

Subject: Therapeutic Qualifications
Date: Tuesday, 25 January 2011 10:26:45 AM

Hello,

I am responding to the request for comments re: therapeutic qualifications as received yesterday.

1. Yes, clearly the public would benefit from having the whole optometric community more highly qualified.
2. Yes, the optometric care of the public should, in fairness, be equal, no matter which optometrist is consulted.
3. If the profession is to move forward, unequivocallyYES
4. A period of "grace" is essential. The needs of senior optometrists with many years experience must be considered. I am 56 years old, expect to practice for at least another 10 years, and as such would like to complete the Therapeutic Qualifications soon. I feel that a five year period of grace would be appropriate.
5. Overseas trained optometrists should also have the same period of grace as determined for locally trained...ie if a line was drawn in the sand as of 1/1/12, that 5 years is the accepted period of grace, then ALL optometrists, no matter where they have been trained, should have the appropriate training. It must also be considered, how this training will be made accessible to the 3200 optometrists who will require it. Currently in NSW, the opportunity to gain endorsement is quite limited.
6. It would seem unnecessary for some of these non clinical roles to hold the therapeutic qualifications, but this needs to be debated.
7. As previously mentioned, facilities need to be available for the large numbers of Optometrists who would seek the qualification. Also, consideration needs to be given to the various groups, such as senior practitioners who might be seeking retirement in the next few years.

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