Optometry **C**ouncil of **A**ustralia and **N**ew **Z**ealand

Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

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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) (to 27 July 2023)
Mr Ian Bluntish	(nominee of Optometry Board of Australia) (from 27 July 2023)
Mr Jayesh Chouhan	(nominee of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board) (to 4 September 2023)
Ms Kristine Hammond	(nominee of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board) (from 4 September 2023)
Mr Wilson Sue	(nominee of New Zealand Association of Optometrists)
Associate Professor Michael Pianta	(nominee of Accredited Heads of Schools)
Ms Skye Cappuccio	(nominee of Optometry Australia)

Directors:
Emeritus Professor Leo Carney (to 17 November 2023)
Dr Andrew Collins (Deputy Chair)
Professor Jennifer Craig
Professor Alex Gentle (Chair)
Professor Isabelle Jalbert (to 17 November 2023)
Mr Tony Lund
Professor Lisa Nissen
Ms Shannon Peckham
Dr Linda Turner
Associate Professor Ann Webber (from 17 November 2023)
Ms Katrina Yap

Company Secretary:
Ms Susan Kelly

Registered Office and Principal Place of Business:

Level 17, 31 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

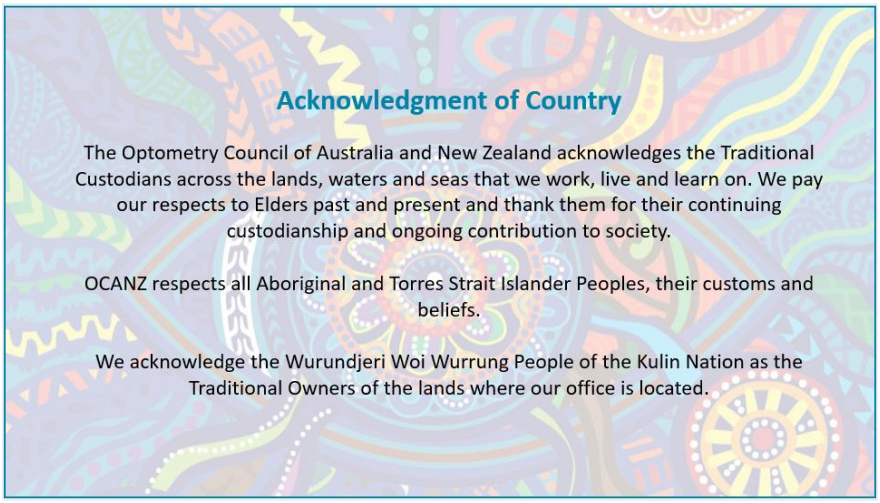
Auditors:
RDL Accountants
60-64 Railway Road
Blackburn VIC 3130

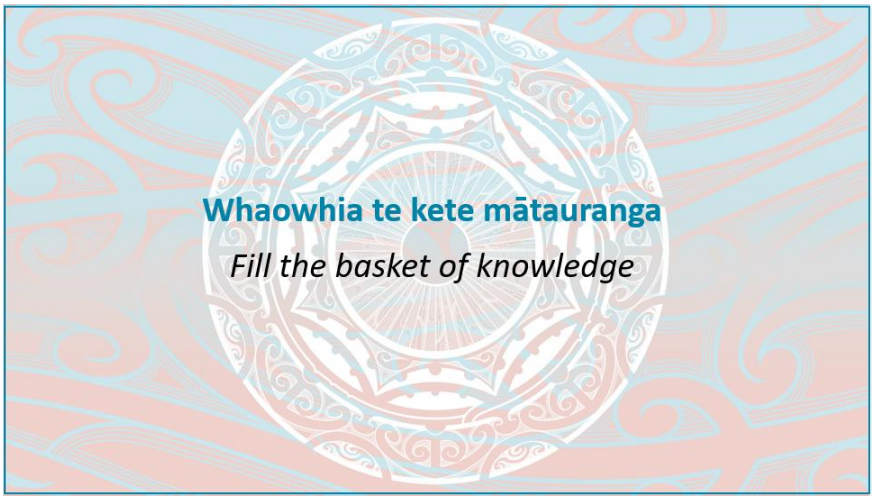
Staff:
Ms Susan Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, 0.6 FTE
Dr Melisa Rangitakatu, Accreditation Manager, 0.4 FTE
Ms Lisa Vella, Finance & Office Manager, 0.6 FTE
Miss Amber Smith, Examination Manager, 0.4 FTE
Mrs Kelley Baldwin, Policy and Projects Manager, Indigenous, 0.6 FTE

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

2.0 2023-2024 REPORTS

2.1 Acknowledgement of Country and Māori whakatauki





2.2 Chair's Report

I also acknowledge the traditional custodians of unceded country throughout Australia and New Zealand, on whose lands OCANZ does its business, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. In particular, I pay my respects to the Elders of the Wadawurrung People on whose lands I am fortunate to live, work and play.

OCANZ is committed to being a leading voice for quality optometry education and training and deliver excellence in our accreditation and assessment services. OCANZ plays 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. In October 2023, and in keeping with the spirit of OCANZ's collaborative nature, I was delighted to be appointed

Chair of the HPAC Forum Accreditation Managers Sub-Committee, an important group with representatives from the 15 accreditation authorities for the regulated health professions, for inter-professional discussion, cooperation, collaboration and sharing regarding accreditation processes, practices and procedures.

OCANZ launched its new 5-year strategic plan in July 2023. In line with our core values and strategic objectives, we have elevated our commitment to improving the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand to one of the four strategic priorities for the organisation. OCANZ has also committed to continuing to collaborate with key partners to facilitate and advance capabilities of the optometry profession, as well to embracing new ways of working to ensure continued success. OCANZ new partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation is an example of this.

This year OCANZ has participated in all phases of the Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce - Scope of Practice Review. This Australian Government-funded independent review focuses on health professionals who currently provide or have the potential to provide primary care, and explores the available evidence of the benefits, risks, barriers and enablers associated with health practitioners working to their full scope of practice. OCANZ has also continued work to implement the recommendations of the 2023 Independent Review of Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings to consider ways to ease health workforce shortages through the overseas-trained health professional pathways.

As with so many organisations in these changing times, consideration of both the positive and negative potential effects of artificial intelligence on accreditation and examination is high on OCANZ's radar. The Board is continuing to invest in the improvement of its information technology and business systems and financial and risk management has also been an important focus. 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 invaluable contributions of the OCANZ Staff, Members, Directors and the many education, community and optometry professionals who are committed to the work of OCANZ. I therefore extend my gratitude to all, but, on behalf of the Board, I extend particular thanks to the OCANZ Staff for their hard work and support across the year.

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 Directors Professor Leo Carney and Professor Isabelle Jalbert, at the same time, welcoming Associate Professor Ann Webber to the Board and Examination Committee. I would also like to thank retiring Member Jayesh Chouhan for his involvement with and contribution to the work of OCANZ and welcome Kristine Hammond as the new Member representative for the ODOB. I offer my thanks to Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane for her dedication to OCANZ's Examination Committee work as she steps away from the role.

I look forward to meeting with all Directors, Members, and staff in person at the annual Directors and Members meeting in August 2024. As we look to the year ahead, OCANZ remains committed to being a leading advocate for, and regulator of, 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 2023-2024 annual report. I am proud to reflect on our remarkable achievements over the last year:

✓ The revised OCANZ Accreditation Standards for postgraduate ocular therapeutic programs came into effect from 1 January 2024 and now include a stand-alone Domain on Cultural Safety.

