

To whom it may concern,

My position is that therapeutic qualifications should NOT be a condition of registration.

There are many of us, less vocal, who have not seen the need to “play doctor”.

I wish to be brief, so here are my bullet points.

- 1) A gradual structure, suitable to we who are eking out a living, might attract more participation.
An “all or none” course is not affordable in either money or time off.
- 2) It is easy to scoff at our arguments, as either backward thinking, or negative, but , bullying those who have chosen a traditional mode of practice, by creating a “second class” of optometrist, is not what you would expect from a civilised profession.
- 3) By focusing on this one issue, (seemingly at the expense of our traditional roles) we are now left with a profession, that is, reliant on large, unsympathetic companies, for the bulk of our employment, forced into extended retail trading hours, and open to the same litigation as other professionals earning many times the income we do!
- 4) Why should we be embarrassed by our traditional skills, i.e. accurate refractions, detection and prompt referral of eye disease, and the non-medical, non- surgical management of vision?

Thank you

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