

# Annual Report

1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005



Optometrists and  
Dispensing Opticians Board

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## Foreword from the Chair

*This annual report covers the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005.*

During this time the Board has met formally 3 times. There have been 3 teleconferences.

This past year has been possibly the busiest year on record for an optometrists and dispensing opticians registration authority.

The Board has had to implement the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. It has handled the highest number of new registrations in any one year and has conducted the first Annual Practising Certificate renewals under the new Act.

By and large these processes have gone smoothly. There have been some issues that have been frustrating to the Board, most notably attempting to get information from the UK optometry teaching institutions that would enable the Board to provide an exemption to the written component of the Department of Optometry and Vision Science The University of Auckland Endorsement in Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents to registered MBCO/MCOptom holders.

The optometry profession will recall the reasons the Board has required all optometrists to undergo a recertification programme in order to be proficient in the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents.

The Board along with the New Zealand Association of Optometrists submitted to the Health Select Committee that when a member of the public presents to an optometrist with blurry vision and has an eye examination, the optometrist who does the examining is able to make a diagnosis i.e. optometrists are trained and able to diagnose eye disease (and make diagnoses of exclusion). It was made clear that some asymptomatic eye diseases lead to an irreversible loss of vision, and further, that the cost of preventable blindness could be significant.

By virtue of these arguments a restricted activity is soon to be enacted that will help to protect the health and safety of the public's sight by ensuring that the prescribing of an ophthalmic appliance, optical appliance or ophthalmic medical device intended for remedial or cosmetic purposes or for the correction of a defect of sight can only be undertaken by a registered health practitioner with a scope of practice which includes that activity.

However, there is a price to pay. The optometry profession must be able to deliver what it says it can do.

Simply, this means, (and not to the exclusion of other facets of the profession), that all optometrists must be proficient in techniques that facilitate diagnosis.

Nearly all optometrists have seen the relevance of embracing this philosophy and see the need for passing an established standard of proficiency.

Optical dispensing has faced similar challenges to those of optometry. It has developed its clinical competencies and standards of ethical conduct and is in the process of establishing its continuing professional development procedures.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable input into Board affairs by Vivian Edgar, Deputy Chair who has been hugely involved in the competency review process and the general running of Board business; Annette Keleher in chairing the CPD Accreditation Committee and developing the draft cultural competencies document; Joanne Ryan for developing the optical dispensing clinical competencies and the CPD accreditation process; Michael Blackman who developed the ethical conduct document for optical dispensing and Michael Firmston, Carrick Lewis and George Lazaridis for their ongoing general and relevant contribution to Board affairs. I would also like to specifically acknowledge Denise Nelson, Registrar and Jenny Lee, Deputy Registrar for their continued hard work and commitment.

**Peter Grimmer**

Chair

## Board Staff

Jenny Lee joined the Board in August of 2004 and under the HPCA Act has been appointed Deputy Registrar. Jenny's background is in administration. She came to the Board from the New Zealand Medical Association.

Under the HPCA Act Denise Nelson was appointed the Board's full time Registrar.

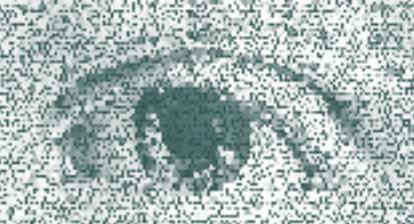
## Membership of the Board

As at 31 March 2005 the Board membership comprised:

- Four registered optometrists
- Three registered dispensing opticians
- Three other persons (none of whom is a registered optometrist or registered dispensing optician).

The Minister of Health appoints the members of the Board by notice published in the Gazette. Board members attend meetings and undertake Board activities as independent persons responsible to the Board as a whole. Members are not appointed as representatives of any professional organisation, but for their expertise and general experience. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are required by the Act to be elected by the Board at its first meeting of each calendar year.

