

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed 0900hrs 23 JULY 2025



Attention NEWSSEDs:

APodA graduate podiatrists will be on site at APH (Mural Hall) press conference 0930hrs & available for comment.

Media contact: Ange Harper 0414 712605

Unpaid and undervalued: Podiatrists' peak body stands up for sector-wide call to expand student prac payments

The Australian Podiatry Association (APodA) joins Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and the broader allied health sector in urging the Federal Government to immediately expand the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) to include all allied health disciplines, including podiatry.

The CPP recognises the unpaid placement burden on students studying nursing, midwifery, teaching and social work, however its narrow scope ignores the vital role of podiatrists and other allied health professionals who deliver care across Australia's health, aged care and disability sectors.

Podiatry students must complete between 1,000 –1,200 hours of unpaid clinical placement, often in rural, remote or regional areas where podiatry workforce shortages are acute. These placements mean students lose income from paid work, and in many cases, face the cost of dual rent, transport, and accommodation - all without financial assistance.

APodA CEO Hilary Shelton said placement poverty is real, and podiatry students were not immune.

"We hear stories from our podiatry students who are forced to choose between continuing their studies or working enough hours to afford rent and food," Ms Shelton said.

"This is unacceptable in a country that is actively trying to address health workforce shortages - especially in regional and rural Australia."

"Students from regional and remote areas, First Nations communities, and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds are among the hardest hit. These are often the very students who would return to serve in their local communities and represent a workforce pipeline that is a solution to podiatry shortages."

APodA champions policies that attract, train and retain podiatrists in regional and underserved areas, but without financial support during placement, these policies fall short, Ms Shelton said.

"We support the sector-wide call to expand the CPP to all allied health students. It's a common-sense investment that will strengthen our rural workforce, reduce attrition, and support diversity in the podiatry profession," Ms Shelton said.

Media contact: Ange Harper on site with 2 graduate podiatrists at Parliament House 0414 712605

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed 0900hrs 23 JULY 2025

