

**MEETING OF THE OPTOMETRISTS & DISPENSING OPTICIANS BOARD
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM AT LEVEL 5, 22 WILLESTON STREET,
WELLINGTON
AT 9.00 AM ON FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2016**

Meeting Attendees:

Chairperson: Damian Koppens

Optometrist Members: Damian Koppens, Jennifer Craig, Ross Tayler, Jayesh Chouhan, Ross Tayler

Dispensing Optician Members: Lorraine Helson, Kristine Hammond

Lay Members: Joanne Talbot

Apologies: Irene Durham

Board staff in attendance:

Registrar: Lindsey Pine

Deputy Registrar: Annette McCoy

Minute taker: Linda Ford (Nursing Council of New Zealand)

Summary of key meeting decisions/matters discussed:

Oral medicine guidelines

The Board acknowledged that ophthalmologist input and review of its recently-published oral medicine guidelines was invaluable and the Board resolved to formally thank the contributing ophthalmologists for their contributions.

Standing Orders

The Board discussed optometrist use of Standing Orders and a few recent enquiries received regarding their use in practice. It was clear from the enquiries that optometrists need further information from the Board on the appropriate use of Standing Orders, so the Board resolved to publish a further e-communication item on Standing Orders that is more elementary and focusses on practical applications of a Standing Order more than the regulatory aspects.

Review of optometrist recertification programme

The Board discussed the need for a review of the Recertification programme for optometrists that was implemented in November 2010. The Board resolved that the Board's CPD Accreditation Committee (Optometrists) would lead this review, with the assistance of the Board's Professional Standards Advisor and Committee. Any suggestions for change will be consulted on widely.

Visual field instruments approved for glaucoma care

The Board received and discussed an enquiry from an optometrist about whether the Matrix FDT was an approved visual field instrument for glaucoma care. The Board confirmed that the Matrix FDT was *not* an approved visual field instrument and resolved that as part of the upcoming review of the glaucoma guidelines that a statement about which visual field instruments are not currently approved at this time be considered.

Changes to prescribed qualifications

The Board noted that between Board meetings the Board had resolved, following consultation, to prescribe a new qualification for registration within the Optometrist scope of practice – the *Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Optometry* offered by Deakin University, Australia. The prescribing of this qualification has since been published in the New Zealand Gazette.

In addition, between meetings, the Board resolved, following consultation, to approve the proposal to amend the FBDO qualification prescribed in the New Zealand Gazette for registration within the optical dispensing scope of practice, as follows:

- The applicant holds the qualification Fellowship Diploma of the Association of British Dispensing Optician (UK); or

- The applicant holds the qualification Fellowship Diploma of the Association of British Dispensing Optician (Malaysia) and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience, within two years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board.

This amendment has also since been published in the New Zealand Gazette.

Proposal to consult on disciplinary levy

The Board also noted that between meetings the Board had resolved not to propose any changes to APC fees for either profession for the 2017/18 practising year. The Board did, however, resolve to consult on a proposal to impose a small disciplinary levy on dispensing opticians of \$37 (incl. GST) in order to replenish discipline reserve levels over a three-year period. The consultation document for this proposal was published on the 31st of October 2016.

Elections

The Board discussed the impending conclusion of the current Board Chair's term on the Board at the end of the month and received nominations for the position of Board Chair. Deputy Chair, Jennifer Craig, was elected to the position of Board Chair effective from 1 December 2016. Nominations were then considered for the position of Deputy Chair and Board member, Jayesh Chouhan, was elected to this position effective from 1 December 2016.

Discipline cases

The Board noted that while no new cases had been referred to the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (the Tribunal) since the previous Board meeting, that the Tribunal had upheld the charge laid by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) investigating dispensing optician, Sarah Lucke, practising without a valid APC. The Tribunal ordered that Miss Lucke be censured, pay a fine of \$500, contribute \$1,500 towards PCC and Tribunal costs, that the decision be published on the Tribunal's website, the Board's website and in the Board's next e communication. The Tribunal is to provide the summary wording for the item to appear in the Board's e communication and on the Board's website.

ACO glaucoma course

The Board received an application from the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) for its *Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma* course to be approved by the Board as acceptable pre-requisite training for practitioners to be approved for independent glaucoma care. After careful consideration, the Board resolved to approve the ACO course for this purpose.

First Aid

The Board considered whether first aid training should become a compulsory component of the Board's two recertification programmes. The Board resolved not to make first aid training a compulsory requirement for the two recertification programmes at this time. Instead, the Board will strongly encourage the completion of first aid training, reminding practitioners of their responsibilities as health practitioners to ensure the safety of the public and of the requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Board resolved to allocate 4 general CPD points for attendance at first aid training lasting 8 hours', or half a point per hour up to 4 points for attendance at other first aid events or refresher training and to add this to the Board's CPD policies. The Board will publish an item on first aid in its next e-communication, highlighting specific courses and what points are available for attendance.

Vision standards

The Board considered a draft list of New Zealand vision standards for occupations compiled for publication on the Board's website. The Board resolved to approve this reference material and this is now available on the 'Reference material' page of the Board's website.

Consultation on optometry scopes of practice

The Board considered and confirmed final amendments needed to the draft consultation document on optometrist scope of practice prior to publication, and a timeline to decision and process for considering submissions. The Board resolved to publish the consultation document without further delay, giving the normal 6-weeks for response, and to consider submissions at the Board's February 2017 Board meeting.