The Act enables the Board to determine the remuneration, allowances and expenses to be paid to members of the Board and its committees. The Board considers that members should not contribute their time to Board business for no recompense, but this needs to be balanced against the element of voluntary contribution inherent in serving on the Board, with remuneration at a rate fairly reflecting that balance. Members' fees for the year accounted for 23.9% of the Board's expenditure for 2004/2005.



**Individual claims for each Board member were:**

Peter Grimmer ( <i>Chairperson</i> )	Optometrist	\$25,011.25
Vivian Edgar ( <i>Deputy Chairperson</i> )	Optometrist	17,820.00
Michael Blackman	Dispensing Optician	\$5,010.00
Hamish Caithness ( <i>until November 2004</i> )	Optometrist	\$4,560.00
Michael Firmston	Dispensing Optician	\$2,850.00
Annette Keleher	Optometrist	\$6,360.00
George Lazaridis	Layperson	\$6,015.00
Carrick Lewis	Layperson	\$10,505.00
Joanne Ryan	Dispensing Optician	\$4,095.00
Jennifer Tamehana ( <i>Appointed December 2003 and resigned 12 May 2004 for personal reasons</i> )	Layperson	no claims made
Sashi Meanger ( <i>Appointed October 2004</i> )	Lay person	\$720.00
<b>Total Claims</b>		<b>\$82,946.25</b>

This year saw the departure of Hamish Caithness from the Board. A short tribute to Hamish's contribution to the Board appears below:

Hamish Caithness came onto the Board in 1995 and completed the maximum 9-year term as permitted by statute. He spent 4 of those 9 years as Chair, inheriting early on, a young and inexperienced Board.

Hamish lead the Board through a number of turbulent times including the High Court case that dealt with the infamously drafted section 45 (da) of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Act 1976 that cast ambiguity over who may "fit" contact lenses. In addition he oversaw the Board's submissions on the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Bill and co-presented the Board's views to the Health Select Committee before the Bill became law. He was involved in the joint submission process to the New Prescribers Advisory Committee for optometrists to independently prescribe medicines.

Hamish performed his role on the Board with enormous personal credit. He is blessed with an astute mind and was able to see the "big picture" along with a very good eye for detail. He was an excellent communicator, able to draw the best out of all Board members and he had a very good sense of fair play.

The Board, optometry and optical dispensing all benefited from his leadership.

Jennifer Tamihana, a lay appointment to the Board in December 2003, was unable to take up her position, citing significant personal family reasons. This left the Board without a third lay member for most of this year. We are pleased to note however the appointment of Sashi Meanger in October 2004. Sashi comes to the Board with considerable experience in communication and management.

### Members of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board



**Standing from left:** Denise Nelson (Registrar), Michael Blackman, Sashi Meanger, Michael Firmston, Carrick Lewis, John McLennan (Board member from May 2005), George Lazaridis, Annette Keleher, Jenny Lee, (Deputy Registrar)  
**Seated from left:** Vivian Edgar, Peter Grimmer, Joanne Ryan

## Registration and Registration Data

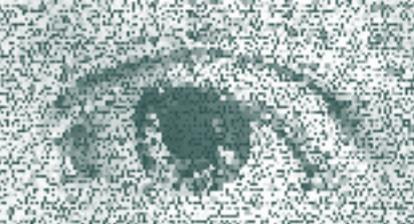
### Registration Statistics – Optometrists

There were one hundred and sixty nine optometrists registered by the Board between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005. This included:

- 4 from Australia (registering under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997)
- 4 having passed the Competency in Optometry Examination
- 122 from the United Kingdom
- 35 from New Zealand
- 1 from Canada (Educator Optometrist)
- 3 from the USA (Educator Optometrists).

They held the following qualifications:

- Bachelor of Optometry (University of Auckland)
- A pass in the Competency in Optometry Examination
- Membership of the British College of Optometrists (MBCO)
- Membership of the College of Optometrists (MCOptom)
- Doctor of Optometry (USA/Canada applicants in the Educator Optometrist scope of practice)
- Registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997.



