

Media release

11 April 2011

Board Yet To Consult on Therapeutic Qualifications for General Registration

The Optometry Board of Australia today confirmed it was yet to consult the profession and the community on its decision on therapeutic qualifications for general registration.

Board Chair, Mr Colin Waldron, said the Board had not yet discussed the outcome of the preliminary consultation but looked forward to feedback from the profession and the community when a draft policy was released for consultation.

“Our guidance to the profession is clearly strengthened by feedback provided through a structured and wide ranging consultation process,” Mr Waldron said.

The role of the Board is to protect the public. Clear processes are in place to support the development of clear and consistent national policy to guide the Optometry profession. This includes drafting by a National Committee, then Board endorsement of draft policy for consultation, a structured process for feedback from the profession and the community, and finally a Board decision, having considered this feedback.

An article in the April 2011 Issue of *Australian Optometry* contains incorrect and misleading information about discussions of an Optometry Board of Australia (OBA) committee on the outcomes of the preliminary consultation process relating to therapeutic qualifications for general registration. (‘Non-therapeutic backing’, pg. 1).

The article refers to recommendations made by the OBA Policy Standards and Guidelines Advisory Committee, when in fact the Committee has not yet made recommendations about non-endorsed optometrists to the Board

The Board will consider this important issue and a draft policy recommendation at its next Board meeting. A draft will then be released for consultation through the Board’s [website](#) and the Board encourages the profession and the community to share their views and help shape future Board policy on the matter.

For more information

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