community immunity.

We all play a part in keeping our community safe and staying on the right path out of this pandemic. Please sign up to get your COVID-19 vaccination at: your local venue that offers the vaccination. If you have questions about the vaccination clinics, please contact either that local venue; WACHS Population Health for the area in which you live (there are 7 regions across WA) or ring the PodWA offices where we may be able to assist you in your queries. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, speak with your health care provider.

Thank you for everything you do to keep you, us your staff and your co-workers safe and healthy. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to prevent getting sick with COVID-19 disease. We care about your health; you are on the front lines and risk being exposed to COVID-19 each day on the job. Healthcare personnel like you are among the first to receive the vaccine because of your essential role in fighting this pandemic.

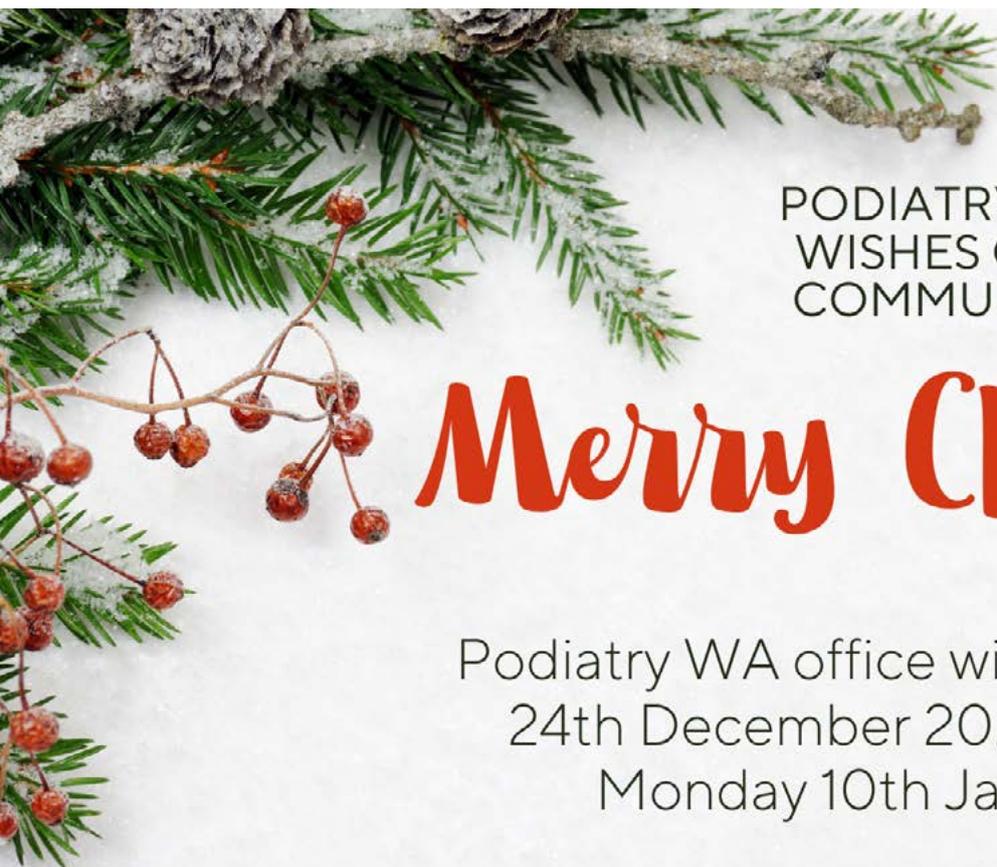
Access to the vaccine; COVID-19 vaccination for front line staff has been made available and is now mandatory across the state in all Public Hospitals and public-run Aged Care Facilities (this includes paid and unpaid staff,

contractual staff, and temporary workers). We understand you may have questions about the vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all other vaccines. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. The most common side effects are pain at the injection site, fever, and chills. These side effects tend to be mild to moderate and go away on their own within 1–2 days. Please reach out to your local health care provider if you experience side effects.

By getting vaccinated, you can serve as a role model in your community and can positively influence vaccination decisions of co-workers, friends, and family. Thank you again for all you are doing to keep our communities and population safe and healthy.

Be safe and be kind to one and all.

Kindest of Regards,
Dr Scott Westover,
*BA, BSc (Hons), BSN, MSc, DPM, DSc,
PGD-T, PGD-FA, PGC-Pharm, MRCPod,
MPodWA, MAPodA Podiatrist, Registered
Teacher, Medical Student (OUM)*



PODIATRY WA
WISHES OUR
COMMUNITY

Merry Christmas

Podiatry WA office will be closed from
24th December 2021 & reopen on
Monday 10th January 2022

CPD Reports And Reviews

DR KAREN LYRA

Welcome to the summer edition of Footfiles and welcome to the Board-our new lead director of learning Dr Elena Penkova (Podiatrist). As our CPD calendar comes to the end of year, our focus has been on providing opportunity to complete our learning outcomes for 2021 and then planning for the upcoming year of CPD content.

