



Optometry Council of Australia and **New Zealand**

Annual Report
July 2022 – June 2023

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1.0 CORPORATE INFORMATION FOR OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (OCANZ)

ABN / ACN: ABN 38 074 875 111
ACN 074 875 111

Members: Mr Colin Waldron (nominee of Optometry Board of Australia)
Mr Jayesh Chouhan (nominee of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board)
Mr Wilson Sue (nominee of New Zealand Association of Optometrists)
Associate Professor Michael Pianta (nominee of Accredited Heads of Schools)
Ms Lyn Brodie (nominee of Optometry Australia) (to 5th September 2022)
Ms Skye Cappuccio (nominee of Optometry Australia) (from 5th September 2022)

Directors: Emeritus Professor Leo Carney
Dr Andrew Collins (Deputy Chair)
Professor Jennifer Craig
Mrs Shannon Davies
Professor Alex Gentle (Chair)
Professor Isabelle Jalbert
Mr Tony Lund
Professor Lisa Nissen (from 11th November 2022)
Dr Linda Turner
Dr Lynn Weekes (to 11th November 2022)
Ms Katrina Yap

Company Secretary:
Ms Susan Kelly

Registered Office and Principal Place of Business:

Suite 3, Level 10
167 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Auditors: RDL Accountants
60-64 Railway Road
Blackburn VIC 3130

Staff: Ms Susan Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, 0.6 FTE
Dr Melisa Rangitakatu, Accreditation Manager, 0.4 FTE
Ms Lisa Vella, Finance & Office Manager, 0.6 FTE
Miss Amber Smith, Examination Manager, 0.4 FTE (from 28th March 2023)
Mrs Kelley Baldwin, Policy and Projects Manager, Indigenous, 0.4 FTE

OCANZ as required engages consultants and temporary staff to support the accreditation and examination activities and other OCANZ functions.

2.0 2022-2023 REPORTS

2.1 Acknowledgement of Country and Māori whakatauki

OCANZ respectfully acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Aotearoa's Māori as the First Peoples in each land mass. In particular, OCANZ would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners of the land upon which our head office is based in Naarm Melbourne. OCANZ recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' and Māori's unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich and ongoing contribution to society. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend this respect to te iwi Māori, Tangata Whenua o Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ēhara tāku toa i te toa takatahi, engari he toa takitini.

Our strength is not made from us alone, but made from many.

2.2 Chair's Report



On behalf of OCANZ, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of unceded country throughout Australia and New Zealand and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. I pay my respects to them and their cultures; and to Elders past and present. I'd also like to acknowledge my colleagues on the OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce and the OCANZ Board for the leadership they showed in supporting the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full (Voice, Treaty, Truth), during the recent national debate and referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament. OCANZ remains committed to working towards these principles and towards the improvement of First Nations Peoples' health.

As an accreditation and assessment authority, OCANZ continues to play a vital role in promoting and protecting the eye health of the public in Australia and New Zealand by assuring the quality of optometric education and assessing overseas trained optometrists' competence to practise optometry. Our collaborative relationships with the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA) and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board New Zealand (ODOB), for whom we provide accreditation and assessment services, remain positive and ongoing.

I was honoured to be re-elected as Chair of the OCANZ Board in December 2022 for a second three-year term and am fortunate to be supported by nine Board Directors who offer a wealth of experience in setting the strategic direction for OCANZ and monitoring the implementation of that direction.

OCANZ has had another busy and productive year. Despite the impacts of COVID-19, we achieved the objectives outlined in our 2019-2023 strategic plan and our 2022-2023 business plan within budget. In line with our core values and strategic objectives, we have continued to focus on improving the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand and launched OCANZ's commitment statement to continue this work. The Board also held their first Board meeting in Aotearoa/New Zealand. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet in Auckland, acknowledge the role OCANZ plays for optometry in Aotearoa/New Zealand and experience the Te Matatini Festival.

In response to concerns regarding health workforce shortages, the Australian government commissioned an independent review of overseas health practitioner regulatory settings to consider ways to ease health workforce shortages while maintaining high standards in health care quality and patient safety. The OCANZ Board has contributed positively to this review and will work to implement its recommendations.

The Board is continuing to invest in the improvement of its information technology and business systems, due in part to the increased risk of cyberthreats, and financial and risk management has also been an important focus, due to the increased pressures resulting from high inflation. Sound management and willingness to adapt has enabled the positive results detailed later in this report.

It would not have been possible to deliver the Board's strategic directions without the valuable contributions of the OCANZ Staff, Members, Directors and the many education, community and optometry professionals who are committed to the work of OCANZ. During the year there were several changes in the personnel that play a role in governing OCANZ. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immense contribution of outgoing Director Lynn Weekes and, at the same time, welcome Professor Lisa Nissen to the Board. I would also like to thank retiring Member Lyn Brodie for her involvement and contribution to the work of OCANZ. I welcome Jen Caulfield to the Accreditation Committee, Lauren Hutchison to the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce and Associate Professor Peter Hendicott to the Examination Eligibility Committee. I also offer my sincere thanks to Peter Grimmer and Associate Professor Stephen Vincent for their dedication to OCANZ's committee work as they step away from their roles. Finally, I would like to congratulate Director and Indigenous Strategy Taskforce Deputy Chair Shannon Davies who won the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Eye Health award at the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Awards.

I look forward to meeting with all Directors, Members, and staff in person at the annual Directors and Members meeting in September 2023 to launch OCANZ's new five-year strategic plan. As we look to the year ahead, OCANZ remains committed to being a leading advocate for quality optometry education and training and to delivering excellence in our accreditation and assessment services.

Professor Alex Gentle, Chair

2.3 CEO's Report



It is with great pleasure that I present to you our 2022-2023 annual report. This year signifies my first full year as OCANZ CEO since commencing in February 2022 and I am proud to reflect on our remarkable achievements over the last year:

- ✓ The review of the OCANZ Accreditation Standards for postgraduate ocular therapeutic programs was completed and the Standards approved by the OCANZ Board and Optometry Board of Australia. The new Standards come into effect from 1 January 2024 and include a stand-alone Domain on Cultural Safety.
- ✓ The online course in cultural safety for overseas trained optometrists was approved as a new component of the Competency in Optometry Examination.
- ✓ The Optometry Māori health curriculum framework is being finalised. A cross-Tasman theme was identified that will align the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori frameworks.
- ✓ After receiving a VOTE grant in 2022, OCANZ developed videos and associated supportive learning materials that model culturally safe care in an optometric setting to be used by optometry education programs and OCANZ.
- ✓ OCANZ and Leaders in Optometry Education Network held a joint workshop on Racism and Privilege, attended by representatives from all eight Schools of Optometry. OCANZ also held a workshop on Māori cultural safety attended by all schools.

- ✓ OCANZ together with representatives from Optometry Australia and the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) at University of Melbourne have commenced a project on Mapping of the eye health ecosystem's involvement with, and service for, First Nations People.
- ✓ OCANZ awarded four education bursaries for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori community members, students and/or academics working with the optometry schools.
- ✓ The third annual report on the outcomes of Australia-wide surveys enabling optometry graduates and their employers to comment on the extent to which programs of study are preparing graduates for the optometry workforce was completed. De-identified comparative data was shared with education providers in February 2023. Year four survey collection commenced in May 2023.
- ✓ OCANZ developed and ran assessment workshops in conjunction with education providers for all optometry schools in Australia and New Zealand.
- ✓ *Working towards a culturally safe optometry workforce for first nations peoples in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand* by Indigenous Strategy Taskforce (IST) Co-Chair Renate Watene and the IST was published in Clinical and Experimental Optometry.
- ✓ I was a member of the Steering Committee for the review of Optometry Australia's Entry-Level Competency Standards which were published February 2023.
- ✓ OCANZ is participating in the HPAC Forum project on the development of online specialist training in culturally safe accreditation for assessment teams.

It was a particularly hectic year for assessment teams and the Accreditation Committee, with several programs re-accredited and continued monitoring of the new programs offered by University of Canberra and University of Western Australia. The Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) Reference Group are collaborating with a consultant to complete an extensive review the COE and the Examinations Eligibility Committee made several refinements to the eligibility criteria for the COE.

In 2023 we bid farewell to Examination Manager Tamara McKenzie and thank her for her highly significant contributions to OCANZ over the years. Amber Smith was appointed as Examination Manager in March 2023. Amber is a registered optometrist who also has experience in administrative support, client liaison, and database management.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our exceptional team. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to OCANZ staff; Lisa, Melisa, Kelley and Amber, whose hard work, resilience, and commitment ensures OCANZ continues to achieve all its goals. Thank you to Professor Alex Gentle and the OCANZ Board of Directors for all their work and support this year to me and the OCANZ team. I would also like to thank our examiners, assessors, and Committee members. The work of OCANZ could not be undertaken without the advice, support, and expertise.

Susan Kelly, Chief Executive Officer

3.0 QUALITY FRAMEWORK REPORT

OCCANZ reports to the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA) and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB), including against a Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function (Quality Framework) that was developed in Australia. When OCCANZ performs its accreditation functions, it does so within the Quality Framework and its eight domains. A summary of how OCCANZ meets the requirements of each domain follows.

Governance

OCCANZ has a robust governance structure with well-defined governance policies and processes in place that ensure that OCCANZ meets its legislative and statutory obligations. The OCCANZ strategic plan for is supported each year by an annual business plan. Directors review progress against the annual business plan at every OCCANZ Board meeting. A joint meeting with the Members is held annually to discuss strategic and operational issues.

