

# PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

## TGA changes to the regulation of custom-made medical devices

A new framework for regulating personalised medical devices will commence on 25 February 2021. Under the new framework most custom-made medical devices that are currently supplied in Australia will no longer be exempt from inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). Any devices that continue to be exempt will need to meet new requirements.

If you manufacture, import or supply a custom-made medical device, you will be impacted by the changes and should review the guidance available on the TGA website.

The PAA is liaising with the TGA to provide you with more information, guidance and a dedicated educational webinar.

For more information visit: <https://pedorthics.org.au/tga-changes-to-the-regulation-of-custom-made-medical-devices/>



## President Update

The passing of one of our founding members prompted us to recall PAA's past and feature a 'History and Future' newsletter issue.

Starting in the 1970s, alongside annual meetings of the Footwear Repairers Association, like-minded surgical bootmakers got together to form the Australian Surgical Bootmaker Association with Robert Tye as its first President. In the beginning it was an all-male group, with the first woman joining in 1993.

Many things have changed since our humble beginnings almost 50 years ago. Training courses were established, and the first practitioners certified by the Medical Grade Footwear Register in the early 2000s. In the following years, the certification program grew, and the education pathway was regularly updated to raise professional standards with the bachelor's degree starting in 2013.

Since then, Pedorthists have been part of interdisciplinary teams in High-Risk-Foot clinics and clinical appointments have been introduced. Government agencies have appointed the first Pedorthists as advisors and Pedorthic item numbers have been endorsed.

The PAA is continuously advocating to raise awareness for the profession and to bring Pedorthics to the forefront in the wider health care community and the public.

Katrin Wegener  
PAA President

## Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Private Health Insurance Schedule

At the end of 2020, the PAA proudly introduced the Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Services Schedule to its members. The Schedule improves access to orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic services in the Private Health Insurance (PHI) sector.

Each allied health profession has a Services Schedule that individual private health insurers frequently use to determine what devices or services are eligible for Private Health Insurance (PHI) rebates. Without a profession-specific Services Schedule, pedorthists have faced various challenges when supporting clients to access rebates for items and services. The Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Services Schedule will allow eligible private health insurance policy holders to receive rebates for their orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic footwear items and services, where covered within their policy.

The Schedule also:

- recognises clinical services (including repairs) associated with orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic footwear devices, allowing eligible policy holders to receive rebates on these clinical services
- allows seamless invoicing against endorsed codes
- provides policy holders with transparency regarding rebates
- allows for faster processing of rebates
- provides Private Health Funds and practitioners with a common language
- clarifies which practitioners are appropriately certified to provide services under the Schedule.

Certified pedorthists registered with the Australian Pedorthists Registration Board (APRB) will be eligible to use the Schedule and access sections relating to pedorthic services. Practitioners will be required to register as a Provider with individual Private Health Funds that have adopted and implemented the Schedule (or parts of it).



### The Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Services Schedule

FOR PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES

Several years of advocacy and campaigning went into creation of the Schedule. Former PAA General Manager and lifetime member Casper Ozinga laid the groundwork on behalf of PAA members, spending substantial time and effort to promote the establishment of a Schedule. In 2016, the PAA collaborated with the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association (AOPA) to produce a fit for purpose Services Schedule. Schedule development was guided by Private Healthcare Australia (PHA), the peak representative body for Australia's Private Health Funds. A final version of the Schedule was submitted to PHA's General Treatments Committee (which included a representative from each of PHA's 20-member Health Funds) in July 2018. Provisional endorsement of the Schedule was given in September 2018 and, after additional feedback, amendments, clarifications and refinements, the Committee fully endorsed the Schedule in July 2020.

The next phase involves adoption and implementation of the Schedule by individual Private Health Funds. While PHA has endorsed the Schedule, it does not mean that individual Health Funds have agreed to implement the Schedule. The Health Funds choose whether to adopt the Schedule. It is yet to be determined which of the Health Funds will adopt the Schedule, which will be negotiated throughout 2021. Implementation will occur after Funds have adopted the Schedule (or parts of it) and are working to align their internal processes with the Schedule.

Schedule launch is anticipated for April 2022 and the scheme will roll out over successive months. Several activities and processes need to occur before Schedule launch, many of which are overseen by the regulators of Private Health Insurance premiums. A launch date of 2022 also allows practitioners time to prepare for launch. Once the Schedule has launched, Schedule items that have been adopted by the Health Funds can be billed by Providers and policy holders can claim benefits through their health insurers.

