

OPTOMETRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF TASMANIA

Registrar
Jayne Wilson

Telephone (03) 6224 9331
Fax No : (03) 6224 9700

GPO Box 792
HOBART 7001

LEVEL 2, 24 MURRAY ST
HOBART 7000

OB\LETTERS\2008\HWPCRESPONSE RE BILL A

04 September 2008

Ms Bronwyn Nardi
Chair
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee
Health Workforce Principal Committee

NRAIP@dhs.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Nardi

**Re: Consultation Paper on Issues Supplementary to the Intergovernmental Agreement
on a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme**

I refer to your letter of 13 August 2008 inviting comment on matters which are to be included in the first Bill for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The Optometrists Registration Board of Tasmania has reviewed the consultation paper and wishes to make the following submissions:

1. The national board for optometry should consist of nine members and be made up of six optometrists and three community members. The Board considers that it is important that there is representation across all States and Territories with at least one optometrist from a regional area of Australia.
2. The board should be named the Optometry Board of Australia as it will be responsible for the setting of standards for registration, practice and competency and accreditation for optometry as a profession. It needs to be focussed on public interest not the professional interest of the individual.
3. The Board supports the use of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand, which currently accredits optometry schools, and assesses the qualifications and skills of overseas practitioners, as the body to undertake the accreditation functions under the new Scheme, provided it meets the guidelines detailed in the Intergovernmental Agreement and accredits against standards set by the national board.
4. The national optometry board should be responsible for the setting of standards of accreditation.

If you require any further clarification on these submissions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



JAYNE WILSON
Registrar