

**Subject:** Therapeutic Registration  
**Date:** Tuesday, 1 February 2011 3:36:25 PM

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To whom this may concern,

I offer my opinion in response to the questions posed in the consultation document on proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as a requirement for general registration.

Q1: I believe there is public benefit in all optometrists being eligible for therapeutic endorsement. I am sick and tired of chloresig being handed out for every eye condition under the sun by pharmacists- we need the public to THINK that the first port of call for any eye condition IS an optometrist- not your GP nor pharmacist.. and in doing so patients will benefit from correct diagnosis and treatment by highly skilled eye care practitioners.

Q2: Yes, it is a reasonable expectation providing optometrists are given enough time to complete the course.

Q3: Yes

Q4: Yes, 5 years.

Q5: Yes, overseas trained optometrists should be at the same level of competency as Australian optometrists if they wish to practise in this country.

Q6: If anything, there should be separate registrations for clinical vs non clinical roles. The optometrists who wish not to become certified in therapeutics can register only as a non clinical optometrist, and find work in that sector. Those who have patient contact should all be certified to same level and have a general registration.

Q7: None for the moment.

Kind regards,