

PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

IVO Research

The International Pedorthic Association (IVO) conducted research to analyse the orthopaedic shoe markets across the globe. They reached out to the national associations of ten countries, including Switzerland, Belgium, Slovenia, France, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Japan, Australia, and Canada, to obtain information related to healthcare, education, and market characteristics.

The goal of the research was to gain an understanding of the various markets, as well as promote learning, cooperation, and communication among national member associations.

The report concludes that change is inevitable as all markets struggle with workforce shortage or retention, increased demand due to chronic health conditions and an ageing population, and decreasing healthcare budgets.

The IVO will use the results to create a global strategy that addresses the concerns of member associations, promotes professional awareness, and supports international training, pathways, and standards.



President Update

The preparations for our national conference in Western Australia in October are in full swing, and registration is open.

We are thrilled to announce that we have secured Dr Sicco Bus as our keynote presenter. From the Netherlands, Dr Bus is a human movement scientist, and professor of clinical biomechanics.

In addition to the 3-day plenary program, we are offering pre-conference workshops on Thursday featuring an exciting range of topics. For those who would like to make the most of their trip, we are planning visits to local companies and an outing to Rottnest Island. Read more about our engaging program on the following pages!

Our popular Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course has just wrapped up. It was very successful, with sixteen national and international participants attending the 16 hours of pedorthic fundamentals delivered in a blended online and in-person training program.

Following the disappointing news of Southern Cross University's decision to close the pedorthic bachelor's program, PAA took a proactive approach. With the valuable assistance of Prof. Susan Nancarrow from AHP Workforce, PAA prepared a business case and presented it to thirteen national and international universities with the proposal to add pedorthics to their curriculum. While some universities declined the opportunity, the discussion continues with others. We are optimistic about finding a new educational provider and will inform you of any developments.

Katrin Wegener, PAA President

PAA Half-Year Report 2023

More than six months have passed since our Annual General Meeting, where we presented an overview of PAA priorities for 2023. The Board and Committee Members have been working hard, and it is time for an update on our progress:

Protect Pedorthics Campaign 2.0

Following the profoundly disappointing news that the Department of Education had approved SCU's request to close its Pedorthics and Podiatry programs, we informed all Protect Pedorthics campaign supporters. We also called on key changemakers to find viable options for pedorthic education to continue.

The feedback and encouragement we are receiving from Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), their member associations, state Chief Allied Health Officers (CAHOs), Ministers and other organisations have been remarkable.

We continue to explore the following options:

1 Alternative tertiary education providers

PAA has approached 13 universities nationwide and provided them with a business case outlining the opportunities and benefits of establishing a pedorthics program. While some universities immediately declined, one offered helpful feedback and advice to help us move forward. Promisingly, a few universities have shown interest or willingness to cooperate, and we have entered into further discussions.

2 International partnerships

PAA has contacted international education providers in pedorthics and commenced discussions with Canadian and Dutch universities. Further meetings are scheduled to explore possibilities for cooperation.

Pedorthic workforce

PAA is committed to developing an accessible pathway for internationally trained and qualified pedorthists to work in Australia and help address national pedorthic workforce shortages to meet current and future healthcare demands. We are focussing on the following:

1 International pathway for certification

We are finalising a document outlining the pathways for overseas-qualified pedorthists

seeking professional certification and registration in Australia as a Certified Pedorthist Custom Maker (CPedCM Au).

2 Skilled Migration

The Skills Priority List (SPL) provides a detailed view of occupations in shortage, nationally and by state and territory, as well as the future demand for occupations in Australia. A job or profession must be listed on the SPL to be officially recognised as experiencing a workforce shortage. We will be lodging a submission for inclusion.

Additionally, PAA will seek recognition as a specialist allied health occupation for skilled work visas to facilitate opportunities for internationally-trained pedorthists to live and work in Australia (formerly known as the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List). While different visa options exist, skilled visas are the preferred and best possible solution to increase the number of pedorthists in Australia rapidly.