Independence

There are clear procedures in place for ensuring the independence of OCCANZ's activities, including identifying and managing conflicts of interest, complaints and appeals. There were no complaints or appeals received during the year. OCCANZ's complaints and appeals policies are available at <https://ocanz.org/concerns-and-complaints/>

Operational management

OCCANZ employs its own staff to provide administrative and executive services to the organisation, which it supplements using consulting and professional services, including academic experts, external accountants, and information technology support services. Consultants were engaged to review the Competency in Optometry examination and the Ocular Therapeutic Accreditation Standards. As mentioned previously, a new examination manager was appointed in March 2023. The contract of the Indigenous Policy and Project Manager was extended to assist with delivering the work program of the OCCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce.

Accreditation standards

Revised accreditation standards for optometry programs of study in ocular therapeutics were finalised during the year and subsequently approved by the Optometry Board of Australia as required under the National Law. These Standards will come into effect in January 2024.

Processes for accreditation of education providers and programs of study

OCCANZ accredits ten programs at eight institutions against standards for the accreditation of optometry programs that OCCANZ develops, maintains, and applies. OCCANZ has clearly defined procedures to ensure consistency, transparency and equity in undertaking accreditation decisions. Accreditation assessments are detailed in section 4.0 of this report.

Assessing authorities in other countries

This domain is not applicable because OCCANZ assesses the competence of overseas trained optometrists as described below rather than evaluating assessing authorities in other countries.

Assessing overseas qualified practitioners

OCCANZ assesses overseas trained optometrists by evaluating their qualifications and the subsequent conduct of standardised written and clinical examinations. 67 candidates attempted either the written and/or clinical components of the OCCANZ Competence in Optometry Examination in 2022-2023. More detailed examination information and statistics are presented in section 5.0 of this report.

Stakeholder collaboration

OCCANZ has mechanisms in place to build stakeholder support and collaboration. This includes active membership of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum which works collectively on interprofessional issues. The OCCANZ Board adopted a communication and stakeholder engagement strategy which includes producing periodic newsletters.

4.0 ACCREDITATION REPORT

Purpose

OCCANZ assesses, for the purposes of accreditation, programs designed to produce graduates suitable for registration as optometrists in Australia or New Zealand. The accreditation process assesses whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, can deliver graduates with the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet standards required for competent professional practice and with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee makes recommendations to the OCCANZ Board on matters concerning the accreditation of entry-level and ocular therapeutics training in Australia and New Zealand. The committee is responsible for implementing and administering accreditation in accordance with set procedures and standards.

The committee's roles include:

- to help develop and maintain OCCANZ Accreditation Standards
- to oversee the accreditation assessments of programs and education providers by assessment teams which have been recommended by the committee and appointed by the OCCANZ Board
- to review and approve the annual reports and evaluation reports from accredited programs.
- to regularly review and evaluate the accreditation process to ensure fairness, transparency, and conformity with good practice.

In 2022-2023, there were three meetings of the Accreditation Committee. The committee comprises six members. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on three occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCCANZ Board. During the year Jennifer Caulfield (who had previously been appointed to the committee as a work-shadow) was appointed for a three-year term, replacing Peter Grimmer at the expiration of his term.

Member	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend	No. attended
Emeritus Professor Joyce Kirk (Chair)	10/08/2018	3	2
Associate Professor Andrew Anderson	04/12/2015	3	3
Emeritus Professor Leo Carney	16/03/2018	3	3
Ms Jane Duffy OAM	10/08/2018	3	1
Mr Peter Grimmer	21/08/2015	1	1
Dr Linda Turner	03/05/2017	3	3
Ms Jennifer Caulfield	22/08/2022	3	3

Accreditation Standards

OCCANZ accreditation standards are focussed on outcomes and are in harmony with and operate alongside the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) *Higher Education Standards Framework* and the institutional review requirements of the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) of New Zealand. The standards include guidance notes which are profession- specific and have been developed in collaboration with optometry stakeholders.

The OCCANZ *Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs* are available at <https://ocanz.org/accreditation/standards/> and were approved by the OCCANZ Board in December 2021 and the Optometry Board of Australia in February 2022. The Standards came into effect 1 January 2023.

The OCANZ *Standards for Programs of Study in Ocular Therapeutics* are available at <https://ocanz.org/accreditation/standards/> and were approved by the OCANZ Board in January 2023 and the Optometry Board of Australia in June 2023. The review of these Standards commenced in April 2022 with the appointment of consultant Dr Lindsay Heywood and an expert Reference Group. The revised standards will come into effect 1 January 2024.

The *Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework* <http://ocanz.org/assets/Accreditation/1e67933cc4/Optometry-Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Islander-HCF-OCANZ-Board-October-2018.pdf> took effect in January 2019. The Framework supports the OCANZ Board's commitment to ensuring that accredited programs of study produce culturally safe graduates through the development of cultural capabilities during their training. OCANZ has run annual workshops with education providers since 2018 to assist optometry education providers with the implementation of the Framework.

An *Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework* is currently being finalised. See Section 6.0 in this report for further details.

Accredited Programs of Study

OCANZ publishes summaries of accreditation reports after the reports have been approved by the OCANZ Board. The summary reports are on the OCANZ website at <http://ocanz.org/accreditation/accredited-programs-of-study>

New Programs examined during 2022-2023

New programs apply to OCANZ in two stages. Stage 1 involves an initial assessment and must be approved before progressing to Stage 2. There were no applications for new programs submitted to OCANZ in 2022-2023.

Programs examined by Assessment Teams and/or Accreditation Committee during 2022-2023

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2030

QUT submitted a reaccreditation submission in May 2022. An assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission and conducted a three-day site visit in August 2022. The final report of the assessment team was approved by the OCANZ Board at their October 2022 meeting and by the OptomBA at their November 2022 meeting. The program was re-accredited for eight years with no conditions.

University of Canberra (UoC)

Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited with three conditions until 30 June 2031

UoC optometry program had five conditions on its accreditation and were continuing to report to OCANZ on their staffing plan at the time of their submission for reaccreditation. UoC submitted a reaccreditation submission in December 2022. An assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission and conducted a three-day site visit in February 2023. The final report of the assessment team was approved by the OCANZ Board at their April 2023 meeting and by the OptomBA in May 2023.

The program was accredited for eight years with three conditions. The conditions relate to the need to conduct external benchmarking of the program and external moderation of assessments, and to provide an appropriate staffing plan, including development of robust senior management within the optometry discipline.

University of Western Australia (UWA)

Program: Doctor of Optometry Program
Accreditation Status: Accredited with five conditions until 30 June 2024

In October 2021, UWA provided its Stage 2 accreditation submission, addressing each of the OCANZ Standards and providing the associated fifteen core pieces of evidence outlined in the OCANZ Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide as well as a wide range of additional evidence. Due to COVID-19 pandemic border restrictions, the site visit was conducted virtually via video conferencing. The UWA program was accredited in November 2021 with five conditions. The conditions include the requirement to undergo a site visit by an OCANZ assessment team at the start of 2023 (Condition 1), a report on staffing (Condition 2), three reports by the end of Year 3 providing aggregated patient data and a qualitative analysis of patient consultations, reporting on external placements (Condition 3), OCANZ observation of the end of program OSCEs (Condition 4), and, a specified requirement for reaccreditation (Condition 5). An in-person site visit was conducted in April 2023, fulfilling the requirements of Condition 1. Condition 2 was deemed met in August 2022.

Flinders University

Program: Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science) and Master of Optometry

Accreditation Status: Accredited with two conditions until 30 June 2030

The Flinders program is accredited until 30 June 2030 subject to two conditions set out in the 2022 OCANZ Flinders University Assessment Team Report. Condition 1 relates to their new curriculum including (a) notification of approval, (b) implementation strategy, and (c) reporting on implementation progress, including resourcing and staff development. Condition 2 requires reporting on progress on the implementation of the cultural competence plan outlined in the reaccreditation submission. Conditions 1a, 1b and 2a were met in February 2023.

Australian College of Optometry

Program: Australian College of Optometry Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT)

Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2029 with three conditions

The ACO's Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics accreditation conditions relate to conducting a review of external input into the program, strategy and plan for implementing cultural competence and review of the marking rubric for the oral examination. All conditions were deemed met in February 2023.

University of Melbourne

Program: Doctor of Optometry

Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2023

Program was accredited in 2015 for eight years with no conditions.

The University of Melbourne submitted a reaccreditation submission in June 2023. An assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board will review the submission and conduct a three-day site visit in August 2023.

Routine Monitoring of Programs

Monitoring of all accredited programs of study is conducted through receipt of annual reports. In addition to the programs mentioned above, the following programs were monitored:

Deakin University

Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry

Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 July 2027

Program was accredited in 2019 for eight years with no conditions.

University of Auckland

Program: Bachelor of Optometry

Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2025 with no conditions

Two conditions were imposed after the program's 2017 reaccreditation assessment. One related to monitoring various curriculum changes in train but not yet implemented, and the other concerned the impact of the closure of one on-campus clinic previously operated by the University. Both conditions have been met.

University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Clinical Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2027 with no conditions

The condition on accreditation on the UNSW's optometry program related to the need for the UNSW optometry curriculum to better address cultural safety. This condition has been met.

University of New South Wales

Program: Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2024
Program was accredited in 2016 for eight years with no conditions.

