

Subject: optometry and therapeutics
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To whom it may concern,

Much has been written and discussed about the benefits, adviseability and necessity of mandatory therapeutics for Registration for Optometrists. From a personal perspective I don't see any great advantage. When you factor in the time, cost and study involved -add in the extra responsibility- and consider any increase in income, Why would you bother?

Considering the Governments' slow devaluation of Medicare rebates over many years, and the reluctance to keep pace with cost of living, how long is it going to take for an optometrist to recoup the cost of the therapeutics course? Not to mention the time away from work.

There is currently a shortage of regional optometrists, many of whom are approaching an age where they would be considering retirement. Coercing optometrists into a therapeutic endorsement for registration would be forcing them out of optometry, myself included.

The latest information from the Optometry Board Australia is that " no one will be forced to undertake a therapeutic qualification in order to continue to practice". I am happy with that. Allow those that have the therapeutics qualification to use it, but don't make therapeutics a pre requisite for registration. Ever.

William Payne