

**MEETING OF THE OPTOMETRISTS & DISPENSING OPTICIANS BOARD
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM AT LEVEL 5, 22 WILLESTON STREET,
WELLINGTON
AT 9.00 AM ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 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: Irene Durham, Joanne Talbot

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:

Request for Cancellation Form

The Board approved a new 'Request for Cancellation' form which is to be completed by any practitioner who wishes to be removed from the Board's register.

HPDT Cases

The Board noted that one new case was referred to the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) by a Professional Conduct Committee since the last meeting, relating to a dispensing optician who was practising without a valid APC. The hearing of this case is to take place in September 2016.

Consultation on changes proposed to gazetted FBDO qualification

The Board agreed to the publication of a consultation document proposing to gazette two separate qualifications for Fellowship of the British Association of Dispensing Opticians (FBDO). This was in response to information indicating that those completing the qualification from Malaysia are not required to complete any clinical hours post-qualification before being awarded the FBDO. The consultation document is to be published shortly after the Board meeting and the Board looks forward to receiving feedback from practitioners and stakeholders.

Glaucoma supervision query

The Board received a practitioner's email enquiry requesting approval to supervise TPA optometrists completing their glaucoma hours.

The Board discussed the matter at length and decided that at this time, it is not open to approving this as it is still early days in terms of optometrists' independently managing glaucoma. However, the Board is currently reviewing the glaucoma guidelines and this issue will be further considered as part of this review. Practitioners and stakeholders will also be asked for their feedback as part of this review.

Glaucoma CPD

The Board received a CPD proposal from the Board's Professional Standards Advisor to assist rural/isolated glaucoma prescribers with their glaucoma CPD requirements. The Board agreed to accept the plan and to establish a small working group to progress the plan to implementation. The Board will update glaucoma prescribers as this CPD becomes available. The CPD will be available to all glaucoma prescribers, not just rural/isolated glaucoma prescribers.

Standards of Ethical Conduct for Optometrists

The Board resolved to co-ordinate a review the Board's Standards of Ethical Conduct for Optometrists. The Board is having an independent party review the standards and provide advice on them before undertaking the formal review. Practitioners and stakeholders will be advised of any proposed changes and asked for their input in due course.

Review of Standards of Clinical Competence for Optometrists

The Board acknowledged that it was time to review these standards, particularly as entry-level competency standards in Australia had been reviewed recently. The Board resolved that a review would take place following completion of the Board's work to review the optometry scopes of practice. Practitioners and stakeholders will be asked for their feedback as part of this review.

Accreditation of the Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Optometry, Deakin University, Australia

The Board considered all of the feedback received on the Board's public consultation proposing to accredit the Deakin University optometry programme. Some concerns were raised by a submitter with regards to the examination of final year candidates by Deakin. Prior to making a final decision on whether to accredit Deakin's course, the Board resolved to request further information from the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) on their accreditation of Deakin, their final examination procedures, and how the Board can be assured that Deakin graduates are competent to practise. The Board intends to consider this matter further between meetings once the information from OCANZ has been received. Practitioners and stakeholders will be advised of the outcome of this matter in due course.

OCANZ

The Board received information on OCANZ's assessment of the New South Wales (NSW) postgraduate therapeutics course. The Board resolved to endorse the course as satisfactory for entry to the Optometrist (TPA Endorsement) Scope of Practice.

Prescribing of controlled drugs by optometrists

The Board reviewed a recent case where an optometrist thought they were able to prescribe a controlled drug (Codeine) for a patient. The Board resolved to send out an e-communication to optometrists reminding them that optometrists are not authorised to prescribe controlled drugs under any circumstances.

Revisions to Board Supervision Guidelines

The Board received some suggested revisions to its supervision guidelines from the Board's Professional Standards Advisor. The proposed changes surrounded adding additional clarification around the role of the Board in the supervision arrangement. The Board resolved to accept the proposed additions to the guidelines. The revised supervision guidelines are available for download from the Board's website.

Acknowledgement of contribution: Professor David Wilson

The Board acknowledged the recent passing of Professor David Wilson. Professor Wilson made significant contributions to Board work, most notably as a co-opted member of the CPD Accreditation Committee for dispensing opticians for many years, but also for his advice and assistance on various other CPD and clinical standards related work. He will be sorely missed, and the Board's sincere condolences go out to his family and friends at this difficult time.