

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 15



OPTOMETRY COUNCIL
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Optometry Council
of New South Wales*

It is with great pleasure I begin the new term as President with a competent and capable Council. I wish to congratulate Pauline O'Connor on her appointment as Vice President and I would also like to welcome John Davis and Derek Fails as new members of the Council.

John is a past President of the Council and brings a great depth of experience to the position as he previously served on the NSW Optometrist Registration Board and was an inaugural member of the Optometry Board of Australia. Derek is the current New South Wales representative on the Optometry Board of Australia.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of the previous President, Associate Professor David Pye, and the outgoing Vice President Dr Philip Anderton. David, through his management and dedication has been able to ensure the smooth running of the Council's many activities. Phil, as a rural optometrist from northern NSW and former academic at the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science, brought an invaluable perspective to his role on the Council and we appreciate the time he spent travelling to attend Council meetings.

My thanks goes also to Michael Jaques and Christine Gursen who do a considerable amount of the background work to make an effective Council seem effortless.

I am looking forward to working in close collaboration with the HCCC, to streamlining Council processes and to ensuring we remain focused in our duty to protect public health and safety.

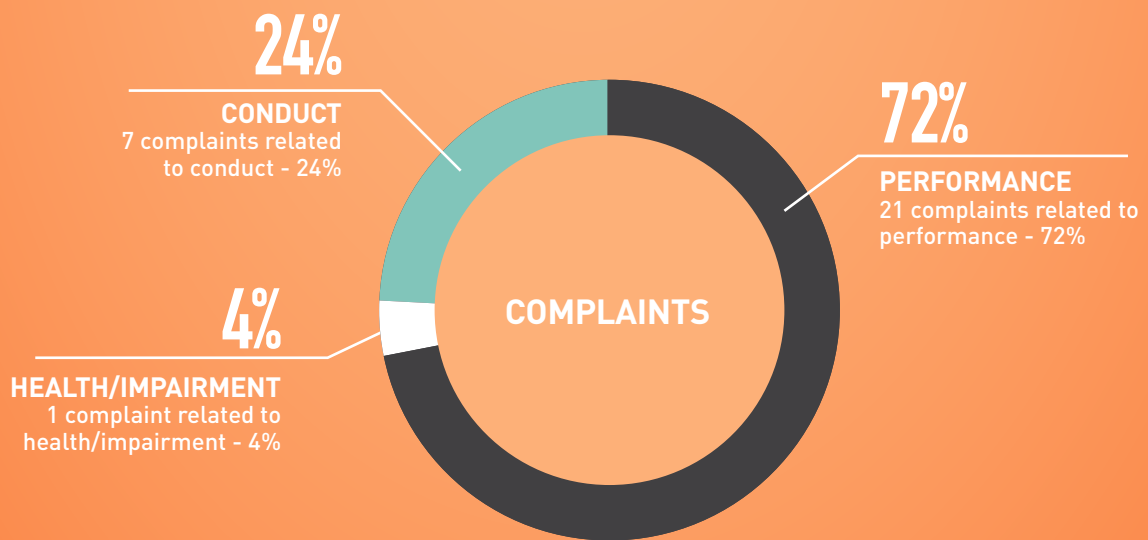
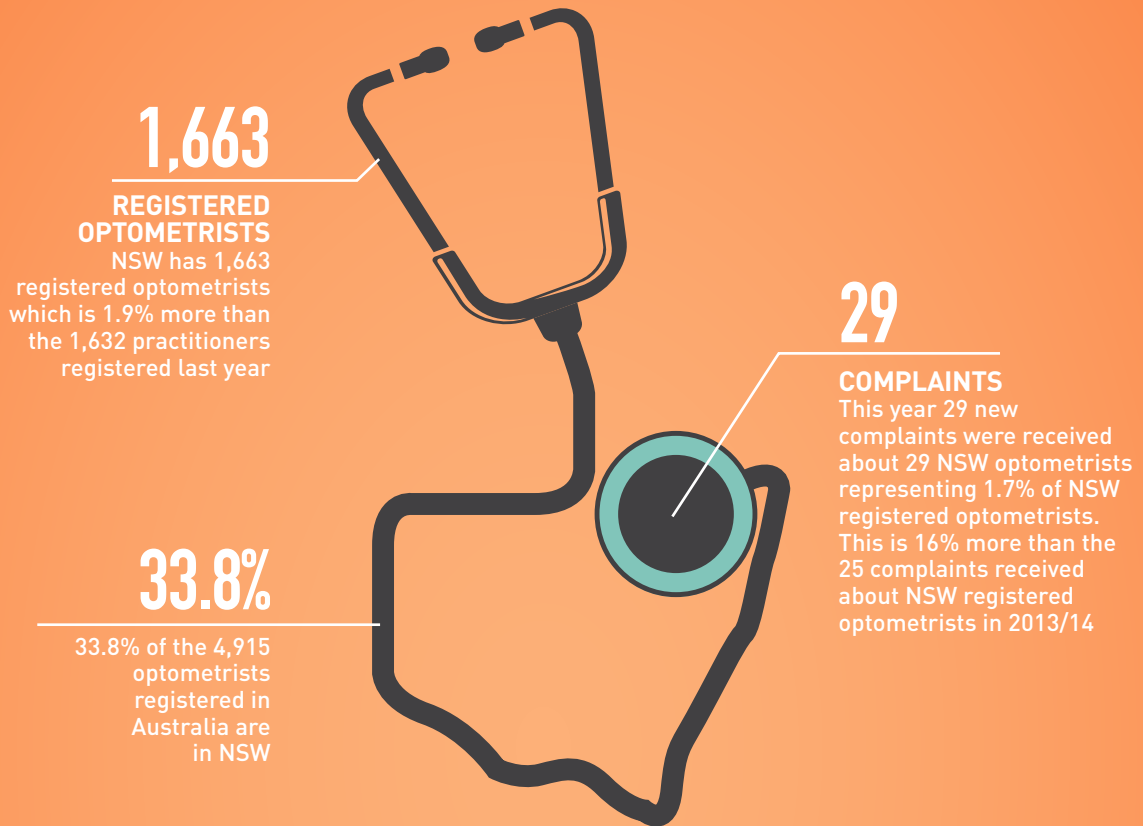
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Lee".

