

**Subject:**

Fwd: Optometry Board of Australia Therapeutic Endorsement Response

**Date:**Friday, 28 January 2011 1:12:43 PM

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1. Is there any public benefit in requiring all optometrists to be registered for therapeutic endorsement?
  2. Is such a requirement a reasonable expectation of optometrists?
  3. Should therapeutic qualifications be a requirement for practice as an optometrist in Australia? - **Yes**
  4. If so, should there be a period of grace to allow all registered optometrists to gain the necessary qualifications and how long should the period be?  
**age to opt out of gaining therapeutic endorsement.**
  5. To be consistent with Australian graduates, should overseas-trained optometrists applying for general registration for the first time be required to complete appropriate competency assessments for therapeutic practice from 2014 **Yes**
  6. Should optometrists holding general registration practising in non-clinical roles, such as administration, education, research advisory, regulatory or policy development roles be required to hold therapeutic qualifications?  
**optometrists in these roles to gain therapeutic endorsement unless treatment of patients is part of their work duties. It will only result in these optometrists opting out of optometric registration, as it is not a requirement of their employment, and the Board will lose membership of a highly qualified group of individuals with additional financial consequences.** A possible exception to this could be optometrists involved in education of Optometrists where it would be beneficial for these Optometrists to have therapeutic endorsement.
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