

# COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY REGISTRATION AUTHORITIES Inc.

Incorporation No. A0049268P  
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23 December 2008

Ms Bronwyn Nardi  
Chair  
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee  
Health Workforce Principal Committee

Dear Ms Nardi

## **OTHER MATTERS – BILL B SUBMISSION**

A summary of responses to the proposals is contained at Appendix A to this submission. However, we would appreciate your consideration of the following additional comments:

**3.1: COMMITTEES:** There needs to be provision in the legislation for payments to committee and panel members. The rate of payment should be consistent nationally, and recognise that the members, by and large, will be health professionals who are likely to forego their normal income stream to serve on such bodies. Reading time, report preparation time, travelling expenses, subsistence allowances, accommodation and hourly rates of remuneration are amongst the costs to be borne by boards.

**3.6.1: ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS:** The right of review afforded impaired practitioners needs to be framed in such a manner that it does not prejudice the health and safety of the public. For example, delaying the imposition of conditions etc pending review.

**5.2.8: WARRANT POWERS:** It is conceivable that some territory or state committees of the smaller professions will be co-located in a more populous, adjoining jurisdiction. Care needs to be exercised to frame the legislation with this possibility in mind. Also, the role and powers of inspectors (as opposed to investigators) need to be defined. Inspectors currently perform a vital compliance-auditing role in some (if not all) jurisdictions and need to be empowered to enter premises reasonably expected to be carrying out {optometry, dentistry, etc} without a warrant or forewarning.

**5.2.9/10: WORKING WITH CHILDREN/SPECIAL EVENTS:** Wherever practical and possible, the national health registration system should be underpinned by nationally consistent subsidiary legislation.

Yours faithfully

Mark Feltham  
**President CORA Inc**

**President**  
**Dr Mark Feltham**

**Executive Officer**  
**Mr Geoff Leunig**

**APPENDIX A**  
**TO CORA SUBMISSION**  
**OTHER MATTERS – BILL B SUBMISSION**  
**23 DECEMBER 2008**

<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTOR</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
3.5.1	Delegation arrangements	Agreed
3.5.2	Statutory committees	Agreed
3.5.3	Composition of statutory committee	Agreed
3.5.4	Prejudging safeguard	Agreed
3.5.5	Composition of advisory committee	Agreed
3.6.1	Additional safeguards	Agreed
4.1.1	Appointments to advisory committees	Option 1 is preferred
4.1.2	Appointments to statutory panels	Option 1 is preferred
4.1.3	Appointments to statutory panels	Option 1 is preferred
5.2.1	Freedom of Information laws	Option 1 is preferred
5.2.2	Confidentiality laws	Option 4 is preferred
5.2.3	Privacy laws	Option 1 is preferred
5.2.4	Ombudsman legislation	Option 1 is preferred
5.2.5	Financial legislation	Option 4 is preferred
5.2.6	Public Sector administration	Option 4 is preferred
5.2.7	Statutory Interpretation legislation	Option 4 is preferred
5.2.8	Warrant Powers	Option 2 is preferred
5.2.9	Working with Children laws	Option 1 (C'th) is preferred
5.2.10	Special events legislation	Option 1 (C'th) is preferred
6.1	Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition	Agreed