PAA members can access the Schedule from the Members Area on the PAA website and resources are available to guide practitioners through the process, including FAQs and clinical examples [<https://pedorthics.org.au/opps/>].

Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this significant milestone. The establishment of the Schedule advances the pedorthic profession and continues PAA's commitment to improving access to pedorthic services for clients and providing benefits to PAA members.

## Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Private Health Insurance Schedule

Find out more about your Schedule here:  
[www.pedorthics.org.au/opps](http://www.pedorthics.org.au/opps)

### **SWEP welcomes Pedorthists**

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The State-wide Equipment Program (SWEP) announced in December that Pedorthists can access funding for eligible consumers in recognition of their expertise in the provision of customised and medical grade footwear, shoe modifications and orthoses in line with other funding agencies. The arrangement came into effect on 21st December 2020.

As an APRB registered CPed Au or CPedCM Au you can register and credential with SWEP in the Pedorthics category and apply for AT items, based on your credentialing level.

The level is assigned based on 'The Standard' for Pedorthists to ensure high quality delivery of AT by suitably qualified and skilled AT Practitioners.

A CPed Au can supply foot orthoses, medical grade/ specialised footwear and shoe modifications. In addition to these items, a CPedCM Au can supply custom made footwear and ankle foot orthoses. Certified Retail Pedorthists are ineligible to register and credential with SWEP.

The PAA acknowledges the effort, time and expertise the SWEP Clinical Advisors David Sutton and Adam Smith have put in to achieve this level of recognition for Pedorthists. Thank you for excellent work and continuous support.

## A Tribute to PAA Life Member Bruce Hodge

To the President of PAA, Katrin Wegener and Members of the Board and all members of PAA

Dear Katrin and all fellow Pedorthists

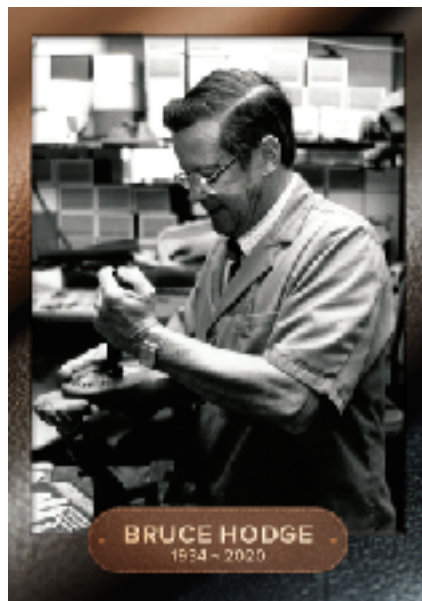
I take this opportunity to tell you a little of the story of Bruce Hodge, Life Member.

Bruce was born in 1934 and contracted polio in 1936. His disability offered him a unique chance to understand the needs of people with disability and it played a significant role in his becoming a pedorthist, in the days long before that name had even been coined.

He began his apprenticeship (five years in those days) in 1948 as a Bespoke Bootmaker and Shoe Repairer with Palace Bootmakers in Perth, Western Australia.

Subsequent to completing that apprenticeship he spent time extending his knowledge while working with the Spastic Centre of NSW (its name at that time) and on returning to Perth he worked for the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association, where among other things he served on its committee even though he was only 21 or 22 years old.

His next step was to begin his own business, which he began on the back veranda of his parents' home and when the opportunity arose he moved in to a small shop in Oxford St, Mt Hawthorn, and as he built the business up then moved into a



larger shop and the business became known as Topox Bootmakers. At this time he was undertaking all manner of surgical bootmaking tasks except pattern making and cutting.

As time went by he sold this business in 1965 and went out of the trade for a while, returning to it in 1967 when he bought Inglewood Shoe Store and Repairers.

Time moved on and he had the opportunity to buy WA Surgical Bootmakers in the Perth CBD.

His continuing thirst for knowledge and to gain the skills to serve the community gave him the incentive to learn pattern cutting and making

from Alf Hadley, the original owner of WA Surgical Bootmakers which he founded back in 1919.

Still desiring to learn more he travelled to the Eastern States to attend the Annual Shoe Repairers Conference and to bring back to the west information and samples of new materials and techniques.

It was here in the late 1970's that he met up with others who, like him, were working as surgical bootmakers.

It is at this point that the story of the PAA began.

While getting ready for another annual conference of the shoe repairers, sitting around the kitchen table with his wife he raised the idea that perhaps he and other men (there were only men back then) could get together to discuss the special circumstances and issues they were faced with. The year was probably 1978.

