
OPTOMETRISTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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National Registration & Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions

Consultation Paper – Specialist Arrangements

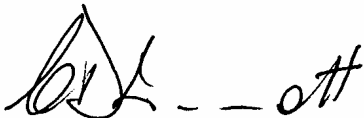
Submission by the Optometrists Registration Board of WA (ORBWA)

The ORBWA is concerned regarding the "limited registration" section which deals with such cases as Area of Need, and Public Interest. The definition of these could leave wide open the potential for people not suitably qualified to apply under these categories. The ORBWA queries who would determine an Area of Need?

The ORBWA is currently reviewing the matter of overseas trained optometrists working under supervision before undertaking the OCANZ competency exams and theoretically these optometrists could try to register under this provision.

The ORBWA has encountered some overseas optometrists who in their pre-registration year overseas worked under "supervision" without sufficient supervision and as such their skills are not of the standard expected by the ORBWA. The ORBWA acknowledges the Government being keen to address possible medical shortages in areas but believes the public expects and deserves suitably qualified professionals to be registered.

The ORBWA believes it is not appropriate that Ministerial Council approve specialties. The ORBWA believes the responsibility for approval of specialties should rest with the profession through the Board.



COLIN D EMMOTT
REGISTRAR
13 February 2009