

PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

2024 - Save the Dates

Take advantage of training, information, and networking opportunities 2024. Save the dates for upcoming PAA events and mark your calendars!

Pedorthic Conference

11-14 September 2024
Melbourne, VIC

National Member Meeting

20 February 2024
6:30 pm, Online via Zoom

Certification Panels

3 May 2024
SCU Gold Coast, QLD

12 September 2024
Melbourne, VIC

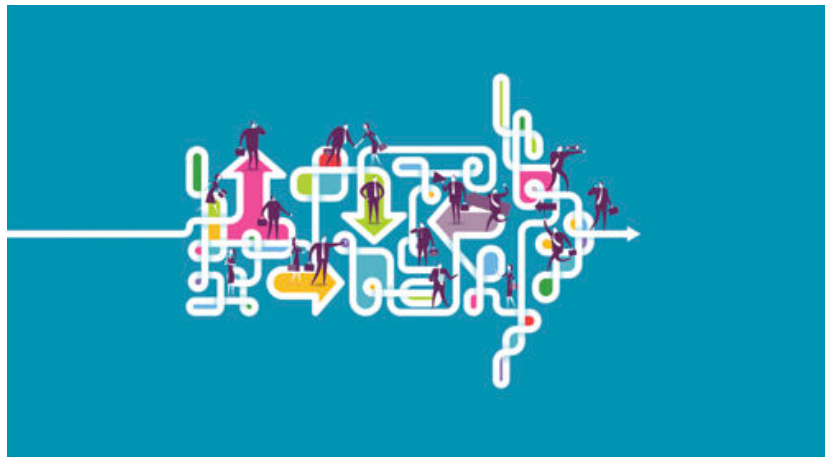
Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course

15 March 2024
Online via Zoom (part 1)

22 March 2024
QLD and WA (part 2)

IVO Congress

24/25 October 2024
Fribourg, Switzerland



Certification Pathway for Internationally Qualified Pedorthists

The Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA) has created an International Pathway for Certification. The International Pathway for Certification document outlines the pathways for overseas qualified pedorthists seeking professional certification and registration in Australia as a Certified Pedorthist Custom Maker.

The PAA has launched a new webpage <https://pedorthics.org.au/international-pathway/> which provides all the relevant information and documents needed for interested internationally qualified pedorthists to prepare and lodge an application. The webpage includes:

- International Pathway for Certification guide
- Application form
- Application checklist
- Online application and payment feature.

The International Pathway for Certification is informed by PAA certification criteria and competency standards together with International Pedorthic Association (IVO) International Standards. The pathway has been developed to meet the demand for pedorthists and pedorthic services in Australia and augment the local pedorthic skills- and knowledge-base. The pathway is only open to overseas-qualified pedorthists.

Pedorthic Partnerships: A Recap of the 2023 Pedorthic Conference

The Pedorthic Conference 2023 - *Pedorthic Partnerships*, held in Walyalup-Fremantle, Western Australia, was a fantastic event that brought together pedorthists and pedorthic enthusiasts from all over the country.

Informative and insightful, the conference provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to connect with and learn from each other. It was also a chance to stay up-to-date with the latest trends, techniques, and innovations in pedorthics.

The pre-conference program kicked off on Wednesday with visits to three Perth-based pedorthic businesses, offering attendees unique access to local setups and practices.

On Thursday, five pre-conference workshops were held covering the following topics: footwear modifications, digital scanning techniques, sensomotoric foot orthoses, pedorthic footwear fitting fundamentals, and pressure mapping and analysis. These workshops provided participants with hands-on experience and equipped them with an in-depth understanding of current R&D in the pedorthic field.

The conference was held on Friday and Saturday and featured three distinguished keynote presenters: Dr Sicco Bus, Dr Cylie Williams and Sayed Ahmed.

Dr Sicco Bus, a renowned human movement scientist, Professor of



Clinical Biomechanics and Principal Investigator at the Amsterdam University Medical Center in the Netherlands, presented two keynote sessions on Friday. The first, "Foot Biomechanics", examined diabetes-related foot disease and how changes in foot biomechanics during loading are an important risk factor for foot ulceration. Dr Bus' second presentation, "State of the Art Footwear," on Saturday covered the latest technologies and techniques used in the design and fabrication of footwear.

