

OCANZ 30-Year Milestones List

1995

- Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) established following agreement by Australian and New Zealand Optometry Registration Boards.
- First Council meeting held on 18 August 1995 in Melbourne.
- Peter Dwyer elected Founding Chair.

1996

- 16 July 1996, OCANZ formally incorporated as an independent trans-Tasman accreditation and examination authority.
- Jane Duffy appointed as OCANZ's first Executive Officer.
- Foundation governance, accreditation, and examination frameworks established.

1997

- OCANZ becomes central mechanism ensuring consistent recognition of optometry qualifications across Australia and New Zealand.
- Introduction of the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) for overseas-qualified optometrists. Written and clinical examinations implemented to assess competence for registration.

1998

- Guidelines and Procedures for Accreditation of Optometry Schools in Australia and New Zealand (the guidelines) were approved by OCANZ.

1999

- University of Melbourne optometry program was accredited

2000

- University of New South Wales optometry program was accredited

2001

- Queensland University of Technology program was accredited

2002

- University of Auckland program was accredited

2006

- New OCANZ Accreditation Standards published.
- Queensland University of Technology, University of Melbourne and University of Auckland postgraduate ocular therapeutics programs first accredited.

2007

- University of New South Wales postgraduate ocular therapeutics program first accredited in 2007. Program changed to professional certificate in 2025.

2010

- Introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).
- Optometry Board of Australia established under National Law.
- OCANZ formally recognised as accreditation authority for optometry in Australia.

2011

- Major revision of OCANZ Accreditation Standards.

2012

- Flinders University optometry program accredited

A large, light blue watermark logo is positioned in the background. It features a large '35' on the left, with 'OCANZ' written in a bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the '5'. Below the '35' and 'OCANZ', the word 'YEARS' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, following the curve of the bottom of the '5'.

OCANZ
YEARS

2013

- Deakin University optometry program accredited
- Australian College of Optometry ocular therapeutics program first accredited

2015

- COE review to align with new competency standards
- New OCANZ Accreditation Standards published. Standards are outcomes based with increased emphasis on patient safety, clinical competence, and contemporary practice.

2018

- Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework published
- OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce established.

2019

- University of Canberra optometry program accredited

2020

- OCANZ maintains accreditation and examination functions during COVID-19 disruption.

2021

- Adaptation of written examination to online delivery enabling examination to be taken anywhere in the world

2022

- New OCANZ Accreditation Standards published with cultural safety established as standalone accreditation domain.
- University of Western Australia optometry program accredited
- Introduced Bursaries to fund any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori academic/representatives/students within accredited optometry programs in Australia & New Zealand to attend specified external learning events.

2023

- Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework published
- Strategic Plan 2023–2028 launched
- COE review to align with new competency standards
- The OCANZ Cultural Safety Training for Optometrists Online Program was introduced

2024

- New Postgraduate Ocular Therapeutics Accreditation Standards implemented.
- Optometry Health Curriculum Framework Implementation guides were published
- OCANZ artwork launched

2025

- OCANZ Chair is appointed Chair of Accreditation sub-committee within Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPAC Forum).
- Active contribution to national accreditation reform and collaboration.
- Examination preparation videos developed to support candidate readiness.

OCANZ

YEARS