

... prevent, diagnose and treat disorders of the feet.

Indicative Skill Level

Most occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification (ANZSCO Skill Level 1).

Skilled Occupation Criteria

Long-lead time

Podiatrists meet the criteria for long lead time, as entry to this occupation requires a substantial training commitment.

- ▶ Employment as a Podiatrist generally requires the completion of a university qualification of at least four years study (full-time equivalent), such as a Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine.

High use

Podiatrists meet the criteria for high use, showing that the skills which people have acquired through education and training are being deployed for the uses intended.

- ▶ Based on advice from Universities Australia, university courses in podiatry have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as a Podiatrist.
- ▶ Of new graduates employed as Podiatrists, 92% had studied in a related field, such as rehabilitation therapies (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Podiatrists are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Podiatrists, 100% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Podiatrists also meet the criteria for high risk/high disruption. This indicates that the occupation is important for the effective operation of an enterprise and/or the broader economy.

- ▶ Podiatrists are required to register with a Podiatrist Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition.
- ▶ Podiatrists are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include meeting the recommendations of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the Clinical Training Funding Initiative, and the Clinical Supervision Support Program.

¹ Analysis for the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) was conducted using the latest available data, including the 2010 ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Percentages may therefore differ from those cited in the 'Occupation Trends' analysis (over the page), which uses alternative sources in some instances (e.g. the 2008 ABS Survey of Education and Work). Small sample sizes for some occupations may also result in fluctuations in the SEW data between 2008 and 2010. The specific data sources used for the Occupation Trends analysis can be found on the Skills Australia website: <http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/SOLsummarysheets.shtml>.

Occupation trends

ANZSCO: 2526

Podiatrists

Employment level	4600 A high proportion of workers (79.9%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	252611 Podiatrist 2100
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased very strongly compared with 'all occupations' but estimates have a relatively high standard error for this small occupation. Employment is expected to rise by 7.2% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	There is almost no unemployment for this occupation.
Educational profile	Around 76.3% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 67.0% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 266.1 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 64.4% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
Labour turnover	Around 6.4% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
Age profile	The median age is 33.8 years and 35.9% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	No earnings data are available for this occupation.
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data is provided at the aggregated level for 'health', but it shows 97% of Bachelor degree graduates across the health field of study seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 46% of whom were employed as Health Professionals, 15% as Personal and Community Service Workers and 9% as Science Professionals.
Skill shortages	National shortages of Podiatrists have been identified through DEEWR research since 2004.

Labour market

Shortages have been persistent over the past seven years and research undertaken in 2010 shows the labour market has tightened over the past year. Less than half the surveyed vacancies were filled in 2010 and there was less than one suitable applicant per vacancy. These figures are lower than those recorded in 2009, with the number of suitable applicants falling by 50% over the year.

Summary

This is a small occupation and data have a relatively high standard error. Shortages are persistent, employment growth has been strong and there is little unemployment suggesting employers may continue to experience difficulty recruiting. Vacancy levels are rising strongly.

Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) - 3 Monthly Average - Nov 2006 - Sept 2010
Podiatrists (March 2006 = 100)

