

Optometry Board of Australia
To whom it may concern,

RE: Proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as a requirement for general registration

I graduated in 1991 with the degree Bachelor of Applied Science- Optometry. Since then I have worked full time, as a locum and now, due to being a mother, part time. I have read the consultation document issued by the Optometry Board of Australia regarding therapeutic qualification being included as a requirement for general registration.

In answer to the questions posed in the consultation paper- I do not believe there is a public benefit in all optometrists to be therapeutically endorsed. After 2014 each year will see more therapeutically endorsed optometrists entering the public arena but it will be many, many years before they outnumber those who graduated prior to this date. Those graduating before 2014 still have attained a skill level necessary to provide quality eye care to the public.

I do not believe that requiring all optometrists to be therapeutically endorsed is a reasonable expectation and hence should not be required to practice in Australia. Only 20% of currently registered optometrists have felt it a benefit to add therapeutics to their qualification. The vast majority have decided that their level of qualification is ample in providing high quality eye care to their patients. Adding therapeutic qualification to ones skills should be a personal choice made by each optometrist.

What I would like from the Board is a guarantee that I and the many other optometrists who have chosen not to get therapeutic qualifications, will always be able to gain registration in Australia and practice with the original degree we have earned.

In summary, I am totally against any moves to make therapeutic qualification a requirement for registration as the degree I and many others have, has and does meet public need.

Yours sincerely
Dominique Kelly
18/2/11