OCANZ Accreditation Project Work

Graduate and Employer Surveys

The Social Research Centre (SRC) is administering survey questions developed by OCANZ to optometry graduates and their employers. The purpose is to explore the extent to which optometry graduates are prepared for the workforce. The survey questions are additions to the existing Australian national survey instruments the *Graduate Outcomes Survey* and the *Employer Satisfaction Survey*. The first year of responses were collected from November 2019 to May 2020, with OCANZ receiving an analysis report in September 2020. The surveys will continue to be administered and analyses provided to OCANZ until 2024. De-identified data from the surveys is being provided to participating optometry education providers to assist with program review and improvement. OCANZ has made numerous efforts to increase survey participation, including meeting with the SRC prior to data collection, amending wording to the GOS, developing optometry specific informatics, and implementing a 4-week social media campaign. Despite these efforts, response rates remain low. This year OCANZ collated data from the SRC report to develop the individual institution reports. The Accreditation Committee and Education Providers were asked to provide their feedback on whether the survey should continue past 2024. The providers mirror the position of the Accreditation Committee, noting that low response rates impact the generalisability of the survey findings. Further information is available at <https://ocanz.org/accreditation/graduate-outcomes/>

In 2022-2023, the Accreditation Committee undertook a self-review of their effectiveness against the Committee's terms of reference and their Effectiveness Scorecard.

Following findings from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, on the suggestion of the Accreditation Committee, the OCANZ Accreditation Manager surveyed education providers to determine the extent to which cognitive disability health is currently covered in optometry curriculum in Australia and New Zealand.

Collaborative Work with other Accreditation Authorities in the NRAS Scheme

In 2022-2023 OCANZ continued its active involvement in the work of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (Forum). During the year, the Forum has worked collaboratively including commissioning the production of assessor cultural training to be used by all accreditation authorities. The OCANZ CEO has been appointed at the Forum's representative for the Ahpra / Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care project on Communicating for Safety. The OCANZ Accreditation Manager is active on the Accreditation Managers' sub-committee of the Forum. During the year, the Accreditation Manager contributed to projects in train to develop a Framework for interprofessional education, and industry standards on the publication of accreditation findings, as well as discussions on cognitive disability in practitioner education.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS TRAINED OPTOMETRISTS REPORT

Purpose

OCANZ undertakes assessments of overseas trained optometrists wishing to obtain registration and ocular therapeutic endorsement in Australia and/or New Zealand. In addition, OCANZ undertakes assessments for optometry graduates who are seeking skilled migration to Australia.

Assessment for Skilled Migration to Australia

A person intending to migrate to Australia under the skilled migration program must obtain a skills assessment before applying to the Australian Department of Home Affairs. OCANZ is currently the assessing authority for the optometry profession. Skills assessments can be issued by OCANZ to people registered with the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA), and/or who have successfully completed the COE. In 2022-23 OCANZ provided 17 positive skills assessments.

Eligibility for the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

During the year 40 people applied and were deemed eligible to sit the COE (2 are currently being assessed by the EEC). This compares to 16 eligible applications assessed in 2021-2022, and 31 eligible applications in 2020-2021.

Applications included 24 from optometrists holding a qualification in optometry that entitles automatic admission to the examination, and 19 which required individual assessment – 16 were subsequently deemed eligible to sit the COE. One other application was assessed as not eligible (the Country of Institution where these applicants studied was India). Two applications are currently being assessed.

Eligible applications for the COE by Country of Institution, with qualifications that entitled automatic admission to the examination, were as follows:

Country of Institution	UK	South Africa	Hong Kong	India	USA	Philippines	Ireland
No. Eligible Applications	8	7	3	1	2	2	1

Eligible applications for the COE by Country of Institution, with qualifications that required individual assessments for admission to the examination, were as follows:

Country of Institution	India	Spain	Nigeria	Pakistan	Nepal
No. Eligible Applications individually assessed	12	1	1	1	1

Examination Eligibility Committee

The OCANZ Examination Eligibility Committee (EEC) determines which qualifications in optometry are suitable for automatic admission to the Competency in Optometry Examination and undertakes an individual assessment for all applicants who do not hold such a qualification. The committee works predominantly by email to assess applications requiring individual review, and also met twice during the period.

The committee comprises three members appointed by the OCANZ Board. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on two occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCANZ Board. Associate Professor Stephen Vincent Completed his fourth term on the committee, ending in September 2022 at which point, Associate Professor Peter Hendicott commenced his appointment as Chair. Both Alissa Maillet and Michael Hare have been appointed for a third term until March 2026.

Member	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend	No. attended
Associate Professor Stephen Vincent (Chair ending September 2022)	18/09/2014	1	1
Associate Professor Peter Hendicott (Chair beginning September 2022)	18/09/2022	1	1
Mr Michael Hare	16/03/2020	2	2
Ms Alissa Maillet	16/03/2019	2	2

Examination Committee

The Examination Committee oversees the conduct of, and makes recommendations on, matters concerning the Competency in Optometry Examination and the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics examination for overseas trained optometrists. Members of the Examination Committee also serve on sub-committees, one focussed on the written components of the examination (written sc) and the other on the clinical components of the examination (clinical sc).

The committee comprises six members appointed by the Board. The committee met twice during the reporting period and there were also 4 sub-committee meetings. The sub-committees additionally approve the results of each examination session by teleconference and/or email.

Member	Attending	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend. (incl. sub-committees)	No. attended
Professor Isabelle Jalbert (Chair)	Exam Committee; both sc	01/01/2017	6	6
Associate Professor Simon Backhouse	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2017	4	4
Associate Professor Neville Chiavaroli	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2017	4	4
Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane	Exam Committee; clinical sc	01/01/2017	4	4
Dr Geraint Phillips	Exam Committee; clinical sc	01/01/2018	4	4
Associate Professor Katrina Schmid	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2017	4	4

Types of Exams

Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

OCANZ has been conducting the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) twice yearly since 1997. The COE assesses the ability of overseas trained optometrists to meet Optometry Australia's Entry-level Competency Standards for Optometry, excluding the specific skills to be endorsed for ocular therapeutics. The COE comprises of four parts, two written and two clinical:

- Candidates who have previously been deemed eligible to sit the examination are required to pass two written papers before being able to proceed to the clinical section of the examination. The first paper, a multiple-choice question examination (MCQ) focuses on clinical science. The second paper, a short-answer question examination (SAQ) focuses on diagnosis and management. The written examinations in August 2022 and March 2023 were held as an online remotely proctored examination and this is a permanent change to the format of the examination.
- The clinical examination comprises two parts – the skills testing examination and the patient examination. The candidate is required to pass the skills testing component before being allowed to proceed to the patient examination. The skills exam assesses each candidate's ability to perform 12

essential optometric techniques. All skills must be passed. The patient exam requires the candidate to conduct four patient examinations in a clinical setting. The candidate is required to achieve a pass in 3 out of 4 patient examinations. The clinical examination component of the COE is undertaken at the Australian College of Optometry in Melbourne in accordance with OCANZ requirements.

Candidates who pass the COE are eligible to apply for limited registration with the Optometry Board of Australia and provisional registration with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board in New Zealand and must then complete either the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT) examination or an accredited program in ocular therapeutics within specified times to gain full registration.

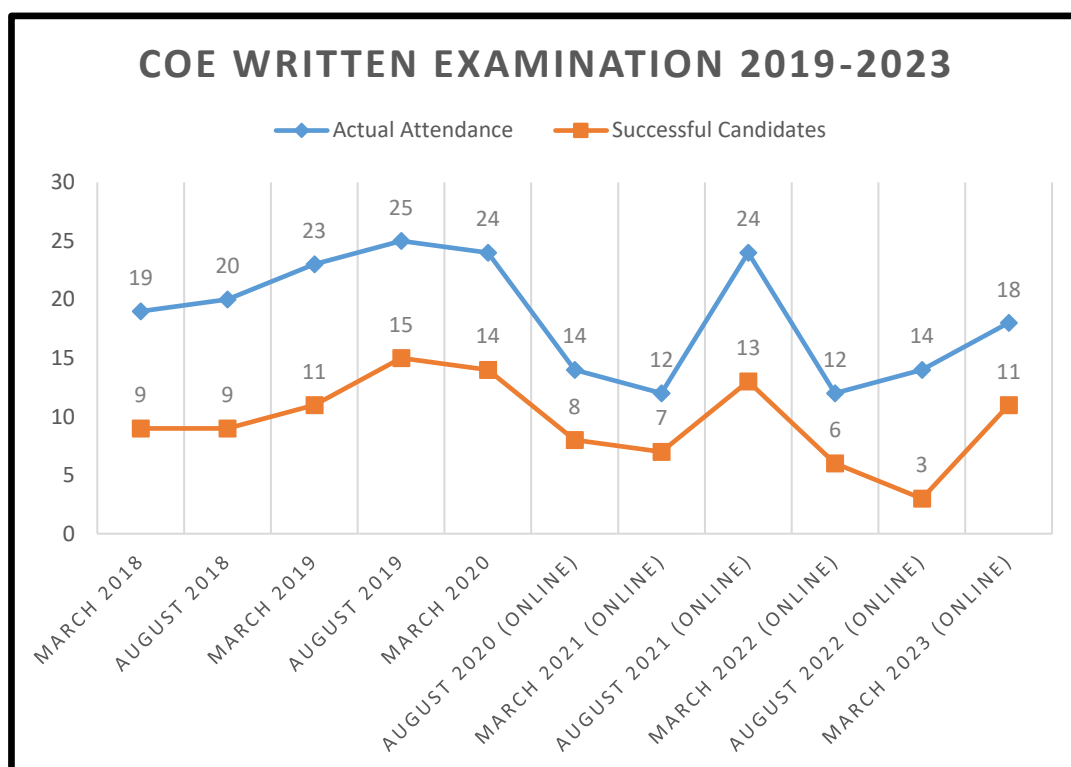
From 1 July 2023, candidates will be required to complete a fifth component of the exam, online cultural safety training.

