



29 January 2012

Mr Colin Waldron  
Chair  
Optometry Board of Australia

Dear Colin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the Optometry Board of Australia's *Guidelines for Use of Scheduled Medicines*.

Through its regional and rural recruitment and placement programs, among other educational interventions, Deakin Optometry aims to address the inequity of eye care services that exists for those that live remote to the country's major centres.

Optometrists serve as primary eye care providers and, when compared with ophthalmologists, are capable of achieving substantially greater 'reach' into smaller communities. Over the past decade or so, optometrists have been educated, trained and endorsed to deliver, both independently and in a co-managed setting, effective and efficient services in situations requiring therapeutic agents.

The proposed changes to the *Guidelines for Use of Scheduled Medicines* formally empower optometrists to be able to initiate or modify medical treatment for glaucoma and, as the Foundation Director of Optometry at Deakin University, I am keen to endorse these guidelines for the benefit of Australia's regional and rural communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harrison Weisinger".

**Professor Harrison Weisinger**  
Foundation Director and Chair in Optometry