So together with Bob Tye, Paul Galy and John Hereen they formed the beginnings of The Surgical Bootmakers Association of Australia. He was its first Secretary/Treasurer, subsequently taking over from Bob Tye as President.



After some years the association seemed to have fallen into a hole and was then resurrected in Sydney, Today it is the prestigious association to which we all belong.

Bruce served as President of the Shoe Repairers Association of Western Australia for some 25 years and also a year as President to the Shoe Repairers Association of Australia.

In 1994 he sold WA Surgical Bootmakers so he could retire to Busselton in the southwest of WA. But with in a few months he realised that he was not yet ready to retire and saw that the need in the southwest for his skills was significant and so Busselton Pedorthic Services was born in 1995. He continued working in his workshop at the side of this house for the next twenty four years and "finally" gave up his ABN number in 2018. But he still continued working mostly pro bono with a few clients until November, 2019, when he decided that he could no longer safely continue in his workshop. "If I fell with a sharp knife in my hand that would be the end of it". His paralysis caused by the polio, had finally caused him to stop. By this time he was nearly 85. In fact he saw his last client in November 2019. A career spanning over seventy years.



Bruce's dream was to provide a platform where Surgical bootmakers, today's pedorthists, could hone and develop their skills. Little did he realise what the organisation would turn into the way in which training and education would morph into what it is today.

Bruce died peacefully in the Busselton Hospice on 31 December, 2020.

Margaret A Hodge

## Tributes to Life Member Bruce Hodge by PAA members

### Ernie Tye, Past President

Many of the past and present members of the PAA were saddened to hear of Bruce's passing.

Past president Ernie Tye relates that Bruce and his father Bob Tye (past president of PAA as well) were good friends and supporters of each other.

These two historical figures who were instrumental in the establishing and growth of Pedorthics in Australia had an interesting parallel.

- Both chose orthopaedic shoemaking as a lifelong career.
- Both were leaders of their profession in their own state.
- Both at one point were President of the National Orthopaedic Shoemakers Association.
- Both had a lower limb disability. Perhaps this is what led them into this work as a career and gave them great empathy for their many disabled clients.

Ernest relates "I had a small amount of cross over with Bruce. I think it was in my Presidency of the Pedorthic (Orthopaedic Footwear) Association when the board at that time recognised the great contribution and leadership he and a few others had made to get the original National Body started."

Bruce was awarded Life Membership of the PAA during Ernie's time as President.

The profession can thank Bruce Hodge for his determination and commitment, to never stop the annual meeting, no matter how small the meetings were initially.

This enabled the momentum and stability for further growth. The current National Body has benefitted from this and continues to have that dedication and commitment.

# Tributes to Life Member Bruce Hodge by PAA members

## Karl-Heinz Schott, Past President

I remember Bruce from when I joined the PAA in 1992, but the interaction was brief. I gave a presentation on the Fscan system and was approved to join (the Association) during that conference.

A second contact was when I contacted Bruce to arrange the AGM for 1995. We did not have one in 1994.

The bank balance was low, and Bruce was concerned that if we would not get enough participants to attend it could wipe out the associations savings.

Bruce was in WA and the bulk of the members were and are on the east coast. This was before online conferences and flight costs were much higher. We spoke in some details on how we could arrange an AGM within the available budget. Casper and the then state representative John Darragh (not sure about the spelling) had organised a few local meetings in NSW in 1994 and 1995. I attended those local meetings and was therefore convinced that we would get enough members to attend. What surprised me was that Bruce went along with my suggestions despite having meet me only once before. Bruce attended the AGM, and all went without a glitch.

Bruce was the first in our Association who put trust in me.

## Stewart Levy

It was the year 1981 when I first met Bruce Hodge, President of the Australian Orthopaedic Surgical Footwear Association, in Western Australia at the annual conference.

Bruce was a pillar in the field back then and I was probably the youngest there at the age of 21, and I noticed most of the older members were wearing grey dust coats and most of the discussion was regarding adhesives.

To my surprise after returning from overseas working at Gapim an Orthopaedic Limb Clinic in Tel Aviv, Israel throughout the early part of the year of 1981 discussing adhesives was a little bit archaic for the profession of where we are today.

From where I had been and to what I was seeing, I interjected with conversation regarding medical conditions of the foot and ankle. Many members were interested, and Bruce led many discussions after recognising that for medical grade footwear it was not really important discussing adhesives.

At that conference we were introduced to the word Pedorthics and the meaning behind the name of Pedorthist, which originated from the USA.