Dr Cylie Williams, an acclaimed clinical researcher and educator in the School of Primary and Allied Health Care at Monash University, also delivered two keynote presentations: "Idiopathic Toe Walking: why the

Foot and Ankle are the Least of Your Worries" and "Children's Footwear, not just a fashion item". In these sessions, Dr Williams discussed assessing and managing paediatric lower limb conditions, the need to re-evaluate approaches to idiopathic toe walking, and the importance of choosing appropriate footwear for children.

Sayed Ahmed, a Certified Pedorthist (CPedCM Au), researcher and entrepreneur, presented findings from two studies including a "Survey of Australian Pedorthists to Determine Current Practice in prescribing footwear and Insoles to Reduce the Risk of Neuropathic Plantar Forefoot Ulceration and Re-ulceration in People with Diabetes" and "Footwear and insole design to prevent diabetic and neuropathic plantar forefoot ulcers: finding from a series of N-of-1 Trials."

All three keynote speakers participated in a panel discussion on Saturday, where they answered questions from attendees and shared their insights into conference topics and themes.



Other enlightening presentations on Friday included "A Systematic Review of the Explicit Knowledge Used and Evidence Base in the Process of Design and Fabrication of Orthopedic Footwear" with Associate Professor Fred Holtkamp and the effectiveness and application of

"Sensomotoric Foot Orthoses" by Karl Schott (CPed CM Au). A highlight was hearing Tracey Brand from Indigenous Allied Health Australia & Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service discuss "Improving Access to Multidisciplinary Allied Health Care with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities" and explaining how allied health professionals can engage directly with indigenous organisations.

The conference dinner on Friday evening was an occasion to relax, mingle, and soak up some stunning ocean views from Bathers Beach House. Proudly sponsored by CYS, attendees enjoyed delicious food and drinks, and a breathtaking sunset!



In addition to our keynote sessions, Saturday's presentations included "Radiographic outcomes from minimally invasive bunion surgery in Australia" by Dr Andrew Knox and case studies from Markus Kerkering, Katrin Wegener and Angus Brewin. All presentations featured highly informative content that explored the breadth of lower limb health care, ranging from conservative to surgical interventions.

The exhibition hall was bustling with activity between conference sessions as attendees interacted with 15 different exhibitors showcasing their products and services. Delegates eagerly asked questions and engaged in discussions with the exhibitors,

who were more than happy to provide information and demonstrations.

Pedorthic Partnerships was a tremendous success and one of our best events yet. It was wonderful to gather with like-minded professionals in pedorthics, footwear and allied health.

Thank you to all our fabulous speakers, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors for a successful conference and supporting PAA. Congratulations to the organising committee for a fantastic event and for making it happen.

We look forward to the next Pedorthic Conference in 2024 and hope to see you there!

2023 Pedorthic Conference Sponsors - THANK YOU

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Experiences of our newly certified members at the Pedorthic Conference 2023

PAA is excited to announce that we have eight new members! In 2023, five newly certified members and three student members joined the Association. We welcomed three Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers following the August certification panel. Two Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers and one Certified Pedorthic Retailer became members just before the Pedorthic Conference. Our three student members are enrolled in the Bachelor of Pedorthics at SCU.

We asked our newest members about their experiences at the Pedorthic Partnerships Conference and gave them the opportunity to introduce themselves. If you have not yet met them, please reach out and share your knowledge and expertise. We are sure they would be grateful for your support.

Eleanor Robinson

CPedCM Au, WA

Hello, my name is Eleanor and I am a newly certified Pedorthist Custom Maker as well as a qualified podiatrist. I recently attended the annual Pedorthic Association of Australia's conference in the historic city of Fremantle. It was so great to have an opportunity to catch up with old friends and new colleagues alike with informative and engaging discussions on offer. I greatly enjoyed the day of pre-conference workshops that were interactive and open to discussions - the topics ranged from footwear fitting refreshers to the latest in gait assessment technology. The keynote speakers were highly informative, and I loved the variety of topics covered, from high risk offloading to common paediatric presentations.

