

Subject: Therapeutic Qualification.  
 Date: Sunday, 30 January 2011 2:05:33 PM

---

To whom it may concern

I would like to respond to the Optometry Board of Australia's proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as a requirement for general registration.

My personal views are that it **SHOULD NOT BE MANDATORY** in order to obtain registration for the following reasons;

- 1.) I graduated in 1982. I do realise that optometry as a profession has, and does need to change, however if I was keen on following a career in which I was 'directly responsible' for prescribing medications and being 'directly involved' in a patient's health management, more than what is currently expected of Optometrist's, I would have considered medicine as a career.
- 2.) I have not studied for close to 30 years now and feel it is most unfair to expect someone of my age to have to study something as challenging as therapeutics.  
That should not be interpreted as my not wanting to continue learning, to grow and be aware of changes, advancements and new developments in our profession.  
I fully support CPD as being necessary for registration, if you look at my track record you will see that particularly over the last 2 years I have accrued more points than what is currently required of Optometrist's, and will continue doing so.
- 3.) I feel that by making therapeutic registration mandatory **will be denying practitioner's such as myself the ability to earn a wage!**
- 4.) **I PERSONALLY DO NOT WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF OPTOMETRIST'S BY BECOMING THERAPEUTICALLY QUALIFIED.** Once again, if I had so desired I would have considered medicine as a career.
- 5.) A point I feel that should be raised is that in its current form Medicare does not appropriately remunerate Optometrist's for their current skills and equipment and testing that is available to us in practice.  
How will Medicare adequately remunerate those practitioner's that are therapeutically endorsed?
- 6.) I enjoy the scope that optometry offers in its current form and honestly believe that even without being therapeutically qualified I am looking after my patient's needs with utmost care and responsibly so.
- 7.) Given that I practice in an urban area, I believe that should my patient's need medical intervention I have sufficient choice to refer to either to a General Practitioner or Ophthalmologist. Perhaps in rural areas the need to be therapeutically endorsed is of more value.
- 8.) I believe there should perhaps be 2 permanent levels of registration, one for those practitioners who are therapeutically endorsed and one for those who are not, patient's having the choice of which practitioner to consult.

I do realise that these are both exciting and challenging times for our profession.

I am not against change. I do however feel that practitioner's such as myself need to be heard and our needs be taken into account when making what is going to be a big decision on the OBA's part.

Thanking You  
 Yours Sincerely  
 Larry Rodkin.