

Subject: request for comments
Date: Tuesday, 8 February 2011 5:44:33 PM

Dear Colin Waldron, Chair, Optometry Board of Australia,

re: Request for comment on proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as requirement for general registration:

1. I think there is benefit in all optometrists being eligible for therapeutic endorsement because then all optometrists will practice at a higher standard.
2. Although Therapeutic endorsement is good, it is not reasonable to expect all currently practicing optometrists to gain that endorsement. Maybe there could be a cut off year whereby all graduating after 1998 need to get therapeutic qualification.
3. I think therapeutic qualification should be a requirement of new registrations but not renewing registrations of optometrists.
4. That means the period of grace needs to be long enough to allow current optometrists to continue as they practice now.
5. I agree that Overseas- trained optometrists applying for the first time in Australia should have therapeutic competency assessments by 2014. This is especially important so that overseas trained are not brought into Australia for cheaper labour while the Australian graduates with therapeutics are left possibly without jobs.
6. Non-clinical roles do not need to have therapeutic qualifications in my opinion.
7. I have not identified any impediments to the proposal.

Many thanks
Glenn Howell

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