## Registration Statistics – Dispensing Opticians

There were twenty-two dispensing opticians registered between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005. This included:

- 12 with the Australian qualification
- 1 registered under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997
- 9 from the United Kingdom.

They held the following qualifications:

- Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing
- Advanced Certificate in Optical Dispensing
- Fellow of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO)
- Registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997.

## Register Statistics as at 31 March 2005

Total number of optometrists on the Register of Optometrists	1292
Total number of optometrists holding an Annual Practising Certificate	660
Total number of dispensing opticians on the Register of Dispensing Opticians	219
Total number of dispensing opticians holding an Annual Practising Certificate	131

## Legislation

### Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

The date of the Royal Assent of this legislation was the 18 September 2003, and the legislation came into force on the 18 September 2004.

## Activities of the Board

### Board functions

The purpose of the Board is to protect the health and safety of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that optometrists and dispensing opticians are competent and fit to practise their professions.

The Board has 4 areas of specific responsibility

1. It must set standards of clinical competence, cultural competence and ethical conduct. It must prescribe qualifications for the scopes of practice it has set and for that purpose it must accredit and monitor teaching institutions
2. It must maintain a register and consider applications for Annual Practising Certificates

3. It must review and promote the competence of optometrists and dispensing opticians including promoting education and training
4. It must receive and act on information about the competence of health practitioners especially where that practitioner poses a risk of harm to the public.

## HPCA Act implementation activities

- **Clinical competence, cultural competence and standards of ethical conduct**

Over the past year the Board, through its consultation processes, has been able to continue developing standards of clinical competence, cultural competence and standards of ethical conduct to be observed by the professions. These competencies will soon be on the Board's website and will be able to be downloaded. They are considered to be "working documents" – i.e. they remain open to comment and review – if you have any commentary to make at any time, please contact the Board office.

Board website: <http://www.optometristsboard.org.nz> or [www.dispensingopticiansboard.org.nz](http://www.dispensingopticiansboard.org.nz)

- **Qualifications**

*Overseas qualifications:* The outcome of the Cole Report, commissioned by the Board, indicated that it was no longer appropriate for the Board to accept without assessment UK trained optometrists. The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) carry out the assessment of overseas trained optometrists on the Board's behalf (noting that this function is one of the two key functions that OCANZ has). The Board recognises through its consultation processes, particularly with the NZAO, that the written component of the OCANZ competency assessment process is onerous. The Board sought to discuss these issues with OCANZ and this resulted in the written component of the assessment being made available in the UK and South Africa. Further, the assessment, both written and practical have been made available twice a year. It has been agreed that the length and content of the written papers will be reviewed within the next year.

*Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agent Recertification Programme:* The Board at the 31<sup>st</sup> March was in negotiation with the Department of Optometry and Vision Science to establish the didactic component of the programme.

- **Continuing professional development (CPD)**

*Optometrists:* the Board as outlined in the recent CPD Newsletter has established the contract with the Board's CPD recorders, established a CPD Accreditation Committee and robust protocols for the accreditation of CPD events.

*Dispensing Opticians:* the Board is undergoing a similar process with optical dispensing that should be fully operational for the 2007 Annual Practising Certificate renewals.

- **Competence review**

The Board has initiated the formulation of the competency review process. It held a competency review workshop early this year facilitated by the Medical Council, which has a wealth of experience in this area.



- **Restricted activities**

The restricted activities enactment process under section 8 of the HPCA Act has been a frustrating and drawn out affair. The Board met, along with other interested authorities, with the Ministry of Health in March to discuss the enactment of these restricted activities. Of the six proposed restricted activities, the prescribing of an ophthalmic or optical appliance or medical device intended for remedial or cosmetic purposes or for the correction of a defect of sight appears to be the least controversial. The Board looks forward to a prompt resolution of the concerns that have held up the enactment of a very necessary piece of legislation to protect the health and safety of the public.

