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### **Review of accreditation arrangements- assignment of accreditations**

Optometry Australia, the peak professional body for optometrists in Australia, welcomes the opportunity to provide input to AHPRA's review of accreditation arrangements and assignment of accreditation functions.

For optometry, the Optometry Board of Australia has previously determined that specific accreditation functions will be carried out by an independent organisation and has appointed the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) to undertake these functions. Specifically, OCANZ: develops and reviews accreditation standards; assesses programs of study and education providers, accredits program of study, monitors approved programs and providers; and, assessed overseas qualified health practitioners seeking registration who do not hold an approved qualification.

Optometry Australia is a member of OCANZ and also the peak professional body representing optometrists and optometry in Australia, with a membership of over 80% of registered optometrists. We believe it speaks to OCANZ's commitment to engagement and consultation that we, as the peak professional body, are a member. However, it is in the capacity of representing the optometry profession that we make this submission.

Optometry Australia has made a separate and comprehensive submission to the Accreditation Systems Review, where key points we emphasised related to: the benefits of keeping the functions of registration and accreditation aligned under the one professional body without the introduction of a separate accreditation board; the need to ensure profession-specific accreditation standards and assessment teams are retained if the opportunities for some standardisation and streamlining in accreditation are embraced; and, the benefits of optometry competency standards remaining 'owned' and developed by the profession through Optometry Australia as the peak professional body.

Questions 3 and 5 in this consultation speak directly to issues considered through the Accreditation Systems Review and we hope that the input we have provided through the Accreditations Systems Review will be considered in the context of this review also.

We believe that, overall, the current accreditation system is working effectively for optometry. We believe that for optometry, OCANZ have proven expertise and, to the best of our knowledge, function effectively and efficiently. We are supportive of the reinstatement of OCANZ as the accrediting body for optometry for a further term.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Brodie  
**CEO, Optometry Australia**