



# Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

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31 March 2010

Mr Colin Waldron  
Chair  
Optometry Board of Australia  
PO Box 16085  
Collins Street West  
MELBOURNE VIC 8007

Dear Mr Waldron

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 2010 in relation to revised proposals submitted by the Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) on mandatory registration standards, and endorsement for scheduled medicines for eligible optometrists.

Pursuant to section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law), as enacted by participating jurisdictions, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) has decided to approve the following registration standards submitted by the Board – with the approval taking effect on 1 July 2010 to coincide with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme:

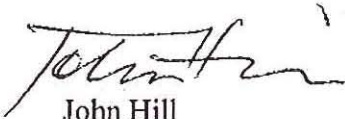
- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard.

Further, in accordance with section 14 of the National Law, the Ministerial Council has decided to approve the Board's proposal for an endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines for eligible optometrists, to take effect on 1 July 2010. The approval is for:

- *Class of health practitioners* - any person registered as an optometrist under the National Law whose registration has been endorsed by the Board under section 94 of the National Law
- *Type of use* – endorsed as qualified to obtain, possess, administer, prescribe or supply a class of scheduled medicines (as per below)
- *Class of scheduled medicines* – Schedule 2, 3, or 4 medicines used in the topical treatment of conditions of the eye, included in the list approved and published by the Board.

We trust that the Ministerial Council's decision to approve the registration standards and related proposals as outlined in this letter will assist the Board to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's full commencement on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Hill  
CHAIR, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH, South Australia