I am excited to be part of the pedorthic community in a time when awareness and demand for the profession is growing; advancements in technology and greater understanding of our role as allied health professionals have broadened the horizons for what can be achieved. The importance of multidisciplinary teams in patient care is highly valued and seeing the profession of pedorthics becoming routinely integrated into care teams is amazing, and I cannot wait to see how the profession continues to grow and expand.



Ebrahim Jamali, Katrin Wegener, Sarah Fallaize, Eleanor Robinson

Ebrahim Jamali

CPedCM Au, WA

I am Ebrahim Jamali, a recent graduate of Southern Cross University's Bachelor of Pedorthics program. I am delighted to share my experience of attending the annual Pedorthic Conference in Fremantle, WA, as a newly certified member of the Pedorthic Association of Australia (PAA). One of the highlights for me was the ample opportunities for networking. Engaging with fellow Pedorthists, industry experts, and seasoned practitioners provided me with a broader perspective on the field. The sense of community fostered at the conference is a testament to the dedication of professionals in advancing pedorthics collectively. The success of the Pedorthic Conference was evident in its ability to offer a comprehensive platform for education, networking, and professional development. As a recent entrant into the field, I found exposure to various aspects of pedorthics crucial for my ongoing growth.

While the conference covered a wide range of topics, I believe future events could benefit from an increased focus on biomechanics and patient care. These areas are pivotal in our daily practice, and a more in-depth exploration during the conference sessions would contribute significantly to our professional development. The exhibition hall was a treasure trove of new technologies, materials, and innovations. Exploring these offerings opened my eyes to possibilities for enhancing patient care and improving overall practice efficiency. I look forward to integrating these advancements into my work, ensuring the best outcomes for the individuals I serve.

Overall, the Pedorthic Conference in WA exceeded my expectations in terms of educational content, networking opportunities, and exposure to industry innovations. As pedorthics continues to evolve, events like these play a vital role in keeping practitioners informed and connected. I am grateful for the enriching experience and look forward to future conferences that further contribute to the growth of our dynamic profession.

Zahirul Islam

CRetPed Au, SA

I, Zahirul Islam, have recently completed an online certificate course titled 'Introduction to Pedorthics' (CFS Allied Health Education) in 2022. In addition to that I completed the Pedorthic Shoe Fitting Course with PAA in 2022. I've also received a training excellence award certificate for custom-made footwear at Foot Balance Technology, Bangladesh.

I am currently assisting Sayed Ahmed in running a bi-monthly clinic based at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, South Australia. I also manage the overall business for Foot Balance Technology, North Adelaide branch.



I am beyond grateful to Sayed Ahmed for his guidance and support, and for the motivation I received from Shyamol Das. I gathered a great deal of knowledge from both of them.

I would like to thank you for providing me with the PAA membership certificate. Although starting a new journey is a bit overwhelming, after being a member of PAA and joining the conference, I can certainly say it was not only fun but also a great learning experience. Before joining the conference, I was a bit unsure about the process of starting a new business and gathering different resource materials. Most of the Pedorthists and the Pedorthic family I met during the conference were absolutely amazing. Everyone was very supportive and they openly shared their knowledge, thoughts and experience in this field. The keynote speakers were stunning, and their brilliant presentations were full of information and use of advanced technology. I loved the case study segment, which helped other pedorthists learn how to solve critical situations. I look forward to seeing more in the upcoming conference in 2024. Overall, it helped me to build confidence within myself.

Certification Panel at the Pedorthic Conference

In addition to the pre-conference workshops on Thursday 12 October, a certification panel was held for three aspiring pedorthists. Before an independent panel of assessors, two applicants presented their cases to become Certified Pedorthist Custom Makers, and a third gave a case presentation to qualify as a Certified Retail Pedorthist. All applicants passed the panel.

The PAA congratulates and warmly welcomes its newly certified members: Eleanor Robinson (CPedCM Au), Ebrahim Jamali (CPedCM Au), and Zahirul Islam (CRetPed Au). They join CPedCMs Anna Roeser and Kirra Parker, who were certified and became part of the pedorthic community earlier in 2023.

24 + 25 OCTOBER 2024
FORUM FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND



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IVO-CONGRESS 2024

A COOPERATION OF APO ANNUAL MEETING, IVO CONGRESS &
150TH ANNIVERSARY ASSOCIATION FOOT & SHOE



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IVO

INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR
ASSOCIATION

PAA Annual General Meeting 2023

The Pedorthic Association of Australia held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 12 October, with 32 members present. The meeting notice, agenda, and Annual Report were distributed well in advance, giving PAA members enough time to review all the information.

