

From: _____
To: _____
Date: Sunday, 25 September 2011 12:32:23 PM

RE: Registration standards for general registration and limited registration

I would like to express my opinion regarding the proposed changes to the general registration standards for 2014. I personally do not agree with the notation on an optometrist's registration stating that they do not have therapeutic endorsement by this date.

I studied long and hard to complete my undergraduate degree with first class honours, but unfortunately graduated just two years before therapeutics was introduced to the course. I decided not to do the therapeutics grad cert straight away while I settled into full time work, moving out of home etc.

Now I am going overseas for two years to complete a Master's Degree at Kyoto University. I will be conducting research into glaucoma with the ophthalmology department at Kyoto University. Because of this, when I return to Australia, I will invariably have this 'notation' placed on my registration as I will not have time to complete the therapeutic course by 2014. It is disappointing to me that I will feel labelled and may be judged by potential employers on my return to Australia as a less than adequate optometrist. The reality, however, is that I will still be an extremely dedicated optometrist and will have specialist knowledge in glaucoma.

I will certainly do the graduate certificate after completing my Master's Degree and believe it is important for optometrists to become therapeutically qualified. I believe 2014 is too soon to be making notations on optometrist's registrations, however. I believe this should happen by 2020 to give optometrists adequate time to complete the qualifications without any 'penalty' whatsoever. While a notation on an optometrist's registration might not seem like a penalty, I believe it is degrading to the optometrist's reputation and may affect employability.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.