We greatly appreciate everyone who has approached us with ideas and concepts or networked on our behalf. Special thanks go to Stuart Gamgee for his brilliant efforts in the ACT and to Ernie Tye and Alfredo Roldan, who provided documents containing valuable input and proposals for the future of pedorthics - thank you.

PAA Advocacy

1 National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP) membership application

Following our successful application for AHPA membership, PAA is preparing to apply for membership with NASRHP. NASRHP aims to facilitate national consistency in quality and support for self-regulating health professionals and satisfies national and jurisdictional regulatory requirements. With the shift to a more tightly regulated healthcare industry, NASRHP membership assures funding bodies and patients of the quality of service and care they receive from a

certified health professional. NASRHP standards have been closely modelled on Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) standards.

We are collating all required documents, making necessary updates and adjustments, and will submit our application by the end of June.

2 Private Health Insurances

PAA continues to advocate the implementation of the Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Services Schedule with Private Health Insurances, and we will provide updates when they become available.

3 Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines

PAA and the Pedorthic Association of Canada (PAC) have joined forces and will collaborate on revising and updating the 2018 *Clinical Practice Guidelines - Pedorthic Association of Canada* (second edition). First published in 2012 and revised in 2018, the CPG is a reference manual of best practice in pedorthic care in Canada.

The updated guidelines will be a joint Canadian-Australian publication and include evidence-based content relevant to pedorthic practice in both countries. Certified Pedorthist and researcher Sayed Ahmed will co-chair the project with PAC representative Kelly Rob alongside a volunteer task force and volunteer writers and reviewers from Canada and Australia.

The PAC/PAA guidelines will contribute to raising the profile of pedorthics in Australia, aid future negotiations with funding agencies, elevate Australian expertise, and be a valuable tool for pedorthists and pedorthic students.

All chapters will be examined and assessed until September 2023 to establish if any revisions are required, and the re-writing process will begin then. Completion of the project is aimed for early 2025, with the official launch of the updated guidelines at the annual PAC Symposium in April 2025.

4 Submissions

PAA endorsed submissions to the Department of Health and Aged Care on Assistive Technologies and Home Modifications Scheme for in-home aged care (AT_HM).

The National Assistive Technology Alliance

(NATA) and the Assistive Technology For All (ATFA) alliance prepared submissions with and on behalf of their members and supporters. PAA is a member of NATA.

We are also building our network through meetings and conversations with ministers, government departments, CAHOs, CEOs, policy & advocacy directors of AHPA and other Associations to explore options for cooperation and involvement of PAA and pedorthics.

Education and Training

Pedorthic Retail Pathway upgrade

There is growing interest in the Certified Pedorthic Retailer pathway, which comprises three segments, including two training courses and a certification panel presentation:

Stage 1 - Introduction to Pedorthics (online course)

Stage 2 - Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course (part 1 online; part 2 in-person)

Stage 3 - APRB certification panel presentation

PAA is undertaking improvements to the delivery of our pedorthic retailer courses:

- The Introduction to Pedorthics online course is currently run through a provider in the United States of America. We are upgrading the existing program to deliver it through our online education platform. This will allow us to make timely changes in the future and have complete visibility of all training aspects, including marketing, participation and ownership.
- The online component of the Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course will be available on-demand, allowing participants to complete this course segment at their convenience prior to the in-person session.

The combined changes will increase the accessibility and attractiveness of the Pedorthic Retailer pathway and simultaneously create a significant income stream for PAA.

PAA is working across many different fronts with the goals of securing and strengthening our allied health status and positioning pedorthics as a profession with a promising future.

Are you still working from the ground?

Fitting orthopaedic shoes is a long term health risk for foot specialists who often sit on their knees or bend over towards clients. Their knees and back become worn out prematurely.



Orthostand One is an orthopaedic lift to measure and fit footwear in a healthy and professional way.

