



STRATEGIC PLAN - 2019 TO 2022

Introduction

The role of the Board is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by providing for mechanisms to ensure optometrists and dispensing opticians are competent and fit to practice.

The Board will continue to fulfil the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board functions as required under section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act).

The Board aims to be a trusted influential body acknowledged as a good regulator with a 'right touch' approach.¹

¹ 'Right touch' regulation - *Right touch' regulation is proportionate, consistent, targeted, transparent, accountable, and agile. The regulation is proportionate to the risk and is outcome focussed. This is different from regulation that is highly prescriptive, and expects the practitioner to take responsibility for their own personal obligations to ensure they practice in a competent and professional manner.*

Section 118 of the HPCA Act

The Board's functions are set out in section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. These are -

- a) to prescribe the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession, and, for that purpose, to accredit and monitor educational institutions and degrees, courses of studies, or programmes:
- b) to authorise the registration of health practitioners under this Act, and to maintain registers:
- c) to consider applications for annual practising certificates:
- d) to review and promote the competence of health practitioners:
- e) to recognise, accredit, and set programmes to ensure the ongoing competence of health practitioners:
- f) to receive and act on information from health practitioners, employers, and the Health and Disability Commissioner about the competence of health practitioners:
- g) to notify employers, the Accident Compensation Corporation, the Director-General of Health, and the Health and Disability Commissioner that the practice of a health practitioner may pose a risk of harm to the public:
- h) to consider the cases of health practitioners who may be unable to perform the functions required for the practice of the profession:
- i) to set standards of clinical competence, cultural competence, and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession:
- j) to liaise with other authorities appointed under this Act about matters of common interest:
- k) to promote education and training in the profession:
- l) to promote public awareness of the responsibilities of the authority:
- m) to exercise and perform any other functions, powers, and duties that are conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act or any other enactment.

Our Values

When carrying out its functions and activities the Board has many values. Some of its key values are:

- (i) Integrity
- (ii) Respect
- (iii) Transparency
- (iv) Accountability
- (v) Fairness
- (vi) Agility

Strategic Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Continue to effectively fulfil the functions of section 118 of the HPCA Act.

GOAL 2:

Work with stakeholders to promote a greater understanding of the Board's roles, structures and decision-making processes.

Objectives:

- Increased dialogue with stakeholders via regular meetings and conference attendance.
- Receive regular feedback from stakeholders on their understanding of the Board's roles, structures and decision-making processes.
- Improve public knowledge and engagement.

GOAL 3:

To be future focused by analysing workforce demands and public needs.

Objectives:

- Planned exchange of ideas between the Board, the practitioner associations, and the Ministry of Health, for public benefit.
- Gather information about underserved areas of eye health that could be met by optometrists and dispensing opticians.
- Identify workforce needs and corresponding education requirements.
- Create a process to enable identification of current and future workforce needs.
- Recognise the risks and benefits of telemedicine.

The Board integrates a "Right Touch" approach in all aspects of its work, promotes a good governance model, and functions as a high performing Board, ensuring finances and resources are managed well.