

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject: re therapeutics as a requirement for general registration  
Date: Wednesday, 2 February 2011 3:07:39 PM

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**The proposed changes to optometric registration with therapeutics endorsement as a prerequisite, whilst not alarming, pose logistical difficulties for us 80% of the profession yet to undertake the necessary qualifications. I offer some questions/points below for your consideration:**

**- how much benefit to the Australian community as a whole is there in shoe horning the remaining 3,200 practitioners yet to be endorsed therapeutically into the qualifications necessary to become suitably endorsed?**

**- If the 800 practitioners that are endorsed have had their qualification over a 5-6 year period, how can the profession provide education for the remaining 3,200 to upgrade and ensure the uniformity desired for (by 2014) without the education being somewhat compromised? Would the future therapeutics courses provide the same theoretical & practical (rounds) experience as those 800 who are endorsed previously had? Or would some rationalisation occur due to the numbers that need to be funnelled through?**

**- would Australian optometrists' qualifications be put ahead of overseas optometrists' needs given the uniformity that is being aimed for?**

**I agree that therapeutics is the next level of knowledge if you like for our profession, and there needs to be a move to uniformity in this sense throughout the profession. My concerns, as expressed above, are that there will be a more rushed approach to move 80% of the profession into the same space as the endorsed 20% and the logistics of this move. If these concerns can be addressed, I would be happier with the move. From conversations with various optometrists already endorsed, I had the ballpark timeline of 2018-2020. The year**

**2014 is at best a tight fit, and if I were a cynic, I would venture that some (I emphasise some, not all) of the therapeutically endorsed were in a way coralling the other 80% in a rushed manner, the rationale of which I can not understand.**

**I hope that this assists in your consultative process. I would be surprised if the above were not recurring themes/questions.**

**Kind regards,**

**George Ploumidis  
Locum Optometrist**