On the Orthostand One orthopaedic lift, Podiatrists work healthy, productive and comfortable during the measurement and fitting process of footwear.



Orthostand was introduced at the international ORTHOPÄDIE SCHUH TECHNİK 2022 in Cologne, Germany, on October 14 and 15, 2022



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PEDORTHIC PARTNERSHIPS

Pedorthic Conference 2023

Walyalup - Fremantle, WA

12-14 October 2023

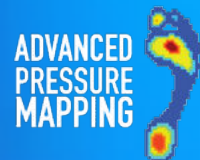


KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr Sicco Bus

*Professor of Clinical Biomechanics
Amsterdam University Medical Center*

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12 Oct

5 Workshops
Exhibition
PAA AGM
Welcome Reception

13 Oct

Plenary Sessions
Exhibition
Conference Dinner

14 Oct

Plenary Sessions
Exhibition

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Pedorthic Conference 2023: Pedorthic Partnerships

Join us at The Esplanade Hotel in Walyalup – Fremantle, Western Australia's historic port city, from 12 – 14 October 2023 for a jam-packed program of workshops and conference plenary sessions across three days.

This year's theme, Pedorthic Partnerships, will encourage all participants to explore and understand the value pedorthics brings to allied health for the benefit of clients with foot health-related matters. A full day of industry workshops and presentations from an excellent line-up of local and international speakers is in the making.

Conference Program

The conference committee developed an appealing schedule to entice attendees to book a more extended vacation and make the most of their stay.

Thursday 12 October

The program kicks off at 9.00am with pre-conference workshops. Themes for the five workshops include footwear modifications, digital scanning techniques, sensorimotor orthoses, pedorthic footwear fitting basics and pressure mapping. Morning tea and lunch will be provided for full-day participants.

The **PAA Annual General Meeting** (AGM) is scheduled after the workshops at 4.00 pm. A welcome reception for all delegates, sponsors, and exhibitors will be held in the evening.

Friday 13 October

The plenary program commences on Friday at 9.00am until 5.00pm.

As always, the weekend's highlight will be the evening conference dinner, which will be held at the Bathers Beach House at 7.00pm.

The educational program concludes on Saturday at approximately 3.00pm.

Social Program

We are delighted to offer a social program for any delegate who extends their stay. Before the conference on Wednesday, 11 October, we will arrange visits to local companies and a field trip

to Rottnest Island will be offered on Sunday, 15 October.

If you are interested in attending one or both excursions, please register your interest by emailing info@pedorthics.org.au. Additional charges will apply.

Keynote Speaker

We're thrilled to announce our distinguished keynote is speaker Dr Sicco Bus, a human movement scientist, professor of clinical biomechanics and principal investigator at the University Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

Sicco completed his doctoral dissertation on the structural and functional aspects of the neuropathic foot in diabetes. In his work at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Amsterdam UMC, Sicco leads and supervises research on lower-extremity biomechanics and injury prevention in diabetes and sports.

Sicco is a member of the board and program leader for Rehabilitation & Development of the Amsterdam Movement Sciences research institute. He is also a member of the editorial board and chair of the ulcer prevention and offloading working groups of the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) on guideline development. In addition, Sicco is chair of the study group on Neurovascular Complications of Diabetes in the Netherlands.

Thank You to our Sponsors!

We thank our friends at Leffler for joining us as the 2023 Gold Sponsor. Thanks also go to footpower, our Silver Sponsor, and Bronze Sponsor, Gadean Footwear. We are also grateful to Advanced Pressure Mapping for sponsoring our keynote speaker! We greatly appreciate and value your support.

Don't miss out, grab your early bird registrations now at conference.pedorthics.org.au!

PAA Membership & Certification Renewals

Thank you to our members for another year of supporting PAA in their efforts to represent members and advocate for pedorthics in Australia. 2022-2023 marked the first year of pedorthic certification managed by PAA, with the responsibilities for certification and complaints sitting with our independent APRB Committee. The Committee has been reviewing and improving certification and auditing processes for current and future certified members to benchmark pedorthics alongside other self-regulated health professions.