PAA President Katrin Wegener opened the AGM with the Bruce Hodge Gavel, which was donated last year by the family of the late Bruce Hodge. No questions or issues arose from the previous AGM minutes or the Annual Report.

Next up, Executive Officer Anja Suckert expressed her gratitude to all the board, committee, and active members for supporting the PAA. She presented a report highlighting the progress and achievements made during the financial year 2022/23. Additionally, she outlined the objectives and goals set for the current financial year and encouraged members to continue their active participation in supporting the PAA Board and the profession for a sustainable future.

Before moving on to the election of the new PAA Board of Directors, the President provided an update on negotiations with the Lincoln Institute of Higher Education on the commencement of the Bachelor of Pedorthics program. She also informed attendees about the newly established 'International Pathway for Certification' and implemented changes to 'The Criteria for Certification in Pedorthics' and 'PAA Continuing Professional Development'. APRB Subcommittee members Ernest Tye and Glen Willey responded to questions raised by attending members about CPD points, categories and log submission.

Khajag Moskofian, PAA Vice President, has resigned, and Andrew Strobel, a Board Director, has decided not to stand for re-election. All other board directors whose terms ended stood for re-election, including President Katrin Wegener, Treasurer Howard Smith, Adam Jorgensen, and Wahid Hesemann. The Board needed two nominations for an odd number of directors to avoid a voting tie. Paul Reimers was the only nominee, resulting in a vote of four out of five candidates. The Board now has seven directors instead of the previous nine.

Attendees were not required to nominate any APRB Subcommittee members at this AGM, as re-election will occur during the next AGM in 2024. The Government Relations, Education, and Conference subcommittees have been converted into Working Groups, which means there is no longer the need for an official nomination and election process for these Working Groups.

Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM. We appreciate the support of our members and look forward to a successful year ahead.

PAA Board of Directors 2023-2024

President

Katrin Wegener

Vice President

Adam Jorgensen

Secretary

Angus Brewin

Treasurer

Howard Smith

Directors

Sharon Crowther

Wahid Hesemann

David Sutton

APRB Subcommittee

Clare Nelson (Chair)

Ernest Tye

Glen Willey

Alex Barwick

Stephen Black

Conference 2024 Working Group

David Sutton

Luke Sutton

Paul Reimers

John Anter

Pedorthists Promoting Pedorthics

Pedorthists Sayed Ahmed, Angus Brewin, Craig Laird and others have been raising the profile of pedorthics in Australia and overseas and doing the profession proud!

Sayed Ahmed (CPedCM Au) stepped onto the global stage earlier this year at The International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot, held every four years at The Hague in The Netherlands. Now in its ninth year, the Symposium is the largest and most prestigious global gathering devoted to lower extremity problems in diabetes. Sayed presented a poster titled, "Footwear and insole design to prevent diabetic and neuropathic plantar forefoot ulcers; - Findings from A series of N-of-1 trials." This study formed the final part of his PhD program, and he will soon hold the first doctorate in Pedorthics in Australia.



Back on local soil, Sayed gave the same presentation at Diabetes Feet Australia's (DFA) 2023 conference on 8-10 October on the Sunshine Coast before hot-footing it across the country to speak at the pedorthic conference in Western Australia. Sayed then crisscrossed the nation again as he travelled to Melbourne to appear at The Australian Prosthetic Orthotic Association's (AOPA) 13th Congress, *Collaboration for Excellence*. On 19 October, Sayed gave an oral presentation about his research as part of a specialist stream on Lower Limb Orthotics. The session also featured fellow CPedCM Au, Angus Brewin. It was terrific to have not one but two Pedorthists on the bill!

Angus, a Pedorthist and Podiatrist, trod a similar path to Sayed with presentations at the pedorthic and AOPA conferences. His case study, "Re-Lasting Footwear for Form and Function," demonstrated how



re-lasting procedures on existing footwear using the pedorthic method can provide excellent functional outcomes whilst maintaining a pleasing aesthetic appearance and giving patients the dignity of choice. The case involved footwear modification for a young girl with ankle instability secondary to achondroplasia (dwarfism). She was very conscious about fitting in with her friends, so Angus and his team modified a pair of Nike Air Jordans, with a result that was both functional and attractive for the patient to wear.

