Is There Benefit In Requesting All Optometrist's Be Eligible for Endorsement?
Yes, all education is of personal value - none goes to waste.

Is This A Reasonable Expectation Of Optometrists?
No, it is not needed for those practising with Ophthalmologists in hospital;clinics
with an endorsed Optometrist within 35 Ks of an Ophthalmologist

Therapeutic Qualifications should be required in Australia, but not as is presently planned. A less comprehensive system will allow dilation for diabetes, miotic pupils and optical side effects of prescribed medication.

A period of grace is required regarding the present poor access to courses. Previous simple, local courses were adequate; otherwise compensation for loss of earnings is necessary.

A competence assessment is required for overseas Optometrists, and for Australian Optometrists who did therapeutics since 1980 and who continue to so practice.

Administrators, research, regulatory Optometrists and those in clinics where Ophthalmologists do the therapeutics, should do the course for educational reasons, but not be required to be assessed for competency in practise.

Impediments to therapeutics:
  . The present courses are too cumbersome
    favour young Optometrists who have no experience
    have no texts for pre-reading
    offer no scholarships or accommodation
    discourage remote Optometrists
    require competency with equipment unlikely to be available in practice, in small aircraft or 4WD.
  . To deregister any of W.A.'s 15 VOS Optometrists for any cause is unreasonable. Those without therapeutics have already done a course appropriate to outback aboriginal culture and health. Subsequent supervision by Margie O'Neill is sufficient.
  . If Therapeutics is to be comprehensive it should include units in 'Aboriginal Health' and 'The Prevention of Thrifty Gene Type 2 Diabetes'. Hard Copy lists of the ocular side effects of Prescribed Medicants' would be helpful.