Certified members should have received two email notices in March and May outlining their requirements for re-certification as a pedorthic practitioner and a link to download the CPD Log template.

Please note: submitting a work log with five (5) pedorthic case examples is no longer required for re-certification. This means that you are only required to collect 30 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) during the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and comply with the PAA Mandatory Declarations Policy to renew your certification for another year.

Please complete and submit your mandatory declarations and CPD Log to our APRB Committee before the submission deadline of 30 June 2023. We recommend submitting your log as early as possible to allow sufficient time

for the auditors to review and confirm your log entries and ensure the timely issue of your new certified membership certificate. Failure to submit your mandatory declarations and CPD log by the deadline will result in penalties.

Membership Fees and Payments:

After careful consideration the PAA Board has approved a 3.15% increase in 2023 certified membership fees. This rate sits well below CPI. This decision reflects the need for PAA to retain sufficient capacity to effectively advocate for the profession, whilst delivering value for our members. The new fee for certified membership is \$825.

The fees for all other membership categories remain unchanged; non-certified \$440, special interest \$440, student \$165, and retired \$165.

If you have automated payments activated on your PAA online member account, your payment method will be charged at the time of renewal. If you do not have automated payments set up, you will receive an email with instructions to pay for your membership renewal.

Please reach out to the PAA Executive if you have any questions or issues regarding your membership, certification or insurance-related matters. We look forward to another successful year for our members and pedorthics across Australia.

PAA Sustaining Partners 2022/23



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Pedorthic Case Study - Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral palsy is a common neurological disorder that affects movement, muscle tone, and posture. According to the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, it is estimated that one in every 500 children in Australia is born with cerebral palsy. The condition can be caused by brain damage that occurs before, during, or shortly after birth, leading to a range of physical and cognitive impairments. Children with cerebral palsy may have difficulty with motor skills, speech and language development, and sensory processing, among other challenges. There is no known cure for Cerebral Palsy.

Pedorthic retail expert Anne Nunns treats people with this condition every week. Her clients have seen remarkable improvement thanks to Pedorthic Footwear fitted by Anne over the past years.

Case 1

This is a case study of a 20-year-old female patient with severe cerebral palsy who presented with significant mobility impairment. The patient relied on a wheelchair for mobility, and custom ankle-foot orthotics (AFOs) were prescribed for weight-bearing assistance. However, during clinical and functional assessments, it was noted that the patient experienced discomfort and was reluctant to walk with the AFOs. As a result, the patient often chose to remain in her wheelchair.

To address the discomfort experienced by the patient, a pedorthic retailer named Anne fitted her with a stability boot to increase comfort and mobility and prevent further deterioration of foot pathology. The provided footwear improved the patient's quality of life by minimising discomfort associated with AFOs and providing necessary structural support to the feet.

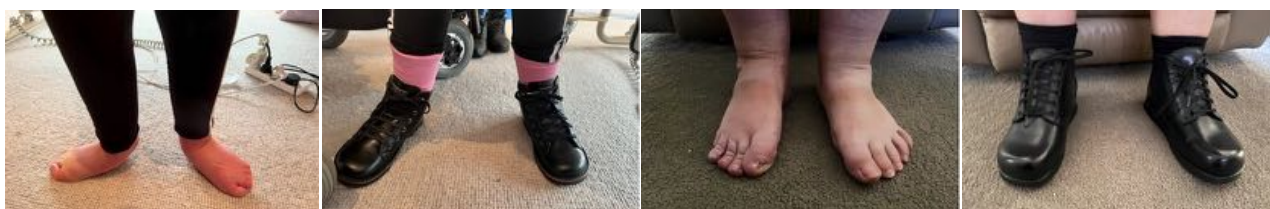
This case highlights the significance of individualised care for patients with cerebral palsy and the importance of closely monitoring their experiences with orthotic devices. It also emphasises the value of involving specialists like Anne to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Case 2

This client is a 32-year-old female with cerebral palsy, which specifically affects the right side of her body and her right lower limb, foot and ankle. The patient presented with two different sized feet and pronation on both sides, as well as a history of bunion removal and toe straightening. The patient reported difficulty with mobility and confidence when walking. The patient continued to experience difficulty and discomfort with normal boots.

