
Subject: Therapeutics compulsory?
Date: Friday, 11 February 2011 10:59:25 AM

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm writing about the possibility of therapeutics becoming compulsory for optometry registration.

Therapeutics qualification should not be a requirement for general registration. Most patients attend due to poor vision and require spectacles to be dispensed, you do not need therapeutics to do this. Yes, in years to come most of the optometrists will be endorsed and then it will be no issue. When contact lenses was introduced into the degree courses you could still practice. If you decided not to do further study they referred on, if a patient required this service the same would apply to therapeutics.

I would have loved the challenge of doing the therapeutics course before having a family but finding the time would be difficult now. To complete the course there are interstate clinical hours to consider. Its too difficult for me to commit too. Last year I was looking forward to our state congress but had to cancel last minute due to illness (whooping cough). This was just unfortunate but if I had booked flights etc to do the course there would be no refund and possible chance to catch up?

Presently I only work part time, 15 hrs a week due to a young family (my children are 8 and 6 years old). I thought it would be easier to work more when they started school but it has been more involved as my son may have a mild autism. Also I work in a metropolitan area for a large multiple so if a patient required a therapeutically endorsed optometrist there is usually someone working with me or its 10 mins to the next practice. In rural and remote areas this would be more important where there is less access to ophthalmologists/ hospitals.

There will be many of us due to families, illness or close to retirement that would have difficulty completing the course whether time or inclination. Please consider us, we have experience and knowledge that should be appreciated and not made to feel inadequate if we are not therapeutically endorsed . What is wrong with two levels of practice in the profession?

Yours sincerely

Lisa Royle