

From: [Ashley Madeira](#)
To: [optomconsultation](#)
Subject: Optometry Therapeutics Registration debate
Date: Monday, 21 February 2011 9:35:29 AM

Dear Mr. Waldron,

My name is Ashley Madeira, and I am a registered optometrist, in practice since 1989. I do not have a Therapeutics Endorsement, and do not wish to get one.

I have been reading with interest the proposal of the new Optometrists Registration Board to reverse the current policy of endorsing Therapeutically qualified optometrists, and instead making Therapeutics the norm, and somehow highlighting the rest of us who wish to practice without Therapeutics. Considering that at present, only 20% of optometrists are Therapeutically qualified makes this suggestion seem very strange at this time. Even when the situation is reversed, whenever that may be, I can see no reason to change the current system. The new proposal would create a Second Class of Optometrist for the non-Therapeutics practitioners. Considering I would have less than one patient a month who would benefit from any endorsement I might have had, this is simply not justified.

I feel like I am in the silent majority...it seems all my opto-political colleagues have got so wound up in Therapeutics that they have forgotten that mainstream optometry is still about treating people who in the main have healthy eyes and can be satisfied by treating their refractive error problems, whilst at the same time screening for ocular disease.

To this end, I also feel that the proposal to only allow overseas trained optometrists with Therapeutics qualifications after 2014 is not serving the Australian public in any way. My practice is in regional Victoria, and I have seen over many years the difficulties faced in attracting graduating optometrists to practice in a regional setting. Overseas optometrists can fill this void, but putting more barriers up to their ability to come here is only going to send them elsewhere.

I hope that you can see that the Optometrists Board proposal is non-sensical in every way. Keeping things the way they are would not detract in any way from those who wish to continue to practice with Therapeutics, whilst still giving the public the service they need from our profession.

Yours sincerely,
Ashley Madeira - Shepparton