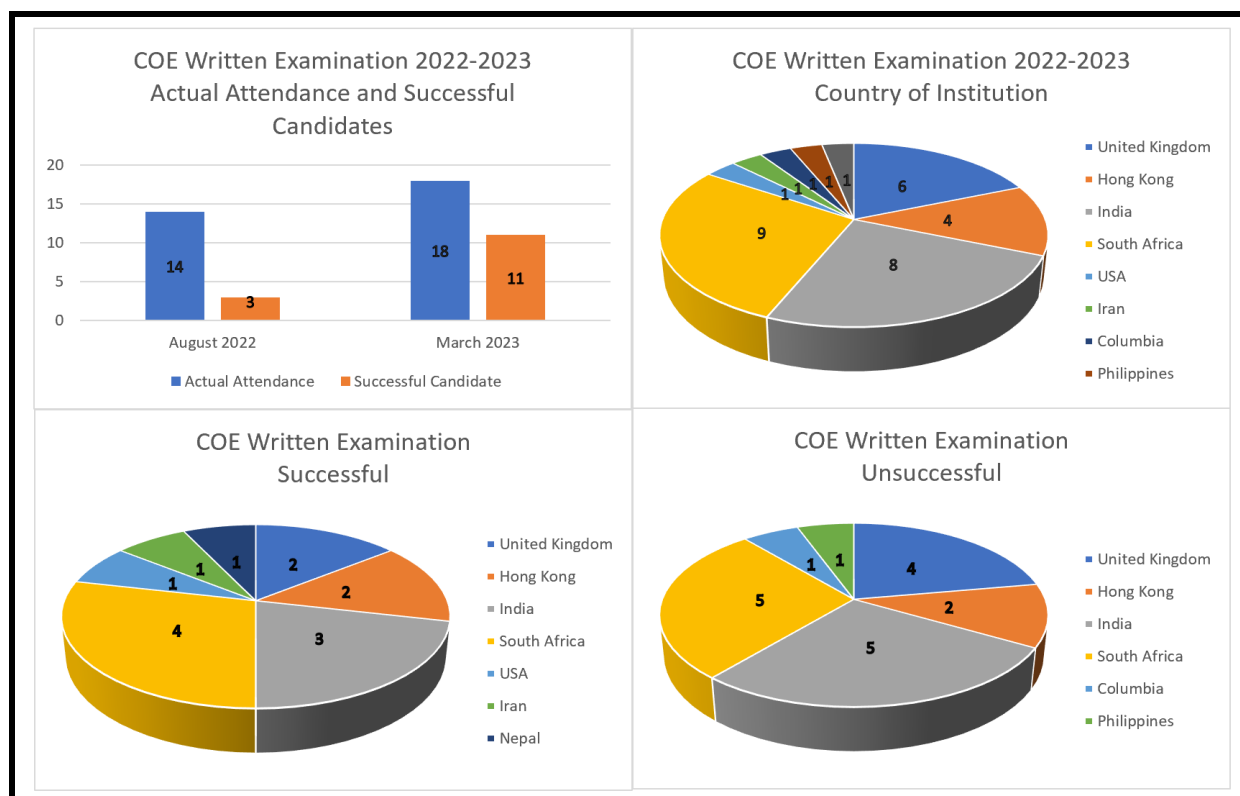
Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT)

The purpose of this examination is to assess competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT). To do this, candidates must demonstrate safe and competent use of ophthalmic therapeutic agents for a primary practice setting in the Australian or New Zealand situation. Candidates are required to prepare three case reports for assessment and sit an oral examination. One candidate from Canada and one candidate from the UK successfully undertook this examination during 2022-2023. No candidates are currently undergoing the examination process.

Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) Activity

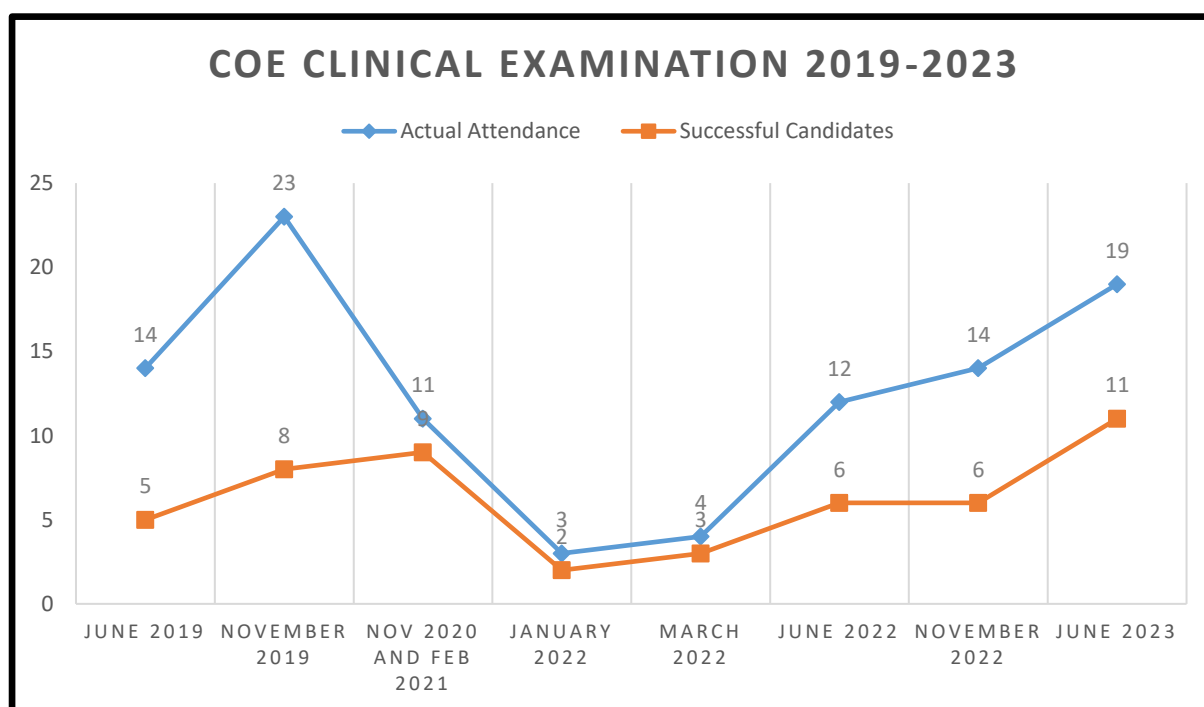
The following two tables report on the Written Examination component of the COE. Historically the number of candidates sitting the COE written examination has varied from year to year, although the pass rate has remained fairly constant over time at around 50 per cent. Analysis of the written examination results is conducted using robust Rasch measurement theory, ratings of content experts and data from past exams. This ensures that the same level of performance is required to pass the exam over time. Candidates pass rates for the written examination in 2022-2023 were slightly lower with those in previous years while candidate application numbers are rising back to pre COVID-19 Pandemic levels. The following two charts report on the COE Written Examination component.

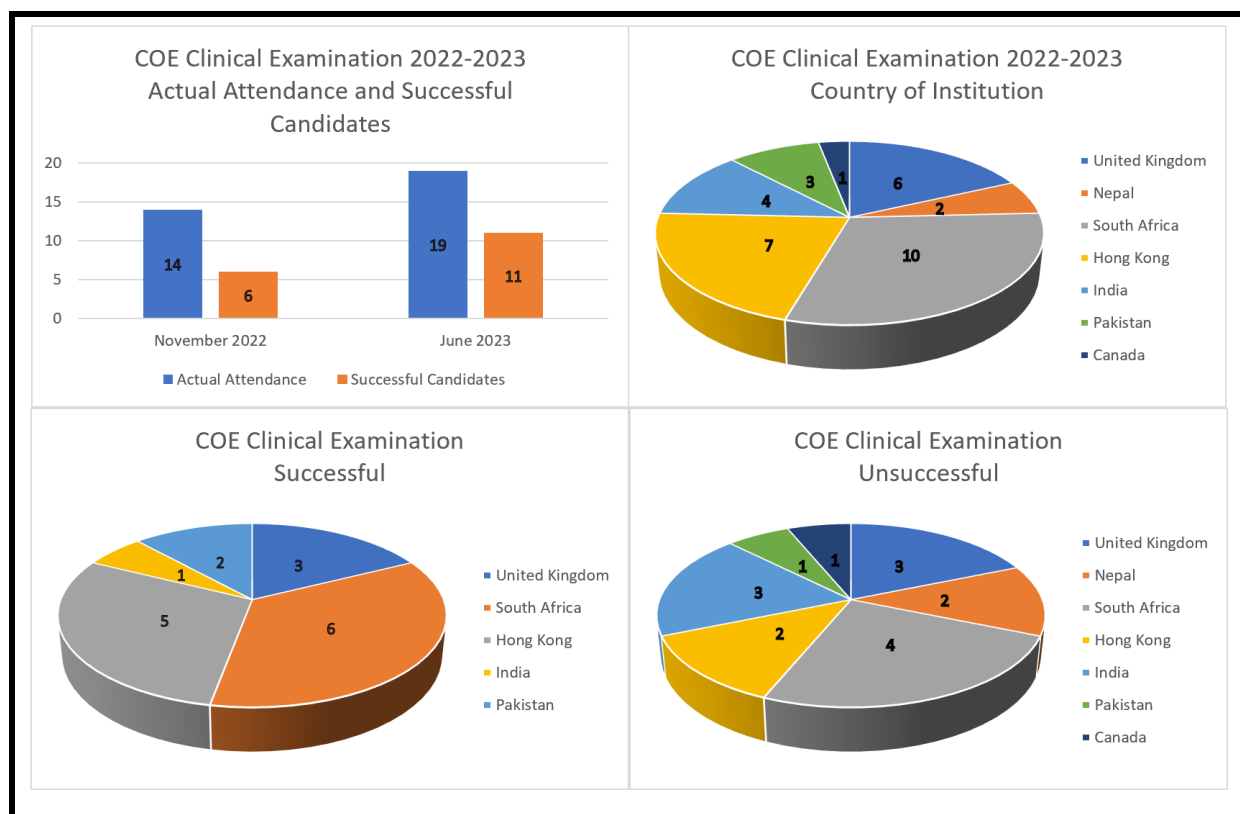




The following two tables report on the COE Clinical Examination component.

