

## MEDIA STATEMENT

13 May 2026



### Federal Budget delivers Royal Commission-backed boost for veteran podiatry care

The Federal Government has committed \$169.7 million over five years in the 2026–27 Federal Budget to improve allied health support for veterans following recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, including increased support for podiatry services.

From 1 July 2027, in-room podiatry consultation fees for eligible veterans will rise from \$94.60 to \$110 for standard consultations following an initial consultation, with annual allied health support capped at \$5,000 per patient.

The Australian Podiatry Association (APoDA) said the announcement recognised the critical role allied health professionals play in veteran care, including podiatrists, who provide the second most-used allied health service for veterans through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

APoDA Chief Executive Officer Hilary Shelton said the announcement was an important recognition of the role podiatrists play in supporting veterans living with chronic pain, mobility issues, diabetes-related complications and other complex health conditions arising from their service to Australia.

“Veterans often carry lifelong physical impacts from their service and podiatrists play a critical role in maintaining mobility, independence and quality of life,” Ms Shelton said.

“This Budget investment recognises the important role podiatrists play in veteran healthcare and helps ensure veterans can continue accessing essential allied health services.”

Ms Shelton said further reform was still needed to improve equity of access for veterans, particularly when it came to affordable medicines.

Legislation currently before the Senate seeks to allow endorsed podiatrists to prescribe PBS-subsidised medicines within their existing scope of practice, improving access to cheaper medicines for veterans and other Australians managing chronic foot and lower limb conditions.

“This Budget investment recognises the critical role podiatrists play in veteran healthcare, but more can still be done to improve access and affordability for veterans, particularly when it comes to medicines,” Ms Shelton said.

“Veterans should not have to pay more or wait longer for medicines that endorsed podiatrists are already qualified to prescribe.”

“Reducing unnecessary duplication in care is especially important for veterans managing chronic and complex health conditions, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis.”

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#### **About the APoDA**

*The Australian Podiatry Association is the national peak body for podiatrists, advocating for policies and practices that keep Australians moving well across every life stage.*