### **Optometrists prescribing therapeutic agents**

The Board and NZAO met with the Ministry of Health in December 2004 to discuss the implementation of optometry prescribing medicines. An assurance was given at this meeting that implementation could be achieved by July 2005. This implementation has not been forthcoming for a number of reasons: the time taken to present the optometry prescribing paper to Cabinet, the time required for the writing of the Regulations and their approval, the capacity of HealthPAC to collect the information the Board requires to monitor optometrists prescribing topical steroids, the requirements of setting up the process by which a person receiving a prescription from an optometrist prescriber will get a subsidised medicine if eligible that includes discussions with PHARMAC (who control the Pharmaceutical Budget) (a process the Ministry of Health is very keen to see happen), and the impending election. The Board remains optimistic that optometrists will be prescribing by the end of the year.

### **Council of Optometry Registration Authorities (CORA)**

CORA (which includes representatives of the optometry registration authorities in New Zealand and Australia) meets yearly. Key issues facing CORA this year have been the incorporation of CORA and the formalisation of CORA funding agreements that will then enable the New South Wales Board to become a funding member. Up until now the NSW Board has not been a participant in the funding of CORA because of its relationship with the Health Administration Corporation in that State, so exposing the NSW state government to liability.

### **Health Regulatory Authorities of New Zealand**

HRANZ came into being this year. Its membership includes representatives of all health registration authorities in New Zealand and provides a forum for matters of common interest as well as capacity to make representations. There have been two meetings this year.

## **Finance**

Please note: The \$85,803 deficit includes:

- Part of the yearly payment to the NZAO for the CPD recording (this was for \$37,500). The Annual Practising Certificate revenue, which includes an amount to cover the contractual fee to the NZAO, appears in the next financial year
- A one off payment of \$16,036 for the report by Professor Cole entitled 'An assessment of British qualifications in optometry for the purposes of registration in New Zealand'.



## AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE OPTOMETRISTS AND DISPENSING OPTICIANS BOARD

We have audited the Financial Statements consisting of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Movements in Equity, Statement of Financial Position and Notes to the Financial Statements. The Financial Statements provide information about the past performance of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board and its financial position as at 31 March 2005. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

### Board's Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for the preparation of Financial Statements, which gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board as at 31 March 2005 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31 March 2005.

### Auditor's Responsibilities

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the Financial Statements presented by the Board and report our opinion to you.

### Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. It also includes assessing:

- The significant estimates and judgements made by the Board in the preparation of the Financial Statements ; and
- Whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Financial Statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the Financial Statements.

Other than in our capacity as Auditors, we have no relationship with or interest in the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board.

### Unqualified Opinion

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required.

In our opinion:

- Proper accounting records have been kept by the Board as far as appears from our examination of those records; and
- The Financial Statements:
  - comply with generally accepted accounting practice; and
  - give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board as at 31 March 2005 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

Our audit was completed on 31 August 2005 and our unqualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Martin Jarvie PKF  
Chartered Accountants  
WELLINGTON

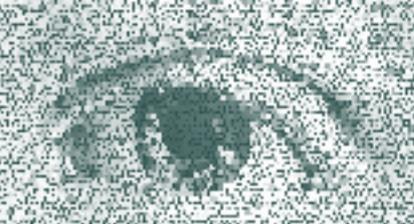
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Graham T. Langridge

Robert A. Elms

*Independent Member of PKF International*



**STATEMENT  
OF FINANCIAL  
PERFORMANCE**

**for the year ended  
31 March 2005**

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Registration Fees	43,915	29,960
Annual Practising Certificates	196,437	174,404
Interest Income	20,150	20,573
Other Income	267	242
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>260,769</b>	<b>225,179</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Advertising	191	100
Audit Fees	1,200	1,125
Bank Charges	2,750	2,248
Board Members Fees	74,883	42,368
Committee Fees	4,520	1,420
Conferences/Seminars	534	653
Catering	3,654	1,289
Training/Workshops	1,143	–
General Expenses	257	290
Hire of Plant & Equipment	874	353
Room Hire	175	–
Legal Fees	25,194	6,534
HPDT-Establishment Costs	267	–
Postage	6,929	5,023
Printing & Stationery	19,847	9,683
Professional Fees	53,991	9,265
Publications	852	416
Service Charges	110,122	80,208
OCANZ Fee	13,348	16,366
Telephone	4,479	2,473
Travel & Accommodation – NZ	18,637	11,684
Travelling Expenses – Australia	2,224	3,121
Travel Non-Deductable	501	574
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>346,572</b>	<b>195,193</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(85,803)</b>	<b>29,986</b>

