

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

Meeting Attendees:

Chairperson: Jennifer Craig

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

Dispensing Optician Members: Lorraine Helson, Kristine Hammond

Lay Members: Joanne Talbot

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:

Misleading use of titles

The Board considered concerns raised about titles being used on a website of an optometry practice. The website is using the term 'optician' in reference to both registered and unregistered persons which is misleading to members of the public. The term 'optician' no longer has legal standing in New Zealand following the enactment of the HPCA Act. This term was replaced by the use of 'Optometrist' and 'Dispensing Optician'. The use of 'optician' is also very close to the title of a registered health profession and therefore should not be used. The Board resolved to write to the practice advising that the Board considers use of that title to be misleading for the public and to bring to their attention that the Ministry of Health can take action if it considers it has the potential to mislead the public or if a member of the public complains.

Practitioner enquiry regarding removal of milia around the eye

The Board received an enquiry from a practitioner about whether removal of milia around the eye is part of the optometrist scope. The Board resolved that removal of milia was outside the scope of practice of optometry.

Driving Standards

The Board discussed the legal obligation on optometrists to report persons who do not meet the minimum requirements for driving and resolved to send an e-communication item to the profession reminding them of these legal obligations.

Spectacle & CL prescription enquiry

The Board received an enquiry from a dispensing optician regarding what details should be included in a spectacle or contact lens prescription when a patient asks for a copy of their prescription. They have received one from a patient that did not appear to conform to the Board's Standards of Clinical Competence. The Board resolved to write to the practitioner in question to highlight the Board's standards and also to review the current required prescription information section of the clinical standards for optometrists and dispensing opticians to ensure clarity and consistency.