After a thorough clinical assessment, Anne recommended a split-sized boot to accommodate the size difference in the patient's feet. The chosen boots were designed to provide medial support for both feet to address the patient's pronation.

Anne prescribed the patient with the recommended split-sized boots, which resulted in improved walking confidence and mobility. The medial support provided by the boots allowed for better foot alignment, reduced discomfort, and increased stability during ambulation. As a result of the intervention, the patient has shown improvements in her daily activities and overall quality of life.



Despite the challenges posed by cerebral palsy, many individuals with the condition in Australia can lead fulfilling lives with the right support and interventions. Early diagnosis and treatment can be critical for improving outcomes for children with cerebral palsy, and there are a range of therapies and interventions that can help to manage symptoms and promote development.

PAA Member Logo

We want to reiterate that there is a clear distinction between the official, trademarked PAA logo and the PAA member logo. The PAA member logo has been designed to make your association as a PAA member instantly recognisable. Members are encouraged to display the member logo on their website and may include it in advertising, promotional materials, and exhibition displays.

Consistent Terminology

The Criteria for Certification in Pedorthics stipulates what terminology should be used to describe registration. It would be great if we could all work together to create a consistent representation of our profession by using the same terminology.

Certified Pedorthist Custom Maker = **CPedCM Au**

Certified Pedorthist = **CPed Au**

Certified Pedorthic Retailer = **CRetPed Au**

Let's strive for unity and clarity to further establish the image of and awareness for Pedorthics.

Footwear Modification Presentation

In April, Bilby Shoes, in collaboration with Dr Comfort, held two Footwear Modification presentations at their premises in Thomastown for podiatrists and other interested allied health professionals.

The two-hour event explored the range of shoe modifications that can be performed, discussed which shoes are best suited for modification, and explained how musculoskeletal issues could be managed using different modifications.

The presenter, David Sutton, also introduced features of the foot plantar pressure measuring system, F-Scan. He explained how footwear and orthotics are designed, tested and evaluated, and described the data available to analyse foot function and gait.



After the enlightening presentation by David, participants had the opportunity to visit the extensive workshop, where they could ask questions and exchange ideas with the other participants while enjoying some refreshments.

Organising events like this is a great way to promote your business and expand your network of referrers. Additionally, it can help increase awareness and enhance the reputation of our profession.

2023 PAA Conference Sponsors - THANK YOU

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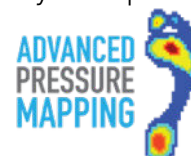
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Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course

PAA's Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course was recently held over two days. Part one of the lectures was delivered online, while part two featured a practical face-to-face workshop. With 16 participants, Part 2 was split into two groups and offered at two locations and states: Dee Why, NSW and Canberra, ACT. Some participants travelled from as far away as Western Australia and Singapore to attend the course.



The online component was recorded and remains accessible for participants to review. Topics such as how to recognise lower limb problems, devise and suggest solutions, and when to refer were discussed in detail. Key elements of the workshop included hands-on retail-level foot health assessment and how to translate the findings into pedorthic footwear fitting. Participants learned about minor footwear adjustments for better footwear fit, patient care and responsibilities in the pedorthic setting, and the importance of teamwork for high-quality patient and client service.

Initial workshop feedback was positive. A suggestion was made to split the online part into two 4-hour sections and/or run it as a face-to-face component. The face-to-face workshop was well received, as the hands-on part of pedorthic footwear fitting can be immediately applied on the next workday.