There was a guy called Greg Tippett who was Bruce's apprentice, and he had a document and read it out at the meeting and there was many discussions regarding the new direction of medical grade footwear. I fortunately recorded this on an old VCR camera and still have the recording somewhere.

Bruce was a strong-minded guy, passionate about what he did and being a disabled guy, he fully understood what needed to be done to his patients along his journey.

Sadly, we have heard the news of his passing however, we all will pass one-day and the memories we have of those before us will always be with us and I'm sure that one day in heaven we will all meet up at one of the "Heavenly Pedorthic Foot Conferences".

RIP Bruce Hodge from the membership of the PAA.

## Ernie Tye resigns from PAA Board

In February 2021, after more than 20 years on the PAA Board, including 10 years as PAA President (2007-2017), Ernie Tye proposed to the current Board to fill the vacant position as Administrator of the Australian Pedorthists Registration Board (APRB) as Chair until his official nomination and election at the next AGM. In order to grant his request, release from the PAA Board was necessary.

In 2007, Ernie became President of the PAA. Under his leadership, the certification program took shape, the criteria were revised and updated, and the education pathway fine-tuned.

During his Presidency the International Pedorthic Association (IVO) Conference 2012 was held in Sydney. The event resulted in an immense boost in national and international awareness of the PAA.



A milestone was reached for the profession in 2013 with the commencement of the Bachelor in Pedorthics program at the SCU Gold Coast Campus. The Industry provided a state of the art manufacturing lab for staff and students. Additionally, it supported the program over the years through facilitation of student placements and donations of material and footwear for practice purposes - a significant investment for a small sector. The first students graduated in 2017 and the Bachelor degree has been the only qualification to achieve CPedCM certification in Australia.

**In recognition of his commitment to the PAA, Ernie was awarded "The Robert Tye Award" for lifetime achievement at the PAA Conference 2016 in Canberra.**

With his vision and foresight, Ernie initiated the creation of a new Registration Board, which resulted in the handing over of the Medical Grade Footwear Register to the newly established Australian Pedorthists Registration Board in 2017.

And here the circle closes; we wish Ernie all the best in his future endeavours, not only with the APRB, and would like to sincerely thank him for his tireless commitment to the profession and for leaving his Pedorthic footprints.

### PAA logo trade mark registration



In May 2020 the PAA applied to have the new PAA logo registered with IP Australia, the Government Agency that administers intellectual property (IP) rights and legislation relating to patents, trade marks and designs. On 11 January we received notification that the PAA logo has been registered. Renewal of our trade mark is due every 10 years, next in 2030.

### PAA Member Logo

We would like to reiterate that there is clear distinction between the official, now trademarked PAA logo and the PAA member logo. The Pedorthic Association uses the official logo for marketing, communication and documentation purposes.

The PAA member logo has been designed to make your association as a PAA member instantly recognisable. It is to be used for your own marketing communications, initiated by yourself, as a member of the Association.



**PAA contact details**

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**Board of Management**

President: Katrin Wegener

Executive Officer:  
Anja Suckert

Secretary: Adam Smith

Treasurer: Paul Reimers

**Board members:**

Sharon Callaghan  
Adam Jorgensen  
Khajag Moskofian  
Joanne Pollett  
Ernie Tye  
Howard Smith

**What is the PAA ?**

The Pedorthic Association of Australia recognises the need for representing professional practitioners of pedorthics. These people provide services and products to patients who have mobility difficulties due to the medical problems with their lower limb.

Formed over 45 years ago the association has grown so that it now regularly communicates with the key representatives from government and medical health funds. Through its programs, the PAA encourages its members to improve their qualifications and recognition. Programs include CPed, Quality Assurance and Competency Standards.

The names and organisations of the people that earn the Certified Pedorthist and Registration are published on the APRB website. The medical profession is encouraged to recommend CPeds to their patients for the provision of expert advice and products. The other sections of the certification system recognise the specialised Retail and Footwear Modification components of our profession.

The PAA is also guiding the Quality Management of organisations that are represented by its members. The Generic Quality System has been specifically designed for implementation in a Pedorthic Practice. It recognises the special relationship between the provider and the patient and assures the provision of expert advice and quality product by the organisation.

The PAA is for members who want recognition of their competency to provide a comprehensive service in the Pedorthic industry and work in organisations that offer quality advice or products as their key objective. The association advocates for members and who want to support industry development through contact with people and organisations that have the greatest impact on the industry and their business.

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