

**Subject:** Comments on proposal for therapeutic qualifications for Optometrists  
**Date:** Monday, 28 February 2011 10:34:47 PM

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I practice in the metropolitan area of Melbourne with good professional liaison with local General Practitioners and Ophthalmologists.

The practice offers a comprehensive service to patients but without therapeutic endorsement.

In Optometry there is undoubtedly a need for expertise in many areas including:

- Prescribing and fitting of spectacles and contact lenses

- Ability to apply up to date knowledge of new materials and designs of spectacles and contact lenses

- Appropriate assessment and treatment for accommodation/convergence anomalies

- Assessment of binocular vision problems and suitable treatment

- Detection of ocular pathology and appropriate referral

Optometry is evolving continuously, as all areas of the health system should. Over my career there have been many advances in knowledge and technology (for instance computerised visual fields and digital retinal imaging) which have resulted in a much more comprehensive service for patients.

The future may indeed result in all Optometrists having therapeutic training as a natural progression but in my view a very short time frame such as 2014 is un-necessary, unrealistic and unachievable for all optometrists to have therapeutic qualifications.

Other areas of Optometry also need to progress as time goes on in order to achieve the best outcome for the Community.

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