



## **Australasian Podiatry Council submission – Health Insurance Amendment (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Bill 2014**

The Australasian Podiatry Council (APodC) supports the measures proposed in the Health Insurance Amendment (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Bill 2014 to increase the general threshold of the Extended Medicare Safety Net to \$2000.

We support this measure, taking into account the exemption of families receiving Family Tax Benefits and concession card holders, on the basis that the Medicare Benefits Schedule should be used to target areas with the greatest need for publically-funded healthcare.

The Australasian Podiatry Council understands and supports the government's review of health expenditure and endeavours to make sensible savings within the healthcare system. However, we encourage the government to redirect funds saved by this increase into reducing the burden of disease more generally. Particular areas of primary healthcare, including podiatric services, offer potential high-impact life and cost-saving outcomes which could greatly decrease demand within the public healthcare system, allowing resources to be directed more effectively to people in need.

For any additional information, please contact the Australasian Podiatry Council on (03) 9416 311.