(Mr) Albert Lee

President
Optometry Council of NSW

REGULATION OF OPTOMETRISTS IN NSW IN 2014/15

YEAR IN SUMMARY



Regulation of Optometrists in NSW in 2014/15

Year in summary

NSW has 1,663 registered optometrists which is 1.9% more than the 1,632 practitioners registered last year and 33.8% of the 4,915 optometrists registered to practise in Australia.

This year 29 new complaints were received about 29 NSW optometrists representing 1.7% of NSW registered optometrists. This is 16% more than the 25 complaints received about NSW registered optometrists last year.

Complaints about NSW optometrists included:

- 7 related to conduct – 24%
- 21 related to performance – 72%
- 1 related to health/impairment – 4%.

No mandatory notifications were received.

Complaints were received from:

- 16 patients
- 4 relatives of patient or practitioner
- 4 other agencies
- 3 health professionals
- 2 other sources including an insurer and a member of the public.

One complaint was managed through performance counselling.

26 complaints were closed during the year with outcomes including:

- 1 counselling with no further action
- 4 advice provided with no further action
- 14 discontinued at assessment consultation
- 3 discontinued at HCCC due to resolution before assessment
- 1 referred to another jurisdiction
- 2 withdrawal of complaint
- 1 with no further action after assessment by the Council.

Council Membership

Section 41E of the Law prescribes that there are four members of the Optometry Council appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered Optometry practitioners:

- Associate Professor David Pye BOptom, MOptom, FCLSA – President
- Dr Philip Anderton BSc, MScOptom, PhD – Deputy President
- Mr Albert Lee BOptom

Community member:

Ms Pauline O'Connor LLB LLM – Legal member

During the year no new members were appointed and no members retired.

Two members served the maximum term and retired at the end of June 2015:

- Associate Professor David Pye
- Dr Philip Anderton

Attendance at Council Meetings

The Optometry Council met on 11 occasions. Attendance at the meetings was as follows.

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Associate Professor David Pye	10	11
Dr Philip Anderton	10	11
Mr Albert Lee	9	11
Ms Pauline O'Connor	9	11

Executive Officer

The Optometry Council is supported by Mr Michael Jaques, Executive Officer and Ms Christine Gursen, Assistant Executive Officer, employed by the HPCA.

Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Optometry Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels.

The Optometry Council did not establish any of these bodies during the reporting period.

Meetings