

Subject: therapeutic qualification  
Date: Friday, 4 February 2011 5:29:10 PM

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Dear Mr Waldron,

I have received your letter regarding the proposal for therapeutics qualifications as a requirement for general registration and would like to view my opinion on this.

I feel that this proposal is ridiculous as the optometrist that are already qualified should be able to make their own mind up if they find this field of optometry is their choice, and should not be forced to take a course which they are neither interested nor prepared to pay over \$7000 for.

I am interested in this field myself, however, I am aware that there are optometrist out there who have no interest in this whatsoever. This is a difficult course and should be the choice of those who are interested.

I am also quite certain that a large majority of those newly qualified optometrists who have gained their therapeutics via their university degree will very unlikely practice their therapeutics qualification.

The university courses, both in Australia and in the UK, have a level of therapeutics incorporated in the course which is sufficient for practical use, so, as I have said, Additional supply for therapeutics, should be left up to the individual optometrist.

If this was introduced, you may well find that some optometrists would cease practice, particularly the more mature optometrists who have been practicing for many years. As I believe there are some shortages of optoms within Australia, then this is certainly a very bad idea.

Kind regards,

Christine Morrison MCOptom, Bsc (HONS)