

Chiropodists (Amendment) Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Clause 1 sets out the purpose of the Act.

Clause 2 is the commencement provision.

Clause 3 inserts a new sub-section in section 5 of the *Chiropodists Act 1968*.

New sub-section (6) is designed to enable fees and allowances payable to members of the Chiropodists Registration Board to be fixed from time to time by the Governor in Council instead of being prescribed by regulation.

It will obviate the need for the regulations under the Act to be amended each time fees and allowances are adjusted by the Remuneration Review Committee by enabling fees to be fixed by general order.

Clause 4 inserts a new sub-section in section 7 of the Act.

New sub-section (1A), modelled on section 9 (3) of the *Nurses Act 1958*, requires the Board to consult from time to time with the Chief General Manager of the Department of Health.

The purpose of the amendment is to facilitate consultation and liaison between the Board in exercising its functions under the Act, and the Health Department of Victoria.

Clause 5

Section 9 of the Act, among other things, requires the Board to register a person as a chiropodist if he or she—

- “(a) has completed the prescribed course of training and passed the prescribed examination; or
- (b) is the holder of a qualification obtained after a course of training undergone outside Victoria which is recognised by the Board as being substantially equivalent to that prescribed”.

The course recognised in Victoria is that conducted at the La Trobe University which is at degree level.

The present provision, which limits the Board's discretion to determining whether a course outside Victoria, particularly a diploma course, is “substantially equivalent” to that offered at La Trobe creates a degree difficulty that may exceed necessary standards for public safety among potential applicants for registration who qualified outside Victoria.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to resolve these uncertainties by enabling more than one qualification to be recognised for the purposes of registration as a chiropodist in Victoria.

Clause 6 repeals section 21 (g) of the Act which is the head of power to make regulations prescribing fees to be paid to the Board.

The repeal of this provision is consequential upon the proposed amendment to section 5 of the Act referred to in *Clause 3*.

By Authority Jean Gordon Government Printer Melbourne

