

Subject: Allison Coogan Optometrist
Date: Sunday, 30 January 2011 7:24:58 PM

In relation to the therapeutics proposal:

My response is that I object.

In relation to the 7 questions:

1 No public benefit as patients can be referred as usual.

2 Not a reasonable expectation.

The profession's aim has been primarily to test and examine eyes but not treat them therapeutically. New graduates now have therapeutics but do not force the older optometrists to do the same.

Those wanting to treat therapeutically have got the choice to do so.

3 Therapeutics should not be compulsory.

Some have the time money and incentive to do more and that is why post grad is the answer

You can have two qualifications or more after your name eg DCLP in UK or behavioural status.

4 N/a and grandfather status should apply even though new graduates will be different. Eventually it will become as you propose as people retire.

5 Immigration laws are strict. An upgrade to therapeutics will make it even harder to get residency for overseas applicants. That is not really an issue for Australians or residents working here already for many years and quite happy with the status quo. Why worry about other countries qualifications- unless going there.

6 I do not want anyone already registered to be required ie forced to do therapeutics.

New applicants to university know the new course syllabus on application.

7 Consider the legal implications. It could be an obstruction of rights to force therapeutics.

My thoughts:

Those registered now are considered worthy and accepted but and within one year of making CET compulsory you are now going over the top on therapeutics proposal. I believe in CET and personally I have over- excelled on the annual points without it being compulsory.

Consider an Optometrist who could fail the course or is not interested in therapeutics and that would restrict the rights of that individual to work ie livelihood.

Some people do not want to go into extensive study again or take the responsibility that comes with prescribing and associated risks.

Consider those approaching retirement who want less stress and it is not easy to change a profession later in life or learn new skills.

Time spent on therapeutics means less dispensing of spectacles and you do have to consider the retail side of Optometry.

I totally object and consider it an injustice as it should be a matter of choice.

Allison Coogan