Craig Laird (CPedCM Au) and his colleague Jonathan Madden were invited to speak at the Diabetes Alliance Program Plus (DAP+) Inaugural Multidisciplinary Conference hosted by Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network. Held between 17-19 November 2023 in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, the 3-day conference brought together experts in diabetes care to share knowledge, insights, and best practices for professionals across medicine and allied health. Craig and Jonathan presented "If The Shoe Fits: Custom Footwear for the diabetic foot," which highlighted the critical role of pedorthics in supporting people with diabetes to manage their condition and improve their overall quality of life.

The PAA is excited and inspired to see the skills, knowledge and experience of Pedorthists reaching ever wider audiences. We congratulate Sayed, Angus and Craig on their efforts and achievements and thank them for spreading the word.

Conference dinner special guest - Dr George Carter

The PAA was honoured to be joined by special guest Dr George Carter, orthopaedic surgeon (retired) and Australian Foot and Ankle Society member, at the Association’s annual conference dinner.

Over 20 years ago, the PAA created a pedorthic education program and established the pedorthic certification system. Key challenges were establishing a well-founded training program and a credible certification system. Dr George Carter was instrumental in helping PAA set up both. In the early years, he delivered many courses to certified Pedorthists. Dr Carter put tremendous effort into providing this training, as he lives in Perth, and most courses were held on Australia’s east coast. This meant many trips for George, and he often did not want to receive support or reimbursement for his travel expenses.



Ernest Tye, Ebrahim Jamali, Dr George Carter, Karl Schott

Setting up the first certification panels was challenging, as there were no certified Pedorthists who could sit on the panel. Dr Carter chaired the first panel and managed it with the help of an independent person, Peter Reeves. Dr Carter and Peter formulated how the first certification panel could run with the utmost integrity. They selected a group of non-certified Pedorthists to provide expert pedorthic knowledge to the panel. It is worth mentioning that every single certified Pedorthist in Australia went through the certification panel; no one was grandfathered in. Dr Carter continued to participate in certification panels for several years.

PAA and every certified Pedorthist owe a lot to Dr George Carter. Without his support, we would not have achieved the progress made in recent years. Dr Carter made it clear in his teachings that the focus of any successful professional development is the benefit to the patient.



1st certification training course. Front row: Dr George Carter, Jodie Morrison, Daniel Raffaele. Back row: Karl Schott, Ron Henson, Paul Galey, N.N., Andrew Walbaum, Stewart Levy, Dragomir Paven, Alfredo Roldan

PAA Sustaining Partners 2023/24



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PAA at the 2023 AHPA Member Policy Symposium

As the podorthic conference got going in Western Australia on 12 October, PAA was also on the ground in Naarm-Melbourne at the annual AHPA Member Policy Symposium.

Held at Rivers Edge Events on the banks of the Birrarung-Yarra River, the one-day symposium provided AHPA members with access to relevant policy discussions and networking opportunities.

Duncan Armstrong OAM, Olympic gold medallist swimmer and brand strategy manager with ESSA (Exercise and Sport Science Australia), was an engaging MC. The theme for 2023 was *'Allied Health: Meeting the Challenges Ahead'*, and policy discussions centred around achieving health equity for First Nations peoples, adopting and implementing digital health in a diverse allied health space, and providing quality allied health services in residential aged care and disability amidst political and funding minefields.

The first session focussed on First Nations equity in aged care and allied health with key speakers Samara Rodway (Policy Manager, NATSSIACC - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council) and Paul Gibson (Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships, IAHA - Indigenous Allied Health Australia). They spoke about the need for cultural responsiveness in allied health care and what that looked like. They also explained the value of having a positive model of health rather than a deficit model, and the importance of building relationships with local ACCHOs (Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations).

Session two explored the challenges and opportunities of digital health and the need for allied health to be digitally literate. Speakers included Jackie O'Connor (Senior Advisor, AHPA), Ellie Cartmill (Workforce Development Lead for the Centre for Health Analytics), Shelley Thomson (Co-founder and Director, Patient Experience Agency) and Demi Gertig (Strategic

Program and Policy Advisor, Optometry Australia). AHPA CEO Bronwyn Morris-Donovan and Deputy CAHO Daniel Roitman also chaired a panel discussion.