In October we hosted a webinar with podiatrist Dr Joseph Frenkel from Melbourne. This was an interactive presentation on Podiatric Dermatology mythbusters with a focus on addressing common myths and colloquialisms in a humorous and educational way. He discussed natural skin management updates and applications of natural methods to manage common Podiatric Dermatology conditions.

Podiatry WA organised two courses for members to complete their CPR and Anaphylaxis training. These are a great opportunity for Podiatrists to get together, promoting connections locally is our associations aim. The next opportunity to book for these courses will be May and October 2022.

We were reminded that our CPD requirements for AHPRA registration need be completed by 30th November. We have had multiple options on the website to help members, with recorded webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars will continue to be updated through summer for refreshers on topics of interest, keeping your knowledge current or to begin your 2022 CPD log.

The much-anticipated Podiatric Dermatology Day has been booked for Sunday 13th March 2022 in Perth. Dr Joseph Frenkel is looking forward to a full day of face-to-face interactive learning and networking. Visit our website for full details.

Our CPD team is always looking for new committee members to join us, and as always, your feedback and comments on CPD are always welcomed at cpd@podiatrywa.com.au

Wishing all our community a festive season and look forward to bringing you quality education and local events in the new year.

Your feedback and comments on CPD are always welcomed at cpd@podiatrywa.com.au

PODIATRY WA Board and Staff

BOARD

President - Dr Scott Westover (Podiatrist)

Operations Director - Ms Yvette McLean

Finance Director - Ms Katerina Andronis

CPD Director - Dr Elena Penkova (Podiatrist)

Student Liaison Director - Dr Chris McCluney (Podiatrist)

Sponsorship Director - Dr Yun Jang (Podiatrist)

Student Directors – to be appointed at beginning of new student year 2022

Company Secretary - Ms Maggie Shipp

STAFF

Admin Officer - Ms Christianna McCarthy (info@podiatrywa.com.au)

CPD Coordinator - Dr Karen Lyra (Podiatrist)

Bookkeeper - Ms Marie Turner (treasurer@podiatrywa.com.au)

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Maggie Shipp - Company Secretary

Maggie graduated from Curtin University with a Bachelor in Commerce, specialising in Economics and a Bachelor of Laws. Maggie Shipp was admitted in November 2019 and is currently a solicitor at Cullen Macleod Lawyers. She specialises in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution and Employment Law. Maggie has joined the Podiatry WA board as the Company Secretary and looks forward to the opportunity to provide advice and assistance to the Board.



Yun Jang - Sponsorship director

Yun Jang completed the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology and Doctor of Podiatric Medicine at the University of Western Australia. Following her graduation in 2018, she took my graduate position in Geraldton including visiting remote Aboriginal communities within the Pilbara region. From these experiences, she developed a passion for higher risk foot care. She

continued to embark on this journey which has now led to working in Kalgoorlie, predominantly providing higher risk foot services. Yun enjoys being part of a multidisciplinary team and working together to solve complex issues. In her spare time she loves playing badminton and squash.

Katerina Andronis - Finance Director

Katerina is a senior IT and Change Management professional, Katerina has contributed her expertise to leading organisations as an industry advisor and consultant in the development and delivery of multi-million dollar and leading edge business and process initiatives.

Katerina's experience extends across IT, Patient and Clinical Management, Research and developing road maps for innovative organisational change. Katerina identifies business and clinical processes, evaluate the core priorities of the organisation, and develop an implementation strategy all based on present and future technologies which support and enables the business.

Katerina has an extensive IT background with knowledge and has a depth of knowledge of best business practice and information management in Health Care. Katerina is an

industry advisor, consultant, analyst and manager, team builder and leader.

She facilitates cooperation and collaboration,

with a global network of resources, and

incorporates people development and succession planning in all of her activities.

Her previous roles include CIO of Ramsay Health Care hospitals, Peter Mac Callum Cancer and 10 years as a Director, Health Life Science and Health Care Industry,, Deloitte in Melbourne. Currently working as the Chief Technology Officer for Beamtree and consultant for Abano Health Care.

Katerina loves opera, classical music, jazz, ballet and theatre and riding her bike.



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from 9-4pm

Location TBA

**PODIATRIC
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with

Dr Joseph Frenkel (Podiatrist)

IN THE News

NEW MBS ITEM NUMBERS FOR ALLIED HEALTH CASE CONFERENCING

From 1 November 2021, new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items are available for eligible allied health practitioners participating in multidisciplinary case conferences with medical practitioners.