This year candidate application numbers were seen to increase to post COVID-19 pandemic numbers. All candidates sat the Clinical examination at the Australian College of Optometry.





Other Work

During the year OCANZ continued to invest in the development of new Multiple Choice and Short Answer Questions for the written examination, and the updating of Short Answer Question marking guides.

Cultural Safety training is compulsory from July 1st, 2023. All Candidates will need to complete the self-paced training prior to sitting the Clinical examination.

COE Review

The OCANZ Board commissioned a review of the COE following on from the findings of the 2021 report on the viability of remotely assessing clinical competence. A consultant and Reference Group have been appointed to undertake this review. Members of the reference group are, Professor Alex Gentle (Chair), Professor Isabelle Jalbert, Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane, Associate Professor Neville Chiavaroli and Emeritus Professor David Prideaux. Associate Professor Michael Pianta has been appointed as the consultant for the reference group. They met once in June 2023 and this project will continue into 2024.

Examination Workshops

As part of an initiative to help promote best practice in assessment, OCANZ has supported and part-funded a series of assessment workshops available to Schools of Optometry in Australia and New Zealand. Workshops have been delivered to staff from all the Optometry Schools in Australia and New Zealand, with between 14 and 20 academics attending each workshop.

The workshops have been designed by OCANZ Examination Committee member Mr Neville Chiavaroli, and co-delivered with members of the Examination Committee, namely: Professor Isabelle Jalbert (Chair of the committee), Dr Simon Backhouse, Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane, Dr Geraint Phillips, and Associate Professor Katrina Schmid. Neville is a Principal Research Fellow at the Australian Council for Education Research and an expert in assessment design and practice. He has been involved with the OCANZ assessment processes for over 10 years and been a member of the OCANZ Examination Committee since 2016.

The workshops have covered various aspects of assessment including the principles of quality assessment; developing written examination questions (multiple choice, extended matching, and short answer questions); assessing clinical skills with the OSCE format; promoting validity through peer review and statistical analysis; and formal standard setting of pass scores. Feedback from workshops have been overwhelmingly positive and OCANZ will look to support further workshops in the future.

6.0 INDIGENOUS STRATEGY TASKFORCE REPORT

Purpose

The OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce was established in 2018 to make recommendations to the OCANZ Board on how to improve the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and New Zealand and to help implement Board approved initiatives in this area.

Taskforce Membership and Meetings

The Indigenous Strategy Taskforce's (IST) role is to advise the OCANZ Board on:

- how best to support the implementation of the *Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Framework* across all Australian and New Zealand optometry education providers.
- supporting the development of an Optometry Curriculum Framework for Māori Peoples.
- how best to work with relevant partners to develop optometry clinical placements which work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Peoples and communities.
- how best to work with relevant partners to encourage an increase in the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori optometry workforce; and
- other actions appropriate to the role of an Australian and New Zealand accreditation body to achieve a culturally safe health workforce.

In 2022-2023, there were three meetings of the IST. The IST comprises nine (9) members, with the term of appointment for each member being three years. At the October 2022 Board meeting, the OCANZ Board approved an amendment to the IST Terms of Reference (ToR) recommended by the IST to increase the membership from eight to up to ten by allowing up to two Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander registered optometrists and two Māori registered optometrists membership on the IST. The November 2022 meeting welcomed Lauren Hutchison (Aboriginal Optometrist) as an additional member of the IST.

Member	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend	No. attended
Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou (Chair)	10/08/2018	3	3
Professor Nicola Anstice	20/08/2021	3	3
Associate Professor Lilon Bandler	01/05/2020	3	1
Dr Andrew Collins	19/10/2018	3	3
Mrs Shannon Davies (Deputy Chair)	22/02/2019	3	3
Dr Shelley Hopkins	19/10/2018	3	2
Ms Donna Murray	20/08/2021	3	1
Ms Lauren Hutchinson	14/10/2022	2	1
Mrs Renata Watene (Co-Chair)	19/10/2018	3	2

Taskforce Workplan and Activities

The Taskforce adopted its third work plan, which in 2022-2023 focused on the following key areas:

- activities to help embed the *Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Framework* across all Australian and New Zealand optometry education providers primarily by supporting activity which helps further develop the Leaders in Indigenous Optometry Education Network (LIOEN).
- progressing the development of an OCANZ Māori Curriculum Framework to be used across all Australian and New Zealand Optometry education providers.
- helping to strengthen cultural safety training within OCANZ.

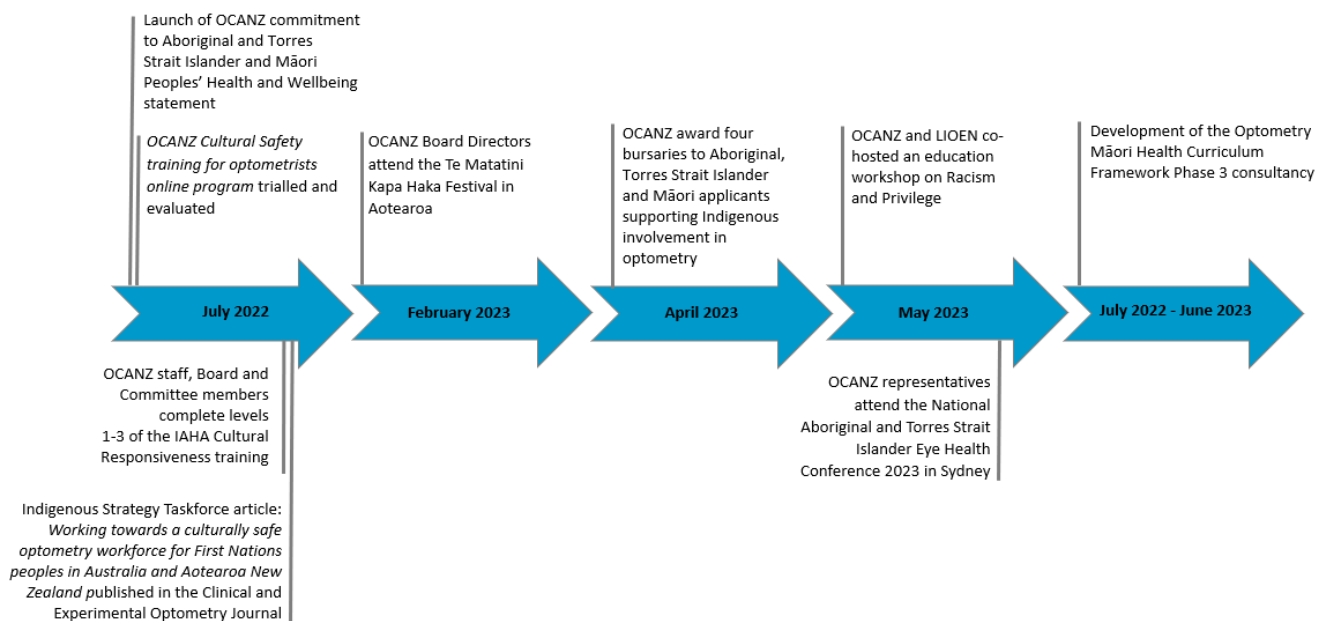


Figure 1: Timeline of Indigenous Strategy Taskforce achievements July 2022 – June 2023

In July 2022, OCANZ launched its commitment statement to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health and Wellbeing. This statement confirms our commitment to working alongside First Nations peoples in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand to improve eye health outcomes and work towards contributing to an optometry workforce and services that are free of racism and inequity. Our aim is to ensure that optometrists entering the workforce from university and overseas are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide culturally safe care. We further support the equitable representation of First Nations peoples in the profession through equitable access / admissions to culturally safe learning, training, and employment. The full commitment statement can be found on the OCANZ [website](#).

The adapted **OCANZ Cultural Safety training for overseas trained optometrists' online program** was trialled with eleven candidates enrolled in the June 2022 intake for the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE). Feedback on the program was positive with one candidate stating that *'It was indeed a very useful course which made me learn in-depth about cultural safety aspects, [it] was very very useful and will really help me to apply these in my clinical practice.'* The training program was approved by the Optometry Board of Australia in May 2023 and from the 1 July 2023, all candidates undertaking the COE are required to complete the online **OCANZ Cultural Safety Training for Optometrists' online program** prior to progressing to the clinical examination component.

