

Subject: Therapeutic Qualification
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I am not convinced that in general circumstances there is any public benefit in requiring all optometrists to be eligible for therapeutic endorsement and or such a requirement is a reasonable expectation of optometrists. At present I consider optometrists should have the right to pursue therapeutic qualifications if they wish and should not be compelled to follow this path.

Hence all optometrists holding general registration should not be required to hold therapeutic qualifications.

From 2014 the number of optometrists holding therapeutic qualifications will gradually increase and by the year 2050

to a greater number of optometrists without therapeutic qualifications.

2050 should be the time for the Board to continue the current registration system for Australian trained optometrists

and to require overseas trained optometrists to have therapeutic qualifications for registration. The Board could provide

ten years notice that this requirement for overseas trained optometrists would be mandatory.

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