

**MEETING OF THE OPTOMETRISTS & DISPENSING OPTICIANS BOARD
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM AT LEVEL 5, 22 WILLESTON STREET,
WELLINGTON
AT 9.00 AM ON FRIDAY THE 4TH OF AUGUST 2017**

Meeting Attendees:

Chairperson: Jennifer Craig

Optometrist Members: Jennifer Craig, Ross Tayler, Jayesh Chouhan, Annette Morgan

Dispensing Optician Members: Lorraine Helson, Kristine Hammond

Lay Members: Joanne Talbot, Irene Durham

Board staff in attendance:

Registrar: Lindsey Pine

Deputy Registrar: Annette McCoy

Administrator: Laura Leatham

Minute taker: Jacqui Devery

Summary of key meeting decisions/matters discussed:

Pearson English Test

The Board received a report from Board member, Ross Tayler, on his experience of the Pearson English Test and whether a pass in this test may be acceptable for registration purposes. Ross, having sat the Occupational English Test (OET) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) previously on behalf of the Board, noted that while the Pearson English Test was very different from the other two tests in that it is solely a computer test with no face-to-face examination involved, he considers that it would be perfectly adequate in assessing English language for the purposes of registration in New Zealand, and therefore, recommended that the Board add this test to the list of English language tests approved for registration.

Following careful consideration of Ross' report and comparative information regarding the three tests, resolved to accept Ross' recommendation and accept the Pearson English Test as acceptable for English language purposes for registration as an optometrist or dispensing optician in New Zealand. The Board further resolved that the minimum pass marks for registration for this test will be 70 overall, with a minimum of 65 in each section.

Glaucoma guidelines review

The Board received a verbal update from the Board Chair on how work is progressing with the Working Party established to undertake an initial review of the Board's Glaucoma Guidelines.

The Chair indicated that the working group held a recent teleconference and is in the process of developing an anonymous survey for current glaucoma-prescribers to complete, to assess how the guidelines are working and garner as much information as possible to support them. Following that, the group will arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss the feedback and determine whether to propose any changes to the guidelines, for recommendation to the Board.

The Board noted, with interest, this update and indicated that it was looking forward to hearing the outcome of the glaucoma-prescriber survey and receiving recommendations for change from the Working Party.

Application for accreditation of Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing offered by the Australasian College of Optical Dispensing

The Board received a report from independent accreditation assessor, John Billings, on his assessment of the College's application for accreditation of the Certificate IV course as acceptable for registration as a Dispensing Optician in New Zealand.

John's report concluded that the course is well organised, the tutors experienced, and the methods of delivery, standard of teaching, and examination thorough and fair. John indicated that the course appeared to cover all of

the core clinical competencies necessary for safe practice as a Dispensing Optician in New Zealand, and therefore, recommended that the Board proceed to consultation on accrediting the course.

The Board resolved, following careful consideration of John's report, to compliment the College on the quality of its course and to consult on a proposal to accredit it, including a requirement for graduates to complete 800 hours in their log book prior to application. The Board further resolved that should the course proceed to be accredited following consultation, that on account of its recency, the course would be next reviewed/reaccredited after 3 years (rather than 5 years), as recommended by John Billings.

Accreditation of Deakin & Flinders University Optometry Programs

The Board received updates from the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) on the status of conditions imposed on the accreditation of these two optometry programs.

In reference to Deakin's accreditation, the Board was pleased to learn that a range of the conditions required of the Deakin program have been addressed in part or in full. The Board noted that the OCANZ Accreditation Committee is continuing to monitor that students undertaking the course are provided with extensive clinical experience in a range of settings, and for management of a wide range of patient presentations including across special clinical areas (including paediatrics, contact lenses, low vision and ocular therapeutics).

In reference to Flinders' accreditation, the Board noted with concern that the condition previously imposed on Flinders regarding understaffing of the program relative to student numbers was still yet to be met, but was reassured that the Accreditation Committee had requested a further report on this issue that was due in November 2017.

Recertification for optometrists

The Board received a paper on recertification from Board member, Ross Tayler, in contemplation of a review of the Recertification programme for optometrists.

Ross noted that currently most New Zealand health regulators use continuing professional development (CPD) activities to some degree to assure ongoing competence but he acknowledged that this did have its limitations. One of the biggest problems identified is the ability to ensure practitioners are completing their CPD, the quality of it, the breadth of it, and its translation into practice. It was noted that the success of this can be improved by assessing what has been learned and encouraging practitioners to make that part of their practice.

It was noted that one limitation around the Board's current recertification programme was that there was no express guidance or mandatory requirements around what of type of CPD must be completed.

The Board discussed the current programme and other possible recertification options. The Board resolved to establish a working group to look into possible changes to the Board's recertification programmes more closely, bearing in mind that whatever is implemented must be minimum standard, not gold standard. The Board further resolved that the working group would consist of the Board Chair, Ross Tayler (lead), Irene Durham, Annette Morgan and Kristine Hammond.

Any proposals for change to come out of this work will be consulted on widely before any final decisions are made.

Glaucoma recency

The Board discussed whether a minimum number of cases should be required to maintain competency in the management of glaucoma patients/cases, and by extension, glaucoma-approval with the Board, following some recent enquiries from glaucoma-prescribers on this subject.

The Board resolved to consider this as part of the review of the glaucoma guidelines, and to include a question about this in the glaucoma survey to go out to glaucoma prescribers shortly.