In July 2022, the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce authored a viewpoint article titled [Working towards a culturally safe optometry workforce for first nations peoples in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand](#) that was published in the Clinical and Experimental Optometry Journal. The article explores barriers to improved eye health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Māori and how OCANZ is working towards achieving a culturally competent optometry workforce through accreditation, training and internal governance that prioritises First Nations voices, world views and leadership. The article challenges readers to continue to reflect on their understanding and sense of responsibility for addressing hundreds of years of inequity that First Nations Peoples have and continue to experience. In June 2023, lead author Renata Watene was invited to speak to the article at the Optometry Virtually Connected 2023 Conference. OCANZ would like to acknowledge Renata Watene's contribution to this article and thank the First Nations Peoples and other members of the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce who generously give their time, expertise, and voice in preparation of this publication.

From May to July 2022, 25 OCANZ Staff, Board and Committee members participated in the Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) Cultural Responsiveness course. Levels one and two included self-paced online education modules to introduce participants to the fundamental knowledge of cultural responsiveness and self-awareness practices and to learn more about the *IAHA Cultural Responsiveness Framework*. Level three

brought it all together in an online workshop that looked at using the framework to create change in the workplace.

On 4 May 2023 OCANZ partnered with the Leaders in Optometry Education Network (LIOEN) to host the first joint virtual **education workshop on Racism and Privilege**. The workshop was attended by nineteen representatives from all eight Schools of Optometry and Vision Science in Australia and Aotearoa. The workshop was facilitated by LIOEN Co-Chairs, Professor Nicola Anstice and Professor Sharon Bentley and OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce Co-Chair Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou. Professor Yin Paradies, Chair Alfred Deakin Professor and Chair in Race Relations at Deakin University was invited as the guest speaker.

In May 2023 two OCANZ staff members, six members of the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce and two Board member attended the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference (NATSIEHC23)** on Dharug Country (Parramatta) in Western Sydney (this attendance was not all funded by OCANZ). The conference program aimed to advance the collective work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health sector towards the shared goal of improving eye health access and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. OCANZ Policy and Project Officer, Kelley Baldwin co-presented a tabletop presentation with Sarah Davies from Optometry Australia on a partnership project looking to map the eye health ecosystem's involvement with, and service for, First Nations People. OCANZ was thrilled to note that three of the four invited keynote speakers at the conference were members of the OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce. OCANZ would like to congratulate Taskforce Deputy Chair and Board member, Shannon Davies for receiving the **Emerging Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Award** at NATSIEHC23.



Pictured left: members of the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce at the NATSIEHC23 L-R: Susan Kelly, Shannon Davies, Mitchell Anjou, Donna Murray, Renata Watene, Lauren Hutchinson, Kelley Baldwin.

Pictured right: Shannon Davies and Nick Wilson at the NATSIEHC23

Phase three of the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework, undertaken by Iwi United Engaged Limited (IUE), is due to for completion by the end of 2023. Phase three will include the development of a completed version of the *Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework*, informed by the outcomes of previous consultancies. This phase will also include work to align the *Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework* and the *Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework* to recognise the cross-Tasman relationships and describe how to bridge uses of the two curriculum frameworks in optometry education programs delivered in each country.

OCANZ Board Activities

In February 2023, the OCANZ Board advertised **bursary awards** for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori community members, students and/or academics who are working with one or more Australian or New Zealand optometry schools to improve the delivery of culturally safe curriculum and have a strong interest in Indigenous health. OCANZ was thrilled to award bursary supports to Eric Dalgety (University of Western Australia and the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service), Jesse Aldridge (University of New South Wales), Philip Turnbull (University of Auckland) and Nicola Anstice (Flinders University). Of the successful applicants one attended the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Eye Health Conference (May 2023), two plan to use the funds to attend Optometry Victoria/South Australia OMEGA Conference

(September 2023) and one to undertake an independent research project that will investigate how optometry schools in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand acknowledge and implement cultural safety principles, procedures, and practices within their curricula.



I'd like to thank the OCANZ Board for their Bursary support in the funding for myself to attend the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health conference in May. It was a great opportunity to catch-up with friends I've made in my time in the Aboriginal eye health sector since I have been working in this area. And also, good to see and meet new faces of other employees and hear about the way that they are servicing their communities. The information that was gathered from the conference was very useful and I will be implementing some strategies into my programs in my Aboriginal Medical Service. – Eric Dalgety, Eye Health Coordinator at Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS)

Pictured: L-R: OCANZ Project and Policy Officer Kelley Baldwin, OCANZ 2023 Bursary recipient Eric Dalgety and OCANZ CEO Susan Kelly at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference 2023.

In February 2023, the OCANZ Board held their face-to-face meeting in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland), Aotearoa New Zealand. During this trip OCANZ supported Board members to attend the **Te Matatini Kapa Haka Festival** as a cultural immersion experience to support continued cultural learning. The Te Matatini Kapa Haka Festival is a significant cultural festival and the pinnacle event for Māori performing arts. The festival is held every two years in different locations around Aotearoa. At the May 2023 OCANZ Board meeting, Māori cultural safety training for Directors, committee members and staff through the Mathers Solution's Te Kahikatea Corporate Wānanga Programme was approved. OCANZ will undertake this training in the second half of 2023.

7.0 FINANCE AND RISK REPORT

Finance and Risk Committee

The Committee oversees OCANZ internal financial systems and accountabilities, monitors the accuracy and timeliness of the financial and non-financial reporting to the Board, reviews annual audit findings and the annual financial statements before presentation to the Board for adoption, and monitors corporate risk, including financial risk, and the internal controls instituted in response to such risks.

The committee comprises up to four members appointed by the Board, including a Chair who must be a Board Director. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on two occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCANZ Board. The committee met four times during the financial year.

Member	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend	No. attended
Mr Tony Lund (Chair)	04/12/2015	4	4
Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou	17/04/2012	4	4
Mr Damian Koppens	21/02/2020	4	3
Dr Linda Turner	09/12/2016	4	4

Financial Report Analysis 2022-2023

The subsequent Special Purpose Financial Report presents the finances of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. The following discussion and analysis are provided to assist readers to understand the financial performance and position of OCANZ in this period.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

The reported surplus from ordinary activities in 2023 was \$22,897. This compares to a 2022 deficit of \$74,586 which was due to planned funding of several projects from OCANZ reserves, which have been delayed until 2024.

Total revenue increased by \$84,152 (10.5%), from \$796,285 in 2022 to \$880,437 in 2023. This was mostly due to an increase in examination revenue. The increase included an annual increase of 3 per cent in accreditation and examination fees approved by the OCANZ Board. The contributions from registration boards also increased by 3 per cent, from \$381,418 in 2022 to \$392,859 in 2023.

Revenue from examination fees increased by \$81,129 from \$237,238 in 2022 to \$318,367 in 2023, due to examination candidate numbers returning to close to pre-pandemic levels. Accreditation revenue decreased from \$157,014 in 2022 to \$144,777 in 2023 due to no new program assessment fees.

Total expenditure decreased by 1.5 per cent from \$870,871 in 2022 to \$857,540 in 2023.

There were increased costs related to examination due to an increase in activity from 2022. There was also an increase in meeting costs from due to the complete return of face-to-face meetings. In 2023, OCANZ spent \$50,321 on projects including the review of the ocular therapeutics accreditation standards; ongoing surveys of optometry graduates and their employers to explore the extent to which all optometry graduates are prepared for the workforce; support to enhance various aspects of the Competency in Optometry Examination which assesses the competence of overseas trained optometrists for entry to practice in Australia and New Zealand including the commencement of a review; and the funding of a range of projects undertaken by the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce. The details of all projects which were funded are described in full in earlier sections of this report.

Statement of Financial Position and Change in Equity

Total equity increased by \$22,897 to \$678,044. The total retained earnings of \$678,044 mainly comprised cash at bank and held to maturity term deposits plus non-current property plant and equipment.

Statement of Cash Flows

There was a net decrease in cash flow from activities for 2023 of \$91,907 resulting in a cash and cash equivalent balance of \$5,575 at the end of the financial year.

Other work - Finance and Risk Committee

In 2022-2023 the OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee, in addition to its regular oversight of the OCANZ budget and financial reporting, continued to monitor OCANZ risks using the OCANZ Board's management framework for the management of the organisation's financial and operational risks.

The Committee oversaw the annual cases for funding of OCANZ activities to the Optometry Board of Australia and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and oversaw the setting of accreditation and examination fees taking into account national requirements and international cost comparisons.

8.0 SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-2023

8.1 Directors' Report

The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Directors

The following persons were Directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Emeritus Professor Leo Carney

Dr Andrew Collins

Professor Jennifer Craig

Mrs Shannon Davies

Professor Alex Gentle

Professor Isabelle Jalbert

Mr Tony Lund

Professor Lisa Nissen (from 11th November 2022)

Dr Linda Turner

Dr Lynn Weekes (to 11th November 2022)

Ms Katrina Yap



Pictured top row left to right are:

Dr Linda Turner, Professor Lisa Nissen, Professor Alex Gentle, Professor Isabelle Jalbert, Dr Andrew Collins

Pictured bottom row left to right are:

Professor Jennifer Craig, Dr Katrina Yap, Ms Susan Kelly (OCANZ CEO), Mrs Shannon Davies
(Absent: Professor Emeritus Leo Carney, Mr Tony Lund)

In compliance with Section 23 of the OCANZ Constitution, Rotation of Directors, Professor Jennifer Craig, Dr Linda Turner, and Dr Lynn Weekes all retired. Professor Jennifer Craig had served one term and was eligible for re-appointment for a second term. Dr Linda Turner was eligible for re-appointment for a third and final term. Dr Lynn Weekes chose to end her final term one year early. At the Annual General meeting, Professor Jennifer Craig and Dr Linda Turner were re-appointed. Professor Lisa Nissen was appointed to the Board to replace Dr Lynn Weekes.