Change to UDI Voluntary Compliance Date

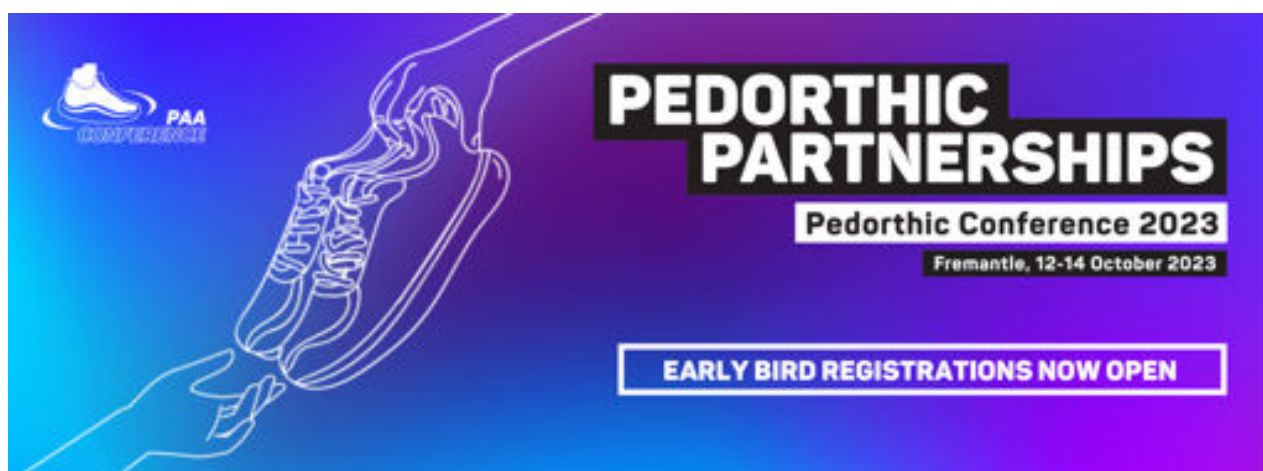
The TGA has been working towards supporting sponsors to voluntarily comply with the Unique Device Identification requirements from 1 July 2023.

Due to the number of government Bills and Budget measures being drafted, the UDI regulations will not be in place by July 2023, therefore the voluntary compliance date will be deferred.

The UDI team will provide updated advice on revised timeframes for voluntary and mandatory compliance dates when known.

Market News

DBS Medical has been appointed as the Australian importer for Orthostand, a company that produces orthopaedic lifts to measure and adjust footwear in a healthy and professional way. Refer to the double-page ad for product information.



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What is the PAA ?

Pedorthists are client-centric health professionals trained in the analysis and treatment of gait and lower limb problems. They are experts in using prefabricated and custom-made pedorthic footwear, foot orthotics, and ankle braces to provide practical and positive solutions to improve people's daily life.

The Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) is the peak representative body for professional pedorthic practitioners. It is a member-based organisation that seeks to advocate for its members and the profession, guide and educate pedorthic practitioners, and improve client outcomes.

Formed over 45 years ago, the association has grown considerably. It now regularly communicates with and advises key representatives from the health care, disability, and aged care sectors, state and federal government, and health funds.

The PAA self-regulates the pedorthic profession through established policies, standards, codes, and criteria voluntarily upheld by PAA-certified practitioners. The association performs certification in pedorthics through programs that recognise individuals with appropriate qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience to provide safe and high-quality pedorthic products and services. Furthermore, it promotes ongoing professional development. Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers are officially recognised allied health professionals by Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA). The other sections of the certification system acknowledge the profession's highly specialised retail (Certified Pedorthic Retailer) and technical (Certified Pedorthist) components. Certified practitioners are published on the PAA website.

The PAA is supported by partnerships with like-minded businesses and organisations that contribute to the growth of the pedorthic profession and support the association in achieving its mission and objectives.

Subscribe to the newsletter on our [website](#) to keep informed of industry activities and events.



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