I feel that Therapeutic endorsement is a good idea for any people seeking new registration whether internally via optometry schools or from overseas. I do not believe currently registered Optoms within Australia should be required to achieve such endorsement however.

1) It is not practical to try and get endorsement for the more than 3000 optoms currently not endorsed.

2) Many Optoms may not be in a position to be able to afford the time and cost to seek therapeutic endorsement.

3) Natural attrition will eventually mean that the current 2 tiered system will eventually become a single tiered system and so eventually there will be no need for forced endorsement.

4) Requiring all currently registered Optoms to seek endorsement could cause the early retirement of a significant proportion of the optometric workforce and this would leave the Australian public in a very dire position. It would also cause significantly greater strain on the current workforce.

John Cronin