Objectives

The objects of OCANZ, as set out in its Constitution, are all the following:

- a) To grant accreditation to Australian and New Zealand optometry schools, departments and academic units and the courses/programs conducted by them leading to eligibility for registration as an optometrist in Australia and New Zealand.
- b) At the OCANZ's discretion, to vary, withdraw or suspend any accreditation previously granted by the OCANZ in the event that OCANZ resolves that such accreditation should be varied, withdrawn or suspended.
- c) To assess for admission to practice in Australia and New Zealand overseas trained optometrists.
- d) To advise and make recommendations to the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA) and Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB) and to assist on matters concerning the registration of optometrists.
- e) To provide information to any Governmental Agency relating to law and policy concerning the registration of optometrists in Australia and New Zealand.
- f) To provide information and advice to any Governmental Agency relating to law and policy concerning the adequacy or otherwise of a person's skills in the field of optometry for the purposes of migration to Australia or New Zealand.
- g) To assess Australian and New Zealand postgraduate courses of study in the field of optometry (including but not limited to ocular therapeutic drugs) for the purpose of granting, varying, withdrawing or suspending accreditation.
- h) To assess the therapeutic competence of optometrists registered in Australia or New Zealand who have completed a non-accredited course of study in ocular therapeutic drugs.
- i) To perform activities ancillary to the education and registration of optometrists and accreditation of optometry courses or any other incidental activity related to the objects described above.

OCANZ is continuing to meet its short-term objectives to:

- Safeguard organisational governance through use of efficient and effective business processes.
- Ensure the standards for the accreditation of optometry programs and the standards for the examination of overseas trained optometrists remain best practice.
- Continue to deliver the accreditation function as defined under agreements with the Registration Boards of Australia and New Zealand
- Continue to plan and develop, in consultation with key stakeholders, OCANZ strategy and resources in response to the outcomes of the Australian Accreditation Systems review and other external factors.

OCANZ long-term objectives remain to:

- Consolidate OCANZ's position as a leader in accreditation and assessment standards.
- Advocate for standards and safety in optometry education.
- Support and encourage the exchange of expertise and information relating to accreditation and assessment nationally and internationally.

Strategy to Achieving the Objectives

Directors have agreed a strategic plan to 30 June 2023 which is published on the OCANZ website at <http://ocanz.org/about/strategic-plan/>. A new five-year strategic plan come into effect from 1 July 2023.

OCANZ has four standing subcommittees that help Directors to oversee the activities of OCANZ:

- An Accreditation Committee that oversees the accreditation of programs of study.
- An Examination Eligibility Committee that determines candidate eligibility to sit the OCANZ examinations.
- An Examination Committee that oversees the examination of overseas qualified optometrists.
- A Finance and Risk Committee that supports OCANZ Directors in ensuring sound financial control and risk management.

OCANZ established an Indigenous Strategy Taskforce late in 2018. Its role is to make recommendations to Directors on how to improve the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and New Zealand and to help implement Board approved initiatives in this area.

OCANZ engages with over fifty academics, clinicians, educationalists and experts in accreditation and assessment to support its activities.

OCANZ currently has a dedicated team of five staff to provide management and administrative oversight of OCANZ operational activities and to support the OCANZ committees and the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce. The staff are in regular communication with the OptomBA and ODOB with respect to registration matters and the Australian Government with respect to migration and workforce matters.

OCANZ has developed informal links with relevant accreditation and assessment bodies nationally and internationally and participates in the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum and the World Council of Optometry.

OCANZ collaborates with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and the Optometry Board of Australia to support the achievement of OCANZ objectives.

Principal Activities

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (ABN 38 074 875 111) was registered as a company limited by guarantee in 1996.

The principal activity of OCANZ during the financial year was to provide the accreditation function as defined in the *Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009* (the National Law) to the Optometry Board of Australia, the optometric profession's registration body in Australia. The same activity (accreditation function) is also provided to the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand.

The accreditation function has two primary activities - the examination of overseas trained optometrists, and the assessment, against agreed standards, of the optometry programs of study in Australia and New Zealand which lead to registration as an optometrist. Both functions provide a system of quality assurance for the Registration Boards that registered optometrists are competent to practise to contemporary standards.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the OCANZ's principal activities during the financial year.

Performance Measures

OCANZ has adopted a number of mechanisms to measure performance:

- OCANZ enacts annual business activity plans which outline a range of ways in which the OCANZ Board monitors and measures its performance.

- OCANZ has published timelines for the processing of candidate application materials and the provision of results to candidates. In 2023, these application times have been reduced to assist with workforce issues. Examination results are scrutinised externally to ensure transparency and accuracy.
- OCANZ currently provides accreditation functions for the Optometry Board of Australia and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand as per service agreements which expire on 30 June 2024. Both agreements contain regular and defined performance reporting requirements.
- The Finance and Risk Committee support the Directors in their oversight of the financial performance of OCANZ.

Information on Directors

Emeritus Professor Leo Carney	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Applied Science, Master of Science (Optometry), Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Science
Experience	Emeritus Professor, Queensland University of Technology; Previous Head of School, School of Optometry, and Director, Centre for Eye Research, Queensland University of Technology; Previous Professor and Associate Dean, College of Optometry, The Ohio State University; Member, Optometry Australia; Honorary Life Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry, Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Honorary Life Member, Australian College of Optometry; Emeritus Member, International Society for Contact Lens Research
Special Responsibilities	OCANZ Accreditation Committee member

Dr Andrew Collins	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Optometry, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Certificate in Ocular Pharmacology <i>Auckland</i>
Experience	Employed as Head of School in the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Auckland; Registered optometrist; Member, New Zealand Association of Optometrists; Member, The Cornea and Contact Lens Society (NZ); Member, International Advisory Board of Clinical and Experimental Optometry
Special Responsibilities	OCANZ Board of Directors Deputy Chair; OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce member

Professor Jennifer Craig	
Qualifications	PhD, MSc (Cataract & Refractive Surgery), BSc (Hons), FCOptom, FAAO, FBCLA, FCLS
Experience	Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland; Registered optometrist; Past Chair, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand; Life Fellow, College of Optometrists, UK; Member, New Zealand Association of Optometrists (NZAO), NZ; Adjunct Professor, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Visiting Research Associate, Aston University, Birmingham, UK; Visiting Professor, Wenzhou Medical University, Wenzhou, China; Director, Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), USA; Councillor, International Society of Contact Lens Researchers (ISCLR), USA; Scientific Director, Eye Institute Ltd, Auckland, NZ; Fellow, British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), UK; Fellow (Dry Eye), British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), UK; Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society (CCLS), NZ; Member of the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia (CCLSA), Australia; Member, American Academy of Optometry (AAO), USA; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), USA; Member, International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), Canada; Associate Editor, Ocular Surface Journal, USA; Associate Editor, Ocular Immunology and Inflammation Journal, Netherlands; Director, Craig Dean Ltd, NZ; Member, ARVO Global Members Committee

Mrs Shannon Davies	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Optometry <i>Melb</i> , PGCertOcTher
Experience	Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Member, Optometry Australia; Member, Indigenous Allied Health Australia; Associate Member, Eyecare Plus; Optometrist, private practice
Special Responsibilities	OCAZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce member

Professor Alex Gentle	
Qualifications	BSc (in Optometry) with First Class Honours, Diploma in Clinical Optometry (MCOptom), PhD, GCertUniTeach, PGCertOcTher
Experience	Professor in the Deakin University School of Medicine; Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia (OBA); Member of the Optometry Board of Australia Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee; Member of the Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust Advisory Committee; Fellow, College of Optometrists; Fellow, Australian College of Optometry; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; Member Optometry Australia (Vic/SA)
Special Responsibilities	OCAZ Board Chair

Professor Isabelle Jalbert	
Qualifications	Doctorat en optométrie <i>Montréal</i> ; PhD <i>UNSW</i> , Masters of Public Health <i>UNSW</i> , Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics <i>UNSW</i>
Experience	Professor, School of Optometry and Vision Science, <i>UNSW</i> ; Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Member, Optometry Australia NSW/ACT; Member, Editorial Board and Associate Editor, Clinical and Experimental Optometry; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry; Member, Association for Vision Research in Ophthalmology; Member, International Society for Contact Lens Research; Member, Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society; Honorary member, Ordre des Optométristes du Québec; Member, American Academy of Optometry Awards Committee; Member, editorial board, Eye & Contact Lens; Member, Editorial Board, PLoS One; Deputy President, Optometry Council of New South Wales
Special Responsibilities	OCAZ Examination Committee Chair

Mr Tony Lund	
Qualifications	Master of Arts <i>Cambridge</i> ; Fellow Chartered Management Accountant, CIMAG
Experience	Director MHM Limited, Japan; Member, China Book International Advisory Board; Consultant with Beijing Joint Education Technology Company, China; Formerly: Managing Director Asia and Regional Finance Director, Asia Pacific, Cambridge University Press; Director or Committee member of NFP's in Singapore and Australia.
Special Responsibilities	OCAZ Finance and Risk Committee Chair

Professor Lisa Nissen	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Pharmacy, PhD
Experience	Program Director, University of Queensland; Member, AHPRA Scheduled Medicines Expert Group; Clinical expert advisor for the development of the initial NPS Prescribing Competency Framework, led 2020 review of the revised NPS Prescribing Competency Framework; Registered pharmacist.

