

OCA NZ Directors

Mr Jason Chong



Jason is currently a Managing Director at Imperial Capital, a boutique commercial broking and business advisory firm. Prior to this, Jason has held senior corporate and commercial banking positions with ANZ, NAB and Westpac for over 15 years. Jason has previously held Board appointments (including Vice President and Treasurer appointments) with various Asian chambers of commerce. Jason's academic qualifications include a Master of Business Administration from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) degree. Jason is an industry partner with the University of Sydney Business School and a career mentor at the University of New South Wales and the University of Adelaide. Jason is a Member of the OCA NZ Finance and Risk Committee.

Dr Andrew Collins



Andrew is the Head of School of Optometry for the Bachelor of Optometry and Vision Science programme at the University of Auckland. He is a registered optometrist and has worked in the School of Optometry and Vision Science at the University since 1994. His primary area of research is the development of myopia (short-sight), in particular the effects of environmental factors including light exposure on myopia development. Andrew is a member of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists and the Cornea and Contact Lens Society (NZ).

Professor Jennifer Craig



Jennifer qualified as an optometrist in Scotland in 1992, was awarded a PhD in 1995 from Glasgow Caledonian University, and completed her postgraduate ocular therapeutic training in Auckland in 2009. Jennifer is a Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland. She teaches both optometry and medical students at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and heads the Ocular Surface Laboratory, conducting and supervising research into aspects of the anterior eye with a particular interest in the tear film and dry eye. Jennifer regularly delivers continuing education and research lectures nationally and internationally, and publishes in both the scientific and clinical press. She is a past chair of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand.

Professor Alex Gentle



Alex is the Deputy Head of School and Chair Course Standards Committee in the School of Medicine at Deakin University. He was the inaugural Course Director of Deakin's Optometry program. His primary research interest is in refractive error development and myopia. His teaching duties include ocular disease and therapeutics and he has a longstanding interest in curriculum design. Alex is a graduate of City University, London and he qualified as an optometrist following a pre-registration year at Moorfields Eye Hospital. His PhD was obtained through the University of Wales, Cardiff and he completed further postgraduate qualifications in Ocular Therapeutics and University Teaching during his time at the University of Melbourne. He is the OCANZ Board Chair.

Dr Peter Malouf



Dr Peter Malouf is a proud Wakka Wakka and Wulli Wulli man and a nationally respected leader in Indigenous health, education, and research. With over 25 years of experience, he has held executive roles in some of Australia's largest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, including as Chief Executive Officer of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) and Executive Director at the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC). Dr Malouf currently serves as a Board of Director on the Cancer Institute of NSW and Chairperson of the Indigenous Wellbeing Centre in Bundaberg. Academically, Dr Malouf has served as Indigenous Research Lead at the National Alcohol and Drug Research Centre and Director of Indigenous Health Education (UNSW) and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University. He has also held key academic positions at the University of Sydney, the University of Wollongong, and James Cook University (JCU), where he has designed and embedded culturally safe Indigenous health curricula across medical and health science programs.

Professor Allison McKendrick



Professor Allison McKendrick is currently Chair in Optometry Research at the University of Western Australia and Lions Eye Institute. She is a past Head of the Department of Optometry at the University of Melbourne and an Ahpra-registered optometrist. Allison has more than 20 years of research experience in vision and visual disorders. Her current research focuses on improving clinical tests for measuring and monitoring vision disorders, with applications across glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and macular disorders, as well as improving the understanding and measurement of age-related changes in vision and healthy ageing. Allison has also held senior professional governance roles, including as a Director of the Optometry Australia National Board and the Optometry Victoria/South Australia Board.

Professor Lisa Nissen



Lisa is the program director for Health Workforce Optimization at the Centre for Business and Economics of Health at University of Queensland. She led the School of Clinical Sciences at Queensland University of Technology for 10 years, including pharmacy, podiatry, paramedicine, medical imaging, radiation therapy and medical / cardiac ultrasound. For the last 25 years, Lisa has contributed experience and knowledge across healthcare settings as a practitioner, educator, researcher, and implementation scientist. In recognition of her teaching contributions, she was awarded a National Award for Teaching Excellence in 2008 and 2013. Lisa is a member of Ahpra Scheduled Medicines Expert Group and was a Clinical Expert advisor for the development of the initial NPS Prescribing Competency Framework and led the recent review of the second version.

Ms Shannon Peckham



Shannon is Australia's first Indigenous woman to graduate in optometry. She grew up in Mareeba, a small town with a population of around 7,000 in Far North Queensland. She comes from the Wiradjuri People of Dubbo in New South Wales. After completing her optometry degree in 2004, she has become a pioneer for her people in the field of optometry, working in rural parts of Australia conducting school screenings and providing spectacles and eye care for Indigenous patients in remote clinics. Shannon is currently working in private practice in Ayr Queensland.

Associate Professor Ann Webber



Ann is an established leader in optometry, with a strong track record in clinical private and public practice, professional representation, regulation and accreditation, academic teaching, and clinical research. She has a career history spanning over 30 years as a practicing optometrist, including establishment and executive leadership of a multi-practitioner independent optometry practice in Brisbane South, and pioneering an optometry clinic within the ophthalmology department at Queensland Children's Hospital. Ann is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and has been awarded Diplomate by the AAO for her globally recognised expertise in paediatric optometry and clinical research. In addition to serving three terms on the Optometry Board of Australia and Ann has held governance positions with the Qld/NT division of Optometry Australia including two terms as Chair (President) and serves as Associate Editor/Editorial Board member for Clinical & Experimental Optometry the AAO journal Optometry and Vision Science. Ann was awarded her PhD by the Queensland University of Technology and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Mrs Katrina Yap



Katrina Yap graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2013 with a Degree in Optometry and Ocular Therapeutics. She practiced in regional Victoria before moving to private practice in Melbourne and she is also a clinical teaching instructor at the University of Melbourne. Katrina enjoys being involved in the profession outside of the clinic room, and is a committee member of Early Career Optometrists Victoria and the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Victoria. She is passionate about making eye care accessible for all and has completed outreach and volunteer optometry work in the Northern Territory, Nepal, South Africa and Cambodia.