The new items apply to non-admitted patients under the care of an eligible allied health practitioner for:

- Chronic disease management under the care of a General Practitioner (GP) in either community or residential aged care settings.
- Early diagnosis and treatment for children under 13 years with, or suspected of having, a pervasive developmental disorder (including autism) or an eligible disability, under the care of a specialist, consultant physician or GP.

Under the new items, eligible allied health practitioners may claim reimbursement for participating in multidisciplinary case conferences through three time-tiered items: 15-20 minutes, 20-40 minutes and over 40 minutes.

The new items are intended to increase uptake of multidisciplinary case conferences, improve care coordination and support the outcomes that matter most to patients and their families.

[PDF version New MBS Item numbers for Allied Health Case Conferencing](#)

(PDF 255 KB)

[Word version New MBS Item numbers for Allied Health Case Conferencing](#)

(Word 92 KB)

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEETS TO HELP COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Resistant organisms exist in humans, animals, food, plants and the environment, and the main driver of this resistance is antimicrobial usage. *Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy - 2020 and Beyond* sets a 20-year vision to protect the health of humans and animals by aiming to control and combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) while continuing to have effective antimicrobials available, through a holistic and multisectoral One Health approach.

One of the objectives of the 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that coordinated, evidence-based antimicrobial prescribing guidelines and best-practice supports are made easily available. To address this, the Department of Health has commissioned a suite of seven [patient information sheets](#) that healthcare providers can use to engage people in the decision-making process when treating common infections and reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescribing.

Further information about the 2020 Strategy is available [here](#).

COVID-19 News

MANDATORY VACCINATION

It is now mandatory for workers in primary and community health services to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend their workplace.

The mandate covers workers in private provider facilities, including general practitioners, private nurse offices and consulting offices, pharmacies, dental centres, allied health facilities and private pathology centres. This includes Podiatrists working in private practice.

The health directions provide exemptions for certain categories of employees, which include medical exemptions and other temporary exemptions. Immunisation medical exemption criteria is available from the Australian Government website.

WA TO PROCEED WITH SAFE TRANSITION PLAN FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2022

Western Australia will embark on its Safe Transition Plan as announced last month, to safely ease its hard border controls in line with a 90 per cent vaccination rate, from 12:01am on Saturday 5 February, 2022.

The locked-in transition date is based on the latest projections for when WA is at its target rate of 90 per cent double dose vaccination for eligible Western Australians aged 12 years and above.

The following measures in the transition plan are of particular importance to Podiatrists.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES

Based on health advice, interim baseline public health and social measures will be applied at the point of transition, from 12:01am, Saturday 5 February 2022.

Masks will be required to be worn in some high risk indoor settings including by visitors to hospitals, residential aged care, disability care or custodial corrections facilities.

Proof of vaccination for people 16 years and older will be required at large venues or events with 1,000 or more patrons;

Other businesses may also choose to have **proof of vaccination requirements as a condition of entry** to protect their staff and patrons. **Businesses should consider their individual circumstances and seek their own legal advice before adopting a proof of vaccination requirement.**

Contact registration, including the use of **SafeWA** will be required at all public venues, and expand to also include taxis and rideshare services.

To keep patrons and staff safe, revised **COVID Safety Plans, Event Plans and Checklists** must be followed. These are currently being updated and will be available soon.

Public health and social measures may be scaled up or down based on updated health advice or rates of hospitalisation.

REGIONS THAT DO NOT REACH AN 80 PER CENT VACCINATION RATE

Additional restrictions may be required in some at risk regional communities where

current projections suggest higher levels of vaccination may take longer to achieve.

If those regions do not reach at least an 80 per cent double dose vaccination by Saturday 5 February, 2022, they will be subject to temporary enhanced public health and social measures:

masks will be required at all indoor public venues without a proof of vaccination entry requirement (such as supermarkets, roadhouses and take away services);

These temporary additional health and social measures for impacted regions are to protect the very vulnerable communities until a higher level of vaccination is reached to minimise the risk.

These restrictions will be removed or stepped down once the required double dose vaccination rate is achieved in the region, subject to the specific health advice at the time.

PROOF OF VACCINATION

The State Government is also developing a **new integrated mobile app** which will make proof of vaccination, use of SafeWA and G2G registrations easier.

The app will be available early next year and provides safe, secure and convenient access to these State Government services and will provide a one-stop platform for additional services in the future.

Use of a printed copy of the COVID-19 digital certificate or immunisation history statement is also accepted as proof, however people will need to present approved identification with it.

**Information is correct as of the 13th of December 2021*

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