**STATEMENT  
OF MOVEMENTS  
IN EQUITY**

**for the year ended  
31 March 2005**

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Equity at Beginning of Year	289,959	259,973
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(85,803)	29,986
<b>EQUITY AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>204,156</b>	<b>289,959</b>

The attached NOTES form part of these Financial Statements

# 2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at  
31 March 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<b>EQUITY</b>	204,156	289,959
<b>Represented By:</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Accrued Income	1,451	4,061
Westpac Cheque Account	62,082	76,634
Westpac Term Deposits	534,801	397,040
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>598,334</b>	<b>477,735</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>598,334</b>	<b>477,735</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Income in Advance	323,991	153,192
Accounts Payable	38,354	15,568
GST Payable	31,833	19,016
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>394,178</b>	<b>187,776</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>394,178</b>	<b>187,776</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>204,156</b>	<b>289,959</b>

For and on behalf of the Board

Chairperson:



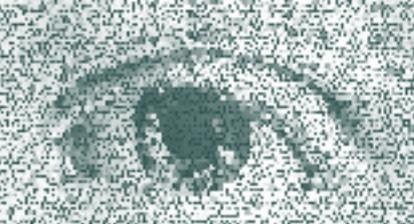
Date: 31/08/2005

Registrar:



Date: 31/08/2005

The attached NOTES form part of these Financial Statements



## NOTES TO THE 2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### REPORTING ENTITY

The Board is constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993.

The Board qualifies for differential reporting as it is not publicly accountable and is not large. The Board has taken advantage of all applicable differential reporting exemptions.

#### GENERAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Measurement base adopted is that of historical cost. Reliance is placed on the fact that the business is a going concern.

Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenues.

#### CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

All accounting policies are unchanged and have been consistently applied.

#### SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Annual Practising Certificate Income

Annual Practising Certificate Income is recorded only upon receipt. No Accounts Receivable are recognised and receipts for Annual Practising Certificates issued for future years are shown as Income Received in Advance.

#### Goods & Services Tax

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a tax exclusive basis with the exception of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable which include GST.

#### Investments

Investments are recognised at cost. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis where appropriate.

#### Income Tax

The Board has been granted Charitable Status by the Inland Revenue Department. Therefore, under exemption CB4(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act 1994 the Board is exempt from Income Tax.

### 2. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

A contractual liability of \$145,550 (2004: \$160,416) exists to the Registration Boards Secretariat Limited regarding service charges for the next one year. A contractual liability for \$75,000 due within one year and \$112,500 due greater than one year (2004: \$Nil) exists to NZAO regarding professional services, until the end of October 2007.

### 3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no transactions involving related parties during the year, other than those already disclosed elsewhere in these Financial Statements.

## Contacting the Board

#### The Board's office is located at:

Level 21, Grand Plimmer Tower  
2-6 Gilmer Terrace  
Wellington

**Tel:** (64) (4) 474 0705

**Fax:** (64) (4) 472 2350

**E-mail:** oanddo@regboards.co.nz

**Web:** [www.optometristsboard.org.nz](http://www.optometristsboard.org.nz) and  
[www.dispensingopticiansboard.org.nz](http://www.dispensingopticiansboard.org.nz)

#### All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Registrar  
Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board  
P O Box 10-140  
Wellington

#### Secretariat Staff:

Denise Nelson (Registrar)  
Jenny Lee (Deputy Registrar)