

## **Stephen Tucker, Podiatrist**

Stephen has been a podiatrist for a very long time, graduating from Lincoln Institute of Health Science (now LaTrobe University) in the mid 80's. He has always worked in the hospital sector, with his first position at Royal Southern Memorial Hospital (now part of Alfred Health, Caulfield), he then spent 19 years at St.Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, and was able to slowly develop the podiatry department.

During this time, Stephen was a director of the Australian Podiatry Association (Vic.) including spending 2 years as president, and 2 years as Vice President of the Australian Podiatry Council. Stephen completed his terms with the A.Pod.A. in 1998 to allow time to complete a Master of Public Health, then between 2000 and 2010 Stephen was treasurer and Deputy President of the Podiatrists Registration Board of Victoria.

Stephen spent many years with both the A.Pod.A. and Registration Board advocating for the extension of prescribing rights of restricted medicines to podiatrists. In 2010 Stephen was one of the initial six Victorian podiatrists to obtain endorsement to prescribe. He is currently providing mentorship to other podiatrists undertaking the endorsement process.

In 2009, Stephen moved to Eastern Health, where after spending three years as Podiatry manager, took a career change to managing the specialist clinics programs initially at Eastern Health, and then the Royal Children's Hospital, before returning to clinical podiatry in 2018 at Western Health. Stephen is currently the Associate Director of Allied Health for Podiatry and Orthotics at Northern Health. Stephen is also one of the Podiatry Clinical Advisors to AHPRA.

Stephen has always seen a need to support the progression of the profession within the public sector. With initial involvement in establishing the Victorian Public Sector SIG, and then the Podiatry Heads of Department group (PodHODs), as well as being involved in the inaugural meetings of the Melbourne High Risk Foot Collaborative, which over a few years grew to become the Advanced Practicing Podiatrists High Risk Foot Group.

Stephen has spent time with this group as Vice President and Treasurer, and has been involved in the organising of the four LEAP conferences run by APP-HRFG.