✓ The new Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework was launched in May 2024. The Framework comes into effect 1 January 2025.

✓ OCANZ staff, Directors, Committee members and Indigenous Strategy Taskforce members completed Māori Cultural Competency Training led by Mathers Solutions.

- ✓ OCANZ received funding from The Fred Hollows Foundation to work on several priority projects including supporting culturally safe initiatives to enhance the development of the optometry workforce.
- ✓ OCANZ developed videos and associated supportive learning materials that model culturally safe care in an optometric setting, to be used by both optometry education programs and OCANZ.
- ✓ OCANZ and the Leaders in Optometry Education Network held a joint workshop on Racism and Privilege, attended by representatives from all eight Schools of Optometry across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.
- ✓ OCANZ held a workshop to launch the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework and discuss Māori cultural safety, which was attended by representatives from all schools, the ODOB and the OptomBA.
- ✓ OCANZ, together with representatives from Optometry Australia and the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) at the University of Melbourne, presented a poster on Mapping the Ecosystem supporting Australian First Nations Eye Health at the OMEGA conference.
- ✓ OCANZ awarded three education bursaries for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori community members, students and/or academics working with the optometry schools.
- ✓ The fourth 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.
- ✓ The HPAC Forum project on the development of online specialist training to support culturally safe accreditation for assessment teams was launched.
- ✓ OCANZ's Examination Manager joined a cross-professional group with other assessing authorities to discuss common issues in assessment.
- ✓ Increased involvement in Government and Ahpra consultations, meetings and working groups.

It was a particularly hectic year for assessment teams and the Accreditation Committee, with several programs re-accredited along with the continued monitoring of new programs. The Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) Reference Group are collaborating with a consultant to complete an extensive review of

the COE, and the Examinations Eligibility Committee made several refinements to the eligibility criteria for the COE as well as reducing processing times for assessing eligibility.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our outstanding staff comprising Lisa, Melisa, Kelley and Amber. Their hard work, resilience, and commitment ensures OCANZ continues to achieve all of its goals. Thank you to Professor Alex Gentle and the OCANZ Board of Directors for all their work and support this year of myself 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 their advice, support, and expertise.

Susan Kelly, Chief Executive Officer

3.0 QUALITY FRAMEWORK REPORT

OCANZ 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 OCANZ performs its accreditation functions, it does so within the Quality Framework and its eight domains. A summary of how OCANZ meets the requirements of each domain follows.

Governance

OCANZ has a robust governance structure with well-defined governance policies and processes in place that ensure that OCANZ meets its legislative and statutory obligations. The July 2023-June 2028 OCANZ strategic plan was developed with input from Members, Directors, staff, committee and taskforce members and is supported each year by an annual business plan. Directors review progress against the annual business plan at every OCANZ 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 OCANZ's activities, including identifying and managing conflicts of interest, complaints and appeals. There were no complaints or appeals received during the year. OCANZ's complaints and appeals policies are available at https://ocanz.org/concerns-and-complaints/

Operational management

OCANZ 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. In 2023 OCANZ secured funding from the Fred Hollows Foundation to fund the Indigenous Policy and Project Manager position for three years.

Accreditation standards

Revised accreditation standards for optometry programs of study in ocular therapeutics came into effect on 1 January 2024.

Processes for accreditation of education providers and programs of study

OCANZ accredits ten programs at eight institutions against standards for the accreditation of optometry programs that OCANZ develops, maintains, and applies. OCANZ 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 OCANZ assesses the competence of overseas trained optometrists as described below rather than evaluating assessing authorities in other countries.

Assessing overseas qualified practitioners

OCANZ assesses overseas trained optometrists by evaluating their qualifications and the subsequent conduct of standardised written and clinical examinations. 94 candidates attempted either the written and/or clinical components of the OCANZ Competence in Optometry Examination in 2023-2024. More detailed examination information and statistics are presented in section 5.0 of this report.

Stakeholder collaboration

OCANZ 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 OCANZ Board has adopted a communication and stakeholder engagement strategy and has elevated engagement and stakeholder collaboration in our new strategic plan.

4.0 ACCREDITATION REPORT

Purpose

OCANZ 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 OCANZ 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 OCANZ 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 OCANZ 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 2023-2024, 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 OCANZ Board. During the year Lisa Nissen was appointed as Committee Chair for a three-year term, replacing Joyce Kirk at the expiration of her term. Nicola Anstice was appointed for a three-year term, replacing Leo Carney at the expiration of his term. Jane Duffy and Linda Turner were reappointed for their second three-year term.

Member	Date of Commencement	No. meetings eligible to attend	No. attended
Emeritus Professor Joyce Kirk (Chair until 7 September 2023)	10/08/2018	1	1
Professor Lisa Nissen (Chair from 7 September 2023)	07/09/2023	2	2
Associate Professor Andrew Anderson	04/12/2015	3	3
Professor Nicola Anstice	20/10/2023	2	2
Emeritus Professor Leo Carney	16/03/2018	2	2
Ms Jennifer Caulfield	22/08/2022	3	3
Ms Jane Duffy OAM	10/08/2018	3	3
Dr Linda Turner	03/05/2017	3	3

Accreditation Standards

OCANZ 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 OCANZ *Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs* are available at https://ocanz.org/accreditation/standards/ and were approved by the OCANZ 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 Standards came 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.

The *Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework* comes into effect 1 January 2025. 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 2023-2024

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 2023-2024.

Programs examined by Assessment Teams and/or Accreditation Committee during 2023-2024

University of Melbourne
Program: Doctor of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2031
Program was accredited in 2023 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 reviewed the submission and conducted a three-day site visit in August 2023. The final report of the assessment team was approved by the OCANZ Board at their October 2023 meeting and by the OptomBA at their November 2023 meeting. The program was re-accredited for eight years with no conditions.

University of New South Wales
Program: Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2024

The University of New South Wales submitted its reaccreditation report for the Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics in May 2024. The Assessment Team undertook a paper-based programmatic assessment throughout May 2024. The OCANZ Board will review the assessment team report at their August 2024 meeting.

University of Western Australia
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 and Condition 4 was deemed met in November 2023.

UWA submitted a reaccreditation submission in June 2024. As assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission and a site visit is scheduled for September 2024.

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:

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

UC 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. Conditions 1, 2, 3 have been deemed not yet met.

Queensland University of Technology
Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2030 with no conditions

The QUT optometry program was re-accredited in 2022 for eight years with no conditions.

Deakin University
Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 July 2027 with no conditions

The Deakin optometry 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 two 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
Program: Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Clinical Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 31 December 2027 with one condition
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.

Flinders University
Program: Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science) and Master of Optometry
Accreditation Status: Accredited until 30 June 2030 with two conditions

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 required 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. Conditions 1c and 2b were deemed met in February 2024.

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.

OCANZ Accreditation Project Work

HPAC Forum – ABSTARR Cultural Safety Training
ABSTARR Consulting and HPAC Forum co-developed a course for Cultural Safety in Health Program Accreditation. This program has been designed for accreditation assessors from all the 16 professions regulated by Ahpra. The OCANZ Accreditation Manager piloted the program from February-March 2024 and provided feedback ahead of in-person discussions held on 14 March 2024. In February, OCANZ invited selected learners who are involved in program accreditation to enrol in the course, which was launched in April 2024. The six-module online course is open to learners for 6 months. On completion of the modules, learners attend a facilitated workshop which is delivered online or in-person per participant preference. To date, Peter Hendicott, Lisa Nissen, Emily Pieterse and Susan Kelly have enrolled in the course.