Dr Linda Turner	
Qualifications	Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Southern Cross University; BA, BCom, MCom University of Auckland; DipTchg, North Shore Teachers College, Auckland; Fellow, Chartered Accountant (FCA); Graduate, The Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).
Experience	Governance roles - Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria, Surveying Taskforce, Southern Metropolitan Regional Council of Adult, Further and Community Education (ACFE), Victoria; Dove Hawkes Bay, NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants Board and National Council, President of NZICA 2009; Academic roles - Melbourne University Accounting Department tutor and mentor; Head of the Business Schools, UNITEC Institute of Technology and Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland; and Eastern Institute of Technology, Hawkes Bay; Business roles – New Zealand Victoria Business Group (NZVBG) Director, Co-Founder WOMANZ network, KPMG Senior Consultant.
Special Responsibilities	OCAZ Finance and Risk Committee member; OCAZ Accreditation Committee member

Dr Lynn Weekes AM	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Pharmacy <i>Syd</i> , MSc <i>Syd</i> , PhD <i>UNSW</i> , GAICD
Experience	Former Chief Executive Officer and Board Director of NPS MedicineWise; Director, Health Strategy and Sciences Pty Ltd; Registered pharmacist; Reviewer <i>Annals of Pharmacotherapy</i> , <i>Medical Journal of Australia</i> , <i>British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology</i> , <i>Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research</i> ; appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia 2013 for significant service to Australian community health through the promotion of quality use of medicines; Board Chair, International Society to Improve Use of Medicines

Ms Katrina Yap	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Optometry <i>Melb</i>
Experience	Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Member, Optometry Australia; Director, Vision at Mill Park and Vision at Broadway; Clinical Teaching Instructor, Melbourne Eyecare Clinic; Visiting lecturer University of Melbourne; Committee Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society Australia; Member, Provision

Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the company's Board of Directors ('the Board') and each Board committee held during the year ended 30 June 2023, and the number of meetings attended by each Director were:

	Directors' Meetings		Committee/Taskforce Meetings	
	Attended	Held	Attended	Held
Emeritus Professor Leo Carney	5	5	3	3
Dr Andrew Collins	4	5	3	3
Professor Jennifer Craig	5	5	-	-
Mrs Shannon Davies	4	5	3	3
Professor Alex Gentle	5	5	-	-
Professor Isabelle Jalbert	5	5	6	6
Mr Tony Lund	4	5	4	4
Professor Lisa Nissen	2	3	-	-
Dr Linda Turner	5	5	7	7
Dr Lynn Weekes	2	2	-	-
Ms Katrina Yap	5	5	-	-

'Held' represents the number of meetings held during the time the Director was in office or was a member of the relevant committee.

Contributions on Winding Up

In the event of the company being wound up, ordinary members are required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards any outstanding obligations of the company.

At 30 June 2023 the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute to outstanding obligations were the company to be wound up is \$50, based on five current ordinary members.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* is set out immediately after this Directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of Directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Signed on behalf of the Directors



Director

Dated this 20 day of October 2023

8.2 Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	4	880,437	796,285
Assessment panels		880,437	796,285
Office expenses		(42,809)	(45,053)
Employee benefit expense		(56,116)	(65,372)
Examination costs		(398,423)	(413,804)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(146,256)	(96,872)
Major projects		(6,415)	(16,627)
Meeting costs		(50,321)	(107,959)
Rent and occupancy expense		(82,018)	(49,312)
Professional fees		(49,759)	(48,035)
Miscellaneous		(15,280)	(18,409)
Finance expense		(5,581)	(5,502)
		(4,562)	(3,926)
		<u>(857,540)</u>	<u>(870,871)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense		22,897	(74,586)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand		<u>22,897</u>	<u>(74,586)</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand		<u>22,897</u>	<u>(74,586)</u>

8.3 Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		5,575	97,482
Trade and other receivables	5	(12,233)	(29,443)
Term deposits		790,000	750,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		783,342	818,039
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank guarantee		22,825	22,825
Property, plant and equipment	6	13,510	17,827
Other assets		6,000	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		42,335	40,652
TOTAL ASSETS		825,677	858,691
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	84,160	135,785
Employee benefits		57,945	62,404
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		142,105	198,189
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long service leave		5,528	5,355
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,528	5,355
TOTAL LIABILITIES		147,633	203,544
NET ASSETS		678,044	655,147
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		678,044	655,147
TOTAL EQUITY		678,044	655,147

8.4 Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2023

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	655,147	655,147
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	22,897	22,897
Balance at 30 June 2023	678,044	678,044

2022

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	729,733	729,733
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	(74,586)	(74,586)
Balance at 30 June 2022	655,147	655,147

8.5 Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from AHPRA		388,319	377,009
Receipts from New Zealand Board		39,844	38,683
Receipts from Examination Candidates		311,920	235,284
Interest received		5,137	8,609
Receipts from Accreditations		129,517	159,293
Other income		2,740	15,200
Payments to suppliers and employees		(922,724)	(939,627)
Finance expense		(4,562)	(3,926)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	11	<u>(49,809)</u>	<u>(109,475)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(2,098)	(936)
Proceeds from / (payments for) investments		<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>105,126</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(42,098)</u>	<u>104,190</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(91,907)	(5,285)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>97,482</u>	<u>102,767</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		<u><u>5,575</u></u>	<u><u>97,482</u></u>

8.6 Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The financial report covers Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand as an individual entity. Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The functional and presentation currency of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance the company is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

These financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in the Australian Accounting Standards. The material accounting policies adopted in the special purpose financial statements are set out in Note 2.

The entity has not assessed how its significant accounting policies differ from the recognition and measurement requirements contained in Australian Accounting Standards that do not apply to it.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(b) Revenue and other income Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the company is entitled to it.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The estimated useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Useful life
Office Equipment	5-10 years
Computer Equipment	2-3 years

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(e) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(e) Financial instruments

Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity. Investments are classified as held-to-maturity if it is the intention of the company's management to hold them until maturity.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements.

(h) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The company has decided not to early adopt these Standards and their impact on the company where the standard is relevant has not yet been assessed.

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Key estimates - useful lives of assets

The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

--

4 Revenue and Other Income

Revenue from continuing operations

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
- Interest income	21,692	5,415
- Examination fees	318,367	237,238
- AHPRA contribution	353,017	342,735
- Accreditation income	144,777	157,014
- New Zealand Optometry Board	39,844	38,683
- Other revenue	2,740	15,200
Total Revenue	880,437	796,285

Income from government assistance relates to funds received from both the Federal and Victorian Governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have been recognised upon receipt.

5 Trade and Other Receivables

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	(32,745)	(32,847)
GST receivable	725	172
Other receivables	19,787	3,232
	(12,233)	(29,443)

6 Property, plant and equipment

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Office furniture		
At cost	4,518	4,518
Accumulated depreciation	(4,062)	(3,836)
Total office furniture	456	682
Office equipment		
At cost	16,745	16,745
Accumulated depreciation	(10,242)	(9,441)
Total office equipment	6,503	7,304
Computer equipment		
At cost	49,730	51,145
Accumulated depreciation	(43,179)	(41,304)
Total computer equipment	6,551	9,841
Total property, plant and equipment	13,510	17,827

7 Trade and Other Payables

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Creditors and accruals	12,286	23,364
Exam fees in advance	6,345	12,690
Credit card	193	4,602
Accreditation fees	65,336	95,129
	<u>84,160</u>	<u>135,785</u>

8 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand during the year is as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	140,048	221,694

9 Auditors' Remuneration

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by RDL Accountants, the auditors of the company:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	6,000	6,000
- other services	7,290	7,630
Total	<u>13,290</u>	<u>13,630</u>

10 Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand had the following contingent liabilities at the end of the reporting period:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Contingent Liabilities		
Bank guarantee	18,150	18,150
	<u>18,150</u>	<u>18,150</u>

11 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Profit for the year	22,897	(74,584)
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	6,415	16,627
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(23,210)	(22,669)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(51,625)	(60,325)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(4,286)	(13,860)
Cashflows from operations	<u>(49,809)</u>	<u>(154,811)</u>

12 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

The financial report was authorised for issue on _____ by the board of directors.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

13 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business is:

Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand
Level 10, Suite 1003
167 Queen Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

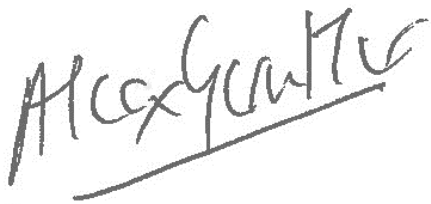
9.0 DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 of the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 to 17, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:
 - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of is in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 2 of the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alex Gantler', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Director

Dated this 20 day of October 2023

10.0 AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



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ABN 84 164 947 290

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER DIVISION 60 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hung'.

Matthew Hung, CA
rdl.accountants

27 July 2023
Blackburn, Victoria

11.0 INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in the notes and complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the directors, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to notes to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the accounting policies described in notes to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of

accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Matthew Hung, CA
rdl.accountants

23 October 2023
Blackburn, Victoria