The presenters discussed using big data to drive evidence-based policy. They examined the link between digital health initiatives and PROMs (patient-reported outcome measures) and PREMs (patient-reported experience measures) to accommodate the shift to value-based healthcare models. Opportunities included the benefits of being able to record patient-centred value-based data and the ability to share data to improve health outcomes. Challenges included the heterogeneity of allied health and its capacity to integrate into Australia's digital health plan, the high level of digital illiteracy among allied health services, privacy, and the compatibility of various health software. The take-home message was that digital health is here and moving fast, and it will be difficult to remain paper-based. The advice was for everyone to be involved and to start as soon as possible. Amongst the serious talk, there was some humour, with a final challenge being able to say the words of the day: "interoperable" and "interoperability."

2023 AHPA Member Policy Symposium
ALLIED HEALTH: MEETING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

1:50 PM - HR ADVICE ONLINE
 HR legislative updates: What every business needs to know
 Recently there have been several HR legislative changes that you need to know. Join HR Advice Online to gain valuable information regarding the changes that are relevant for all businesses.
 Sally Garner (Director) and Miriam Kishin (HR Advisor)

2:00 PM - SESSION THREE
Allied Health 'Policy Monsters': How do we face them?
 Some policy challenges for allied health are so intractable or so complex that they deserve to be called 'monsters'. How do we face them?
 Fighting the NDIS 'price gouging' narrative and other beasts
 Emily Forrest (Director of Policy and Advocacy) National Disability Services and Garry Simpson (General Manager) Ability Round Table
 Audience discussion facilitated by Bronwyn Morris-Donovan
Journey to the centre of the earth: allied health in residential aged care
 Chris Abshire (Manager, Policy and Advocacy) AHPA
 Yes we can! Improving nutrition in Aged Care facilities
 Natalie Stapleton (General Manager, Advocacy and Policy) Dementia Australia
 Audience discussion facilitated by Bronwyn Morris-Donovan

4:05 PM - EVENT WRAP UP

DATE: Thursday 12 October 2023
TIME: 9:30 AM arrival, 9:35 AM event start, 4:15 PM event close
LOCATION: Rivers Edge Events, Level 5, 18-21 Soddley Street Melbourne

EVENT MC: DUNCAN ARMSTRONG OAM OLY
 REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO AHPA MEMBERS ONLY
 AHPA Members can book here

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 Allied Health Professions Australia | Allied Health Professions Day | HR Advice Online

Session three was titled 'Allied Health' Policy Monsters': How do we face them?' Emily Forrest (Director of Advocacy and Policy, National Disability Services) reviewed the NDIS 'price gouging' narrative, which explored the timing of media stories about shonky operators to shift the focus from less favourable government activities and reports. Garry Simpson (General Manager, Ability Round Table) spoke about NDIS pricing and the limitations of the NDIA pricing model. His member-based organisation collects disability service provider financial and workforce benchmarking data to understand how providers are tracking. He aims to use the data to demystify cost vs value in NDIS pricing and provide greater context to the 'what and why' behind 'how much'.

Chris Atmore (Manager Policy and Advocacy AHPA) discussed the dearth of allied health in residential aged care and the lack of targeted funding for allied healthcare. She also expressed concern about the lack of transparency and human rights in the Australian Government's new Aged Care Act, planned for commencement in 2024.

Session three finished with Natalie Stapleton (General Manager, Advocacy and Policy Dietitians Australia) recounting a positive story about improving nutrition in aged care, including advice on how to pitch to polities and ways of engaging and empowering members to achieve goals.

The symposium concluded with a thoughtful and interesting audience discussion facilitated by Bronwyn Morris-Donovan.

Overall, the symposium provided much food for thought (and some delicious scones as well!). It is good to be in the room at these events, and although PAA is small, the Association punches above its weight. PAA's profile continues to grow through being seen and connecting with other associations, and these events offer valuable insight and information into allied health.

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.



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Adam Jorgensen

Secretary: Angus Brewin

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Sharon Crowther
Wahid Hesemann
David Sutton

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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