Dr Emily Pieterse, lecturer and senior researcher at QUT, shared her experience of the ABSTARR training with OCANZ.

"*I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to undertake the ABSTARR Health Program Accreditation training, the content of which had a depth and scope that far surpassed any Cultural Safety training I've previously undertaken. The program has left me feeling confident and motivated to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are considered and incorporated in all aspects of Health Program Accreditation*." Emily Pieterse, Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology, Optometry Program

Graduate and Employer Surveys
The Social Research Centre (SRC) was engaged to administer survey questions developed by OCANZ to optometry graduates and their employers. The purpose was to explore the extent to which optometry graduates are prepared for the workforce. The survey questions were 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 and the surveys continued to be administered and analyses provided to OCANZ until 2024. De-identified data from the surveys has been provided to participating optometry education providers to assist with program review and improvement. OCANZ made numerous efforts to increase survey participation, but despite these efforts, response rates remained low. In 2023 the Accreditation Committee and Education Providers were asked to provide their

feedback on whether the survey should continue past 2024. The provider responses mirrored the position of the Accreditation Committee, noting that low response rates impact the generalisability of the survey findings. The surveys were discontinued at the expiration of OCANZ's contract with SRC. Further information is available at https://ocanz.org/accreditation/graduate-outcomes/

Collaborative Work with other Accreditation Authorities in the NRAS Scheme

In 2023-2024 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 as 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 accreditation assessment and monitoring of cultural safety, and ongoing discussions about 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 2023-24 OCANZ provided 32 positive skills assessments.

Eligibility for the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

During the year 50 people applied and were deemed eligible to sit the COE (3 are currently being assessed by the Examination Eligibility Committee). This compares to 40 eligible applications assessed in 2022-2023, and 16 eligible applications in 2021-2022.

Applications included 27 from optometrists holding a qualification in optometry that entitles automatic admission to the examination. There were 27 applications which required individual assessment:

- 23 were subsequently deemed eligible to sit the COE
- One application was assessed as not eligible (the Country of Institution where this applicant studied was Sweden).
- Three 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	Nigeria
No. Eligible Applications	5	3	4	7	2	1	5

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	Pakistan	Philippines	Columbia	Nepal	Ghana	Iran	Kenya	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
No. Eligible Applications individually assessed	10	4	2	1	1	1	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 COE 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 Peter Hendicott commenced his appointment as Chair in 2022. 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 Peter Hendicott (Chair)	18/09/2022	2	2
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 COE 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). Associate Professor Simon Backhouse was announced as Deputy Chair of the Examination Committee. Associate Professor Ann Webber joined the Examination Committee as a Clinical Sub-committee member in January 2024. Dr Vinod Maseedupally commenced a work shadow role within the written examination sub-committee in January 2024.

The committee comprises of six members and a work shadow 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
Dr Vinod Maseedupally (Work Shadow)	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2024	1	1

Biography of new member, Dr Vinod Maseedupally

Dr. Vinod Maseedupally is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW Sydney. He serves as the convenor of the Contact Lenses course and holds the role of Program Authority for Undergraduate Programs at the university.
"The journey through the OCANZ exam was a challenge, which I successfully navigated in 2017. The written examination rigorously tested every facet of optometry, while the clinical exams demanded extensive practice, especially after a hiatus from hands-on practice due to my PhD studies. I hold a deep respect for the stringent nature of the OCANZ examination process. Currently, it is an honour to contribute to OCANZ as a member of the Examination Committee. I am eager to leverage my experience both as an educator and a former exam candidate to support and enhance the committee's efforts." Dr Vinod Maseedupally

Types of Exams

Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

OCANZ has been conducting the 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 2023 and March 2024 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.

Cultural Safety Training Program

Cultural Safety training became compulsory from 1 July 2023. All Candidates need to complete the self-paced training prior to sitting the Clinical examination. The OCANZ Cultural Safety Training for Optometrists online program has been adapted for all overseas qualified optometrists as part of OCANZ's examination process. This program has a strong focus on applied safety in optometry practice which is both clinically- and culturally-framed.

This Cultural Safety Training Program provides foundation knowledge as part of an ongoing learning journey to provide safer, culturally responsive optometry care.

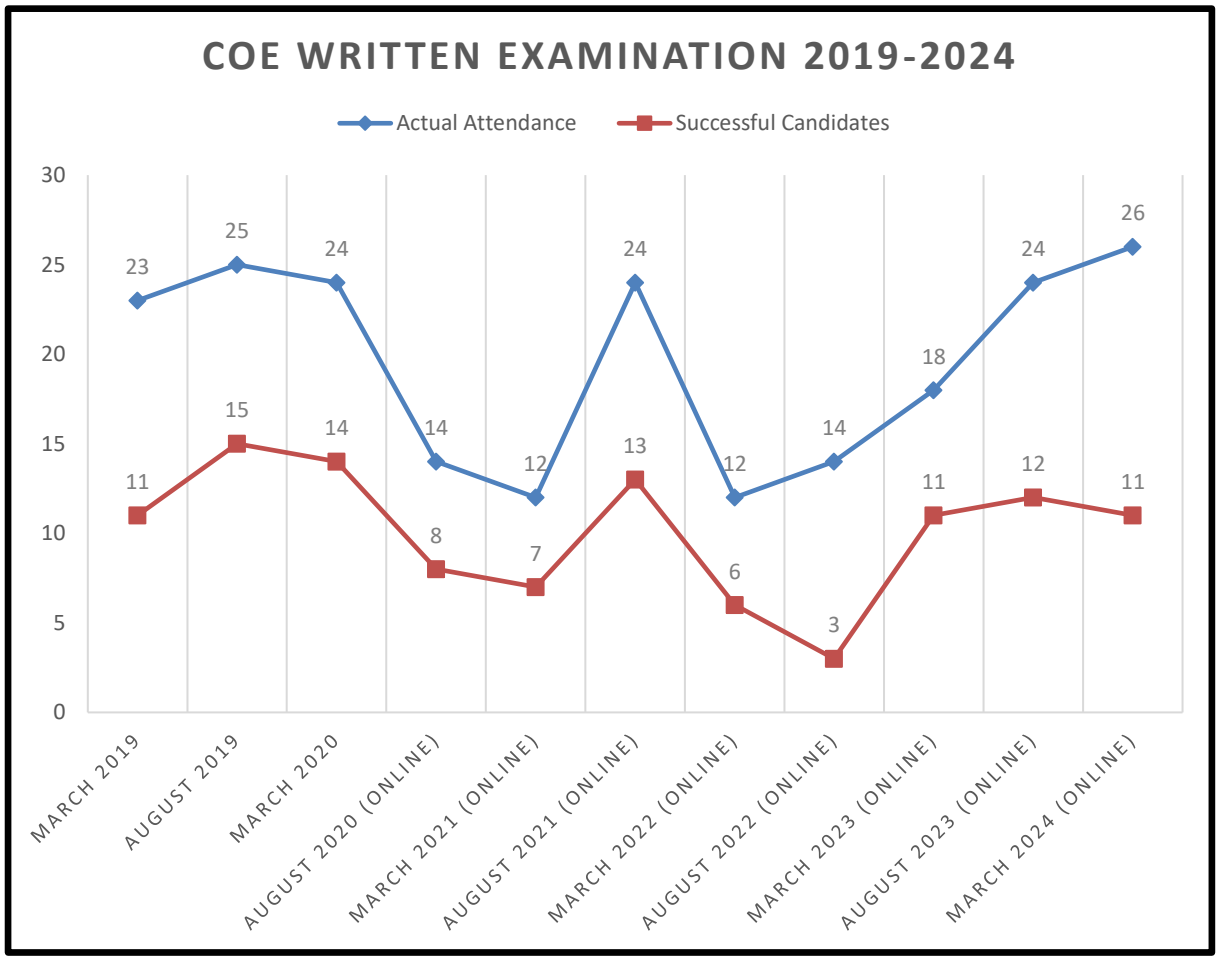
From July 2023, 40 candidates have successfully completed the OCANZ Cultural Safety Training.

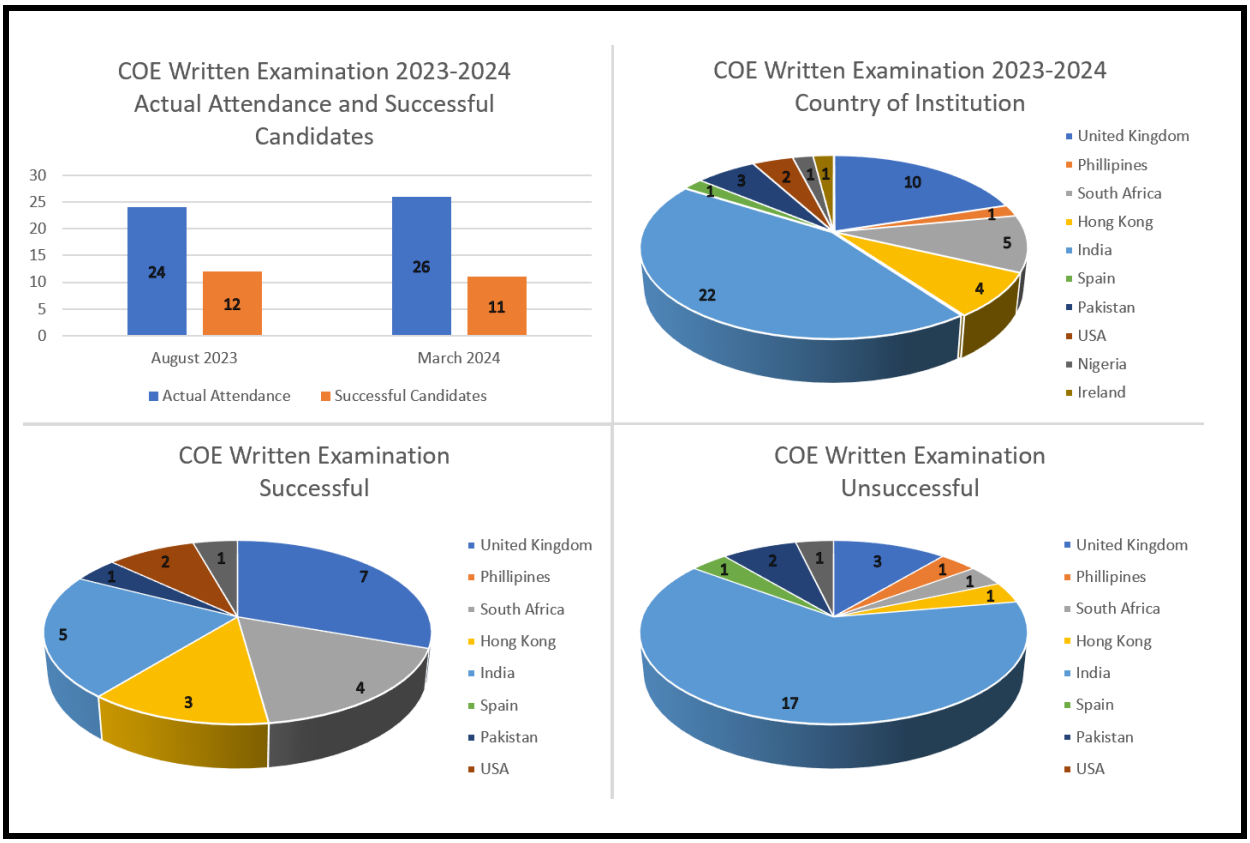
Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT)

The purpose of this examination is to assess competence in 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 the United Kingdom successfully undertook this examination during 2023-2024. Two candidates are currently undergoing the examination process, one from the United Kingdom and one from the United States of America.

Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) Activity

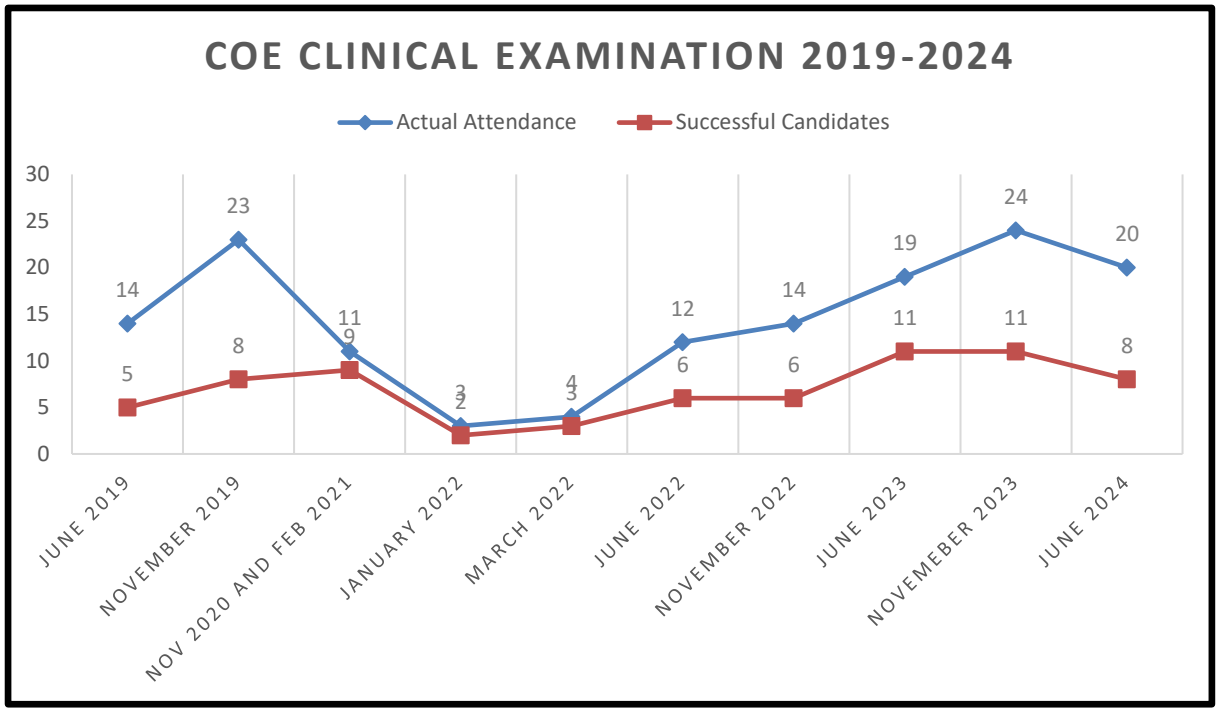
The following two tables report on the Written Examination component of the COE. Historically the number of candidates sitting the COE written examination has varied from year to year, although the pass rate has remained fairly constant over time at around 50 per cent. Analysis of the written examination 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 2023-2024 were slightly lower with those in previous years. The following two charts report on the COE Written Examination component.

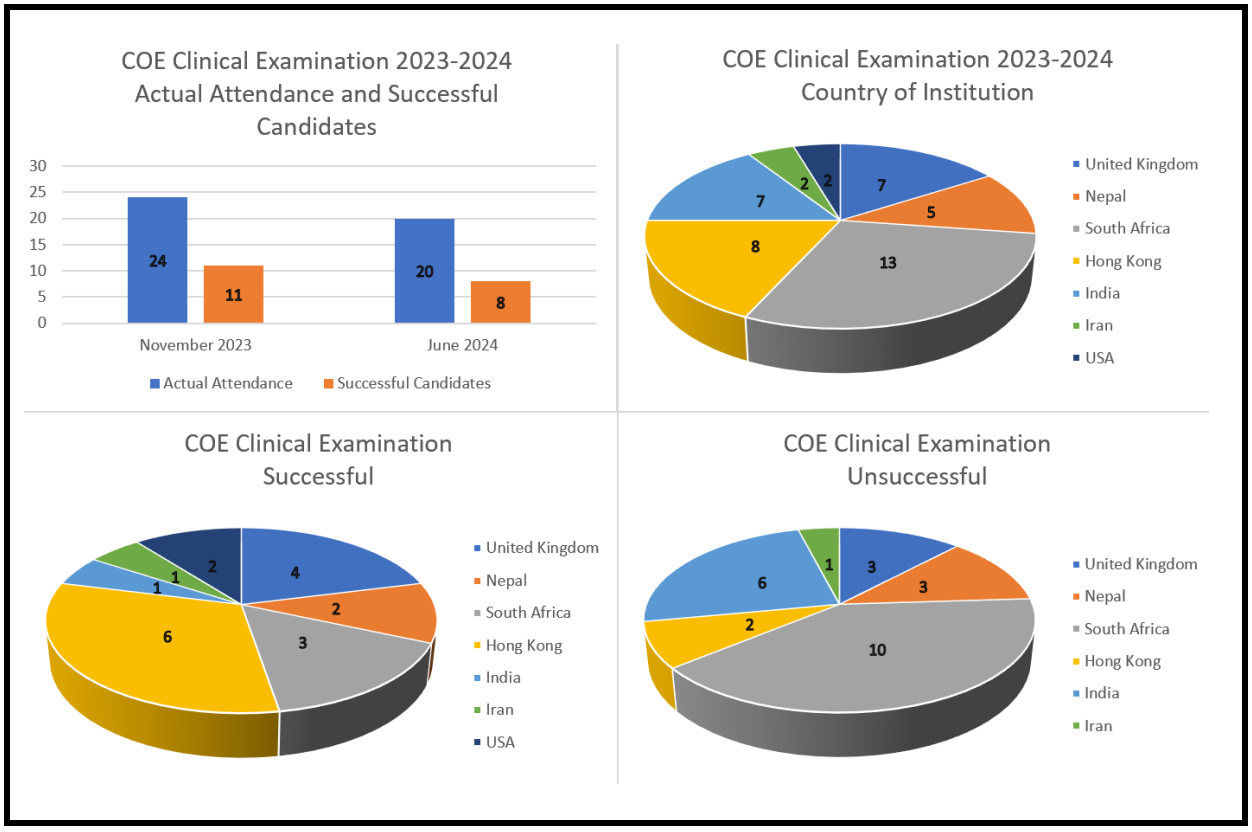

COE WRITTEN EXAMINATION 2019-2024
Actual Attendance
Successful Candidates
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
23
25
24
14
12
24
12
14
18
24
26
11
15
14
8
7
13
6
3
11
12
11
MARCH 2019
AUGUST 2019
MARCH 2020
AUGUST 2020 (ONLINE)
MARCH 2021 (ONLINE)
AUGUST 2021 (ONLINE)
MARCH 2022 (ONLINE)
AUGUST 2022 (ONLINE)
MARCH 2023 (ONLINE)
AUGUST 2023 (ONLINE)
MARCH 2024 (ONLINE)


COE Written Examination 2023-2024
Actual Attendance and Successful Candidates
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
24
12
26
11
August 2023
March 2024
Actual Attendance
Successful Candidates
COE Written Examination 2023-2024
Country of Institution
10
1
5
4
22
1
3
2
1
1
United Kingdom
Phillipines
South Africa
Hong Kong
India
Spain
Pakistan
USA
Nigeria
Ireland
COE Written Examination
Successful
7
4
3
5
1
2
1
United Kingdom
Phillipines
South Africa
Hong Kong
India
Spain
Pakistan
USA
COE Written Examination
Unsuccessful
3
1
1
1
17
1
2
1
United Kingdom
Phillipines
South Africa
Hong Kong
India
Spain
Pakistan
USA

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

This year candidate application numbers were seen to increase to pre 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. The OCANZ Examination Manager meets with Examination Managers from other accreditation authorities to discuss issues of common interest in the examination space.

COE Review

The OCANZ Board commissioned a review of the COE primarily to consider changes to the exam as a result of the new Optometry Australia Entry-Level Competency Standards for Optometry. 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 and Emeritus Professor David Prideaux. Associate Professor Michael Pianta completed an initial report with Associate Professor Neville Chiavaroli will progress stage two of the project and make recommendations to the OCANZ Board.

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 Aotearoa New Zealand and to help implement Board approved initiatives in this area. OCANZ commits to a health system free of racism and discrimination by contributing to the development of a culturally safe and responsive optometry workforce.

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 Health Curriculum Framework across all Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand optometry education providers.
- supporting the development and implementation of an Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework.
- 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 Aotearoa New Zealand accreditation body to achieve a culturally safe health workforce.

The IST comprises nine members, with the term of appointment for each member being three years. OCANZ is proud to have over 50% First Nations representation on the IST and will continue to work to strengthen Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and Māori Peoples leadership through our governance. In 2023-2024, there were three meetings of the IST. At the 17 May 2024 OCANZ Board meeting the Board reappointed Mitchell Anjou, Donna Murray and Nicola Anstice to the OCANZ Indigenous Strategic Taskforce for three-years until August 2027. In August 2024 Mitchell Anjou will step down after five years as chair and co-chair of the IST. OCANZ could like to sincerely thank Mitchell for his commitment, expertise and guidance during his time as chair and co-chair of the IST and look forward to his continued contributions as a member of the IST.

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

Taskforce Workplan and Activities

The Taskforce's 2023-2024 workplan focused on the following key areas:

- finalising the OCANZ Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework and developing implementation guidelines to support optometry educators in Aotearoa and Australia for when the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework comes into effect in January 2025.

- continuing activities to help embed the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework across all Australian and Aotearoa optometry education providers. Including:
- co-hosting with the Leaders in Indigenous Optometry Education Network (LIOEN) an annual (virtual) education workshop. These workshops are designed to create a safe space for optometry educators to learn and discuss topics and challenges of relevance to implementing and teaching the First Nations Frameworks.
- Developing and sharing teaching videos that model the provision of culturally safe eye care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to improve the cultural safety and knowledge of optometry students.
- Funding annual bursaries to support Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori community members, students and/or academics who are working with one or more optometry schools in Australian or Aotearoa to improve the delivery of culturally safe curriculum and / or eye care.
- continuing work to strengthen cultural safety and responsiveness of OCANZ through ongoing training of all staff, Board and committee members.

OCANZ ongoing commitment to cultural safety and responsive learning

At the 2023 OCANZ Board and members meeting, OCANZ held a workshop session on Racism and Healthcare from an Indigenous perspective. OCANZ invited guest speaker was Dr Chris Bourke a Gamillaroi man and Australia's first Indigenous dentist. Dr Bourke has held clinical positions in the private and public sector including his own private dental practice, Aboriginal Medical Services, public hospitals, and state/territory health departments and currently leads the CSIRO's Indigenous Science and Engagement program including co-development of Indigenous science priorities. Dr Bourke facilitated OCANZ Board, staff and members discussion on the steps OCANZ has taken to reduce institutional racism and what things it could do in the future in the areas of: governance, policy implementation, service delivery, employment and financial accountability to continue to illuminate institutional racism.

Throughout October 2023 OCANZ Board, staff and committee members participated in Te Kahikatea Corporate Wānanga Programme, a Māori cultural competency training program delivered by the team at the Mathers Solution. The training was delivered over two, four hour zoom sessions a week apart and was accompanied by a comprehensive coursebook covering key areas – cultural competency; Māori concepts, values and principles; Te Tiriti O Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) history, the Waitangi Tribunal and Treaty settlements; The Māori Economy and Partnership approaches in Practice, together with in depth research and reference material.

Māori culture is a culture of relationships (whanaungatanga) and related values. Core Māori values include the building of respectful and supportive relationships that can contribute to business and personal success through unity of purpose (kotahitanga unity). Cultural competency in organisations reflects diversity of thought and inclusiveness. This supports more relevant decision-making discussions and initiatives. As a team we discussed how this could impact the OCANZ organisation, governance and strategy - Dr Linda Turner, OCANZ Board Director.

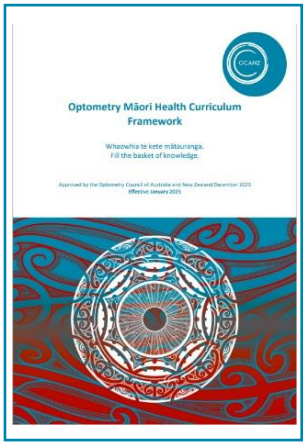
Supporting a culturally safe and responsive optometry workforce

For the past several years OCANZ has worked with Wingaru, a leading Aboriginal education company to develop two teaching videos to support optometry education programs model the provision of culturally safe eye care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to improve the cultural safety of optometry students. The videos - Culturally safe communication while conducting an eye health consultation and Interpersonal racism contain hypothetical animated scenarios and reflections activities and can be embedded throughout education curriculum or used as standalone resources. OCANZ would like to thank Wingaru for their time and expertise in working with OCANZ to develop these videos. OCANZ would like to acknowledge the Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust Training and Education Grants for funding this project. Access these videos here.

The first video (culturally safe communication while conducting an eye health consultation) was used as a teaching resource in an undergraduate unit in Semester 1 at QUT. This video includes an example clip of culturally unsafe communication during an eye health consultation. At the conclusion of this clip, the video

was paused, and students as a group were set the task of identifying the examples of culturally unsafe communication – using the key principles of cultural safety (self-awareness, power differential, rights of others/legitimacy of difference, relationship between provider/client and determined by recipient of care) as the basis for determining whether communication was culturally unsafe. Students were also asked to consider how the communication in the 'unsafe' consultation could be changed (and provide examples) to enable culturally safe communication. At the end of these tasks, the final clip of the video was played (an example of culturally safe communication during a consultation), and students were pleased when they could see that a lot of their suggestions/examples had been included in this clip. – Shelley Hopkins, Queensland University of Technology.

Images from Culturally safe communication while conducting an eye health consultation video



The OCANZ Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework was approved by the OCANZ Board on 8 December 2023 and officially launched on the 9 May 2024 after several years of development. The Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework aims to embed education of Māori history, principles and core values into the optometry curriculum with the goal of enhancing the cultural safety and responsiveness of optometry education in Aotearoa and Australia. The Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework includes nine key themes and twenty-six learning outcomes that range in skill level development from novice, intermediate and entry to practice. OCANZ will support optometry educators in Aotearoa and Australia to implement the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework into the optometry curriculum. OCANZ would like to thank all those involved in this significant project. Download the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework here.

The Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework is more than a document; it signifies a resolute commitment to addressing Māori health disparities by equipping the future generations of optometrists with the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference – Renata Watene, Co-Chair of the OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce.

In early 2024 OCANZ were pleased to award three OCANZ Bursaries for the 2024 calendar year. Recipients include Georgia Stewart (University of New South Wales), Josh Manning (University of Auckland) and Renata Watene (University of Auckland). The 2023 OCANZ Bursary recipients' reports were captured through video recording of oral presentations regarding their bursary supported experiences. This approach forms part of a new way for OCANZ sharing knowledge and capturing story telling. View these stories here.

2024 OCANZ Bursary Recipients

Georgia Stewart

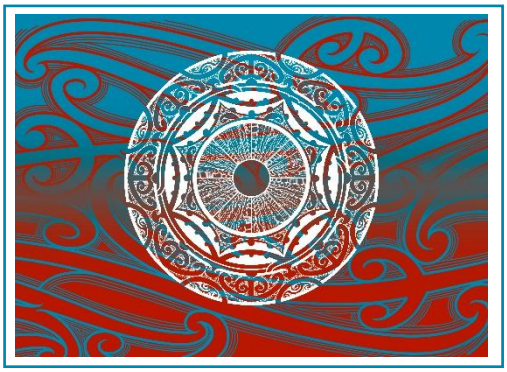
Josh Manning

Renata Watene

In May 2024 OCANZ partnered with the Leaders in Optometry Education Network (LIOEN) to host its second joint virtual education workshop on **Māori history and culture.** The workshop was attended by 40 participants, including representatives from all eight optometry educators, the Australian College of Optometry, Optometrists and Optical Dispensing Board New Zealand and the Optometry Board Australia. The workshop included the launch of the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework and Māori artwork. Guest speakers included Graham Tipene (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Manu), who spoke to the Māori artwork and Jason Whatuira, (Ngāti Kahungunu) Senior Consultant at the Mathers Solution who presented on Māori history, values and health models.

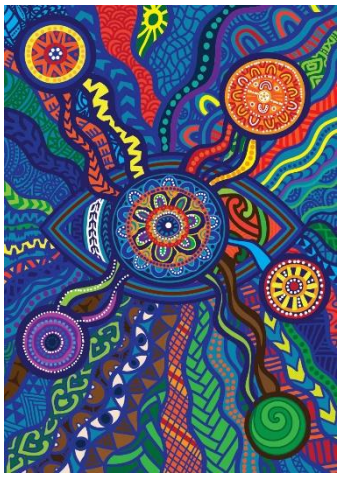
Well done and congratulations – excellent work. The engagement of near to 40 people from across all the schools in Australia and Aotearoa is fantastic…. let's keep helping people advancing in their journeys. – feedback from workshop participant.

Other achievements



OCANZ is honoured to celebrate Māori culture through art and visual storytelling with this stunning artwork designed for OCANZ by Graham Tipene (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Manu) from Te Wheke Moko Design Studio. Grahams' work uses Māori design thinking and motifs that ground the artwork in Kaupapa Māori principles (by Māori, with Māori, for Māori). The karu o te kanohi represents the work that OCANZ and optometrists undertake by looking deep into people's eyes. The artwork is made up of five layers that have been intentionally designed and woven together to showcase Māori symbology, strength and story.

OCANZ would like to thank Graham for his guidance and talent in developing this beautiful Māori design and for supporting OCANZ work. Learn more about this artwork here.



The Māori artwork will join **Looking at Country – Cultural Connections** in the OCANZ gallery / branding family as we continue to embrace and celebrate the centrality and diversity of cultures amongst Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Peoples, communities and Nations. Looking at Country – Cultural Connections, by Riki Salam (Mualgal, Kuku Yalanji, Ngai Tahu) principal, creative director and artist at We are 27 Creative tells the story about the different aspects and ways of looking and seeing country and how it provides for us for in many and varied ways. *From time immemorial Country has sustained us across generations, we, the custodians of these lands need to continually care for and look at Country in new and different ways. As we care for Country, so Country will take care of us. The patterned pathways represent the importance of People, Culture and communities, these paths guide our way and reinforce support, stability and understanding throughout OCANZ.*

Read the full story of Looking at Country – Cultural Connections here.

In May 2024 five OCANZ staff and six members of the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce attended the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference 2024 on nipaluna country (Hobart, Tasmania). The conference theme was *Our Vision in Action* and was a wonderful culturally immersive learning experience for OCANZ staff who had the privilege to listen to the powerful stories of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and Māori Peoples working in the (eye) health sector and beyond.

OCANZ provided three presentations at the conference and would like to acknowledge and thank presenters Donna Murray, Kelley Baldwin, Nicola Anstice, Renata Watene and Shannon Peckham who spoke on OCANZ's behalf.

It is a privilege to attend this conference and listen to stories, achievements and ideas so generously shared, to help make changes to the eye health landscape for the benefit of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The collaborative spirit, dedication and commitment from those who work in the sector is evident in every part of the conference. - Susan Kelly, CEO OCANZ

Shannon Peckham
NATSIEHC24

Nicola Anstice & Renata Watene NATSIEHC24

Donna Murray, Kelley Baldwin & Nicola Anstice
NATSIEHC24

OCANZ was thrilled to be awarded funding from The Fred Hollows Foundation to support the undertaking of some specific priority projects and continue OCANZ work in First Nations space over the next three years. The projects include looking at how OCANZ can work with partners to explore mechanisms to increase the recruitment, retention and graduation of First Nations people into optometry training. The funding will also support continuation of the existing OCANZ Policy and Project Officer role to ensure continuity and co-ordination of the critical and ongoing Indigenous Strategy Taskforce workplan and projects over the next three years. OCANZ acknowledges The Fred Hollows Foundation for their support and looks forward to continuing our work towards achieving a health system free of racism and discrimination by contributing to the development of a culturally safe and responsive optometry workforce.

The Fred Hollows Foundation supports OCANZ as a key partner working towards improving equity and access to eye health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Foundation mission to prevent avoidable blindness and increase health equity and access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples requires innovative and bold approaches to achieve this aim. Our partnership is a positive way forward to increase the recruitment and graduation of more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander optometry students which will lead to further leadership and self-determination through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander developed and led services within the eye health sector. - Tanya Morris, Program Manager, Indigenous Australia Program.

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	3	3
Mr Damian Koppens	21/02/2020	4	4
Dr Linda Turner	09/12/2016	4	4
Mr Jason Chong (Work Shadow)	18/01/2024	2	2

Financial Report Analysis 2023-2024

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 2024. 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 2024 was $124,361. This compares to a 2023 surplus of $22,897.

Total revenue increased by $176,367 (20%), from $880,437 in 2023 to $1,056,804 in 2024. This was mostly due to an increase in examination revenue and funding from the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Revenue from examination fees increased by $102,079 from $318,367 in 2023 to $420,446 in 2024, due to examination candidate numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Total expenditure increased by 8.7per cent from $857,540 in 2023 to $932,443 in 2024.

There were increased costs related to examination due to an increase in activity from 2023. There was also an increase in employee benefit expense due to the increase in workdays of the Project and Policy Officer. In 2024, OCANZ spent $41,457 on projects including the review of the Competency in Optometry Examination 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 $124,361 from $678,044 in 2023 to $802,405 in 2024. The total retained earnings is mainly comprised cash at bank and held to maturity term deposits.

Statement of Cash Flows

There was a net increase in cash flow from activities for 2024 of $206,070 resulting in a cash and cash equivalent balance of $265,645 at the end of the financial year.

Other work - Finance and Risk Committee

In 2023-2024 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 considering national requirements and cost comparisons.

8.0 SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

8.1 Directors' Report

The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2024.

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 (to 17 November 2023)

Dr Andrew Collins

Professor Jennifer Craig

Professor Alex Gentle

Professor Isabelle Jalbert (to 17 November 2023)

Mr Tony Lund

Professor Lisa Nissen

Ms Shannon Peckham

Dr Linda Turner

Associate Professor Ann Webber (from 17 November 2023)

Ms Katrina Yap

Pictured top row left to right are:
Dr Linda Turner, Professor Lisa Nissen, Professor Alex Gentle, Dr Andrew Collins, Ms Susan Kelly (OCANZ CEO)

Pictured bottom row left to right are:
Dr Katrina Yap, Mrs Shannon Davies, Associate Professor Ann Webber
(Absent: Professor Jennifer Craig, Mr Tony Lund)

In compliance with Section 23 of the OCANZ Constitution, Rotation of Directors, Dr Andrew Collins, Emeritus Professor Leo Carney and Professor Isabelle Jalbert all retired. Dr Andrew Collins has served two consecutive terms as Director and is eligible for re-appointment for a third and final term. Emeritus Professor Leo Carney has served three consecutive terms as Director, the maximum number of terms permitted under the Company Constitution, Rule 23.5, and is ineligible for re-appointment. Emeritus Professor Carney was appointed under Rule 21.2.1: one eligible Director nominated by the Optometry Board of Australia who must be a registered optometrist in either Australia or New Zealand. The Optometry Board of Australia declined to nominate a new Director. Professor Isabelle Jalbert has chosen to end her final term one year early at the 2023 AGM.
At the Annual General meeting, Dr Andrew Collins was re-appointed. Associate Professor Ann Webber was appointed to the Board to replace Professor Isabelle Jalbert.

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 (OptomBA) 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

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 2028 which is published on the OCANZ website at http://ocanz.org/about/strategic-plan/.

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 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 2023/2024, 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. In August 2023, Optometry Board Australia assigned OCANZ a further five-year agreement from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2029. The Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board New Zealand extended the current agreement until 30 June 2027. The 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 *Auckland*
Experience	Employed as Head of School in the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Auckland; Director, Aotearoa New Zealand National Eye Centre, 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; Chair, School of Medicine Board of Research, 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; Director, Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), USA; Councillor, International Society of Contact Lens Researchers (ISCLR), USA; 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; Editorial Board Member, Optometry and Vision Science; Director, Craig Dean Ltd, NZ; Member of Steering Committee, TFOS DEWS III; IUE Kairangahau Wānanga Steering Group, NZ; BCLA CLEAR Presbyopia Steering Group and Section Chair.

Professor Alex Gentle	
Qualifications	BSc, GCertUniTeach, PGCertOcTher, PhD, FACO, FCOptom, FAAO
Experience	Chair in Vision Science and Deputy Head of School, Deakin University School of Medicine; Registered Optometrist; Member of the Optometry Board of Australia Scheduled Medicines 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	OCANZ Board Chair

Professor Isabelle Jalbert	
Qualifications	Doctorat en optométrie *Montréal*; PhD *UNSW,* Masters of Public Health *UNSW,* Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics *UNSW*
Experience	Professor, School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW; 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	OCANZ Examination Committee Chair

Mr Tony Lund	
Qualifications	Master of Arts *Cambridge*; Fellow Chartered Management Accountant, CIMAG
Experience	Director MHM Limited, Japan; Member, China Book International Advisory Board; Consultant with Beijing Joint Education Technology Company, China; Director and Treasurer, May Gibbs' Nutcote. Formerly: Managing Director Asia and Global Board Director, Cambridge University Press; Regional Finance Director, Asia Pacific, Cambridge University Press; Director or Committee member of several NFP's in Singapore and Australia.
Special Responsibilities	OCANZ 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.
Special Responsibilities	OCANZ Accreditation Committee Chair

Ms Shannon Peckham	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Optometry *Melb,* 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	OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce member

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	OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee member; OCANZ Accreditation Committee member

Associate Professor Ann Webber	
Qualifications	PhD MS BAppSc (Optom)(Hons), Grad Cert (Oc Therapeutics) FAAO Dipl (BVPPO).
Experience	Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Adjunct Associate Professor and Sessional Academic (casual employee), Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Health, School of Clinical Sciences; Associate Professor and Employee (part time), University of New South Wales, School of Optometry and Vision Science; Employee, Queensland Health, Queensland Children's Hospital, Dept of Ophthalmology; Member, Professional Services Review Panel; Member, Optometry Queensland/NT; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry (FAAO); Diplomate and Member of Leadership Committee, Binocular Vision Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section of AAO; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO); Member, World Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSPOS); Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia; Editorial Board Member, Optometry and Vision Science; Associate Editor, Clinical and Experimental Optometry; Committee Member, Advanced Practice Oversight Committee (Optometry Australia); Former Board Member, Optometry Board of Australia; Graduate and Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).
Special Responsibilities	OCANZ Examination Committee member

Ms Katrina Yap	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Optometry Melb
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; Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society Australia; Member, Provision; Committee Member, Advanced Practice Oversight Committee (Optometry Australia).

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 2024, and the number of meetings attended by each Director were:

	Directors' Meetings		Committee/Taskforce Meetings	
	Attended	**Held**	**Attended**	**Held**
Emeritus Professor Leo Carney	2	2	2	2
Dr Andrew Collins	5	5	3	3
Professor Jennifer Craig	5	5	-	-
Professor Alex Gentle	5	5	-	-
Professor Isabelle Jalbert	2	2	6	6
Mr Tony Lund	4	5	4	4
Professor Lisa Nissen	5	5	2	2
Ms Shannon Peckham	5	5	2	3
Dr Linda Turner	5	5	7	7
Associate Professor Ann Webber	3	3	-	-
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 2024 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 18 day of October 2024

8.2 Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue	4	**1,056,804**	880,437
		1,056,804	880,437
Assessment panels		**(25,758)**	(42,809)
Office expenses		**(50,757)**	(56,116)
Employee benefit expense		**(450,033)**	(398,423)
Examination costs		**(169,686)**	(146,256)
Depreciation and amortisatoin expense		**(14,721)**	(6,415)
Major projects		**(41,457)**	(50,321)
Meeting costs		**(85,714)**	(82,018)
Rent and occupancy expense		**(54,702)**	(49,759)
Professional fees		**(24,062)**	(15,280)
Miscellaneous		**(8,567)**	(5,581)
Finance expense		**(6,986)**	(4,562)
		(932,443)	(857,540)
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense		**124,361**	22,897
Income tax expense		**-**	-
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand		**124,361**	22,897
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		**124,361**	22,897

8.3 Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		**265,645**	5,575
Trade and other receivables	5	**(21,308)**	(12,233)
Term deposits		**790,000**	790,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**1,034,337**	783,342
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank guarantee		**-**	22,825
Property, plant and equipment	6	**9,667**	13,510
Other assets		**-**	6,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**9,667**	42,335
TOTAL ASSETS		**1,044,004**	825,677
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	**157,419**	84,160
Employee benefits		**84,180**	57,945
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**241,599**	142,105
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long service leave		**-**	5,528
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**-**	5,528
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**241,599**	147,633
NET ASSETS		**802,405**	678,044
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		**802,405**	678,044
		802,405	678,044
TOTAL EQUITY		**802,405**	678,044

8.4 Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2024

	Retained Earnings	Total
	$	$
Balance at 1 July 2023	**678,044**	**678,044**
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	**124,361**	**124,361**
Balance at 30 June 2024	**802,405**	**802,405**

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

8.5 Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from AHPRA		**399,969**	388,319
Receipts from New Zealand Board		**41,039**	39,844
Receipts from Examination Candidates		**448,383**	311,920
Interest received		**35,570**	5,137
Receipts from Accreditations		**147,857**	129,517
Other income		**60,603**	2,740
Payments to suppliers and employees		**(878,314)**	(922,724)
Finance expense		**(6,986)**	(4,562)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	11	**248,121**	(49,809)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		**(10,876)**	(2,098)
Proceeds from / (payments for) investments		**22,825**	(40,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**11,949**	(42,098)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		**260,070**	(91,907)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**5,575**	97,482
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		**265,645**	5,575

8.6 Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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*. To the extent required by the ACNC, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 124 *Related Party 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 material accounting policies differ from the recognition and measurement requirements contained in Australian Accounting Standards that do not apply to it.

2 Summary of Material 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 Material 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.

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(e) 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.

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

	2024 $	2023 $
- Interest income	38,475	21,692
- Examination fees	420,446	318,367
- AHPRA contribution	363,608	353,017
- Accreditation income	132,633	144,777
- New Zealand Optometry Board	41,039	39,844
- Other revenue	60,603	2,740
Total Revenue	1,056,804	880,437

5 Trade and Other Receivables

	2024	2023
	$	$
Trade receivables	(44,000)	(32,745)
GST receivable	-	725
Other receivables	22,692	19,787
	(21,308)	(12,233)

6 Property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	$	$
Office furniture		
At cost	4,518	4,518
Accumulated depreciation	(4,518)	(4,062)
Total office furniture	-	456
Office equipment		
At cost	16,745	16,745
Accumulated depreciation	(15,203)	(10,242)
Total office equipment	1,542	6,503
Computer equipment		
At cost	59,715	49,730
Accumulated depreciation	(51,590)	(43,179)
Total computer equipment	8,125	6,551
Total property, plant and equipment	9,667	13,510

7 Trade and Other Payables

	2024	2023
	$	$
Creditors and accruals	49,528	12,286
Exam fees in advance	23,027	6,345
GST payable	14,158	-
Credit card	3,409	193
Accreditation fees	67,297	65,336
	157,419	84,160

8 Auditors' Remuneration

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

	2024 $	2023 $
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	6,300	6,000
- other services	7,170	7,290
Total	**13,470**	13,290

9 Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

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

	2024 $	2023 $
Contingent Liabilities		
Bank guarantee	-	18,150
	-	18,150

10 Related Parties

(a) The company's main related parties are as follows:

Responsible persons and members of key management personnel.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

(b) Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 June 2024.

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:

	2024	2023
	$	$
Profit for the year	**124,361**	22,897
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	**14,721**	6,415
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	**15,075**	(23,210)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	**73,257**	(51,625)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	**20,707**	(4,286)
Cashflows from operations	**248,121**	(49,809)

12 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

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 17
31 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 2024 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.

Director
Dated this 18 day of October 2024

10.0 AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

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rdlaccountants.com.au
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 2024 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.

Matthew Hung, CA
rdl.accountants

21 October 2024
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 2024, 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 2024 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 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.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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

21 October 2024
Blackburn, Victoria