

**Subject:** Mandatory Therapeutics  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 February 2011 9:06:36 PM

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Dear Sir / Madam

The proposal that Therapeutics be made a mandatory component for general registration as an Optometrist is excessive for the practice of Optometry.

Just as GP's have different specialties and training eg. Obstetrics or Anaesthetics, some have no extra qualification but still provide a worthwhile service to the community. Their association must have these variances registered in some manner.

As I work in a practice where my associate is endorsed, I feel there is no great need for me to spend the \$10,000 and the time required out of the practice to gain my endorsement. If one of my patients requires a therapeutic agent they are reviewed by my associate who writes the required prescription and the follow-up where needed.

My specialty is in contact lenses so I do more further education in this area.

I completed Part A including the exams in 1998 in Queensland but because this was prior to the full course being finalised, I was expected to do it all again when I shifted to Victoria as they would not recognise this as worth any credit.

As I have been a full-time practicing Optometrist for 24 years I am not that far from part-time work and retirement so gaining therapeutic endorsement would be a lot of work for a relatively short period of time of work. I feel I can still provide a very important service to my community especially as I am country-located practitioner.

Your faithfully,  
Judy Wicks