

29 October, 2008

Comment from The Optometry Board of South Australia relating to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Profession Consultation Paper on Proposed Registration Arrangements.

With regard to Section 8.4 Optometry Practice Restrictions Proposal 8.4.1 the Optometry Board of South Australia would recommend that the definition of an optical appliance should include all contact lenses including plano or cosmetic contact lenses as is the case under the South Australian Optometry Practice Act 2007.

With regard to proposal 8.4.2 of the same section The Optometry Board of South Australia is concerned that orthoptists are an unregulated group registered by a non-statutory authority. Therefore, in the public interest this Board would recommend that:-

a person registered as an orthoptist with the Australian Orthoptic Board established by Australian Orthoptists Registration Body Pty Ltd should be able to prescribe spectacles only when:-

“(a) the prescription is given at the request of, or on the referral of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist made within 12 months before the prescription; or

(b) the prescription is given in the course of the person's employment as an orthoptist by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or an incorporated hospital or a private hospital under the *Health Care Act 2008*.”

