

Subject: submission
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To whom it may concern

Here are my brief responses to the questions posed.

1. There probably is public benefit to all optometrists having therapeutic endorsement.
2. If it is deemed of public benefit and it's what the profession wants in the future, it is a reasonable expectation of all new optometrists. Making it mandatory for existing and renewing I don't think would be in the best public interest, nor that of the profession.
3. Therapeutic qualification could be a requirement of new registrants only.
4. The period of grace should extend to the end of the practicing career of existing registrants.
5. Overseas-trained optoms applying for general rego for the first time should have competency assessment for therapeutics; that seems fair.
6. General registrants in non-clinical roles should not be required to have therapeutic quals as this doesn't benefit the public.
7. If 'the proposal' is for all registered optoms to have therapeutic endorsement, clearly there are impediments. Factors such as two-tier rego, slow attrition of non-endorsed optoms, additional competency assessments for overseas registrants have been overcome in other health care professions.

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