

**Subject:** my response on therapeutic qualifications  
**Date:** Friday, 28 January 2011 11:26:14 PM

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## To The Board

By and large I welcome any effort to upgrade Optometry. However related registration is another thing. Any alteration needs to be done with caution to make sure that upgrading in some respects is not done at the loss of experience.

The "therapeutic" treatment of many eye conditions in the past & now has often been-

- 1) Left untreated in the hope of resolution
- 2) Self treated (often with over-the-counter products)
- 3) Pharmacist treated
- 4) G.P. treated
- 5) Someother way e.g. Hospital Emergency etc.

Up until now this seems to have worked pretty well. The public interest has been cared for.

There is bound to be some reaction from "Ophthalmology". They could easily reorganise & speed this service by using nurses/orthoptists more selectively. Any cost is often not directly borne by the patient ---- medicare and private health funds usually intervene thereby removing any incentive to shop-around. Be careful! Like all things, time moves on for Optometry too but take care that any quick changes to registration does not go too far in removing well trained practitioners of the past before they would naturally move out of the profession..

A period of grace, say 15years combined with a "Grandfather" clause may be needed to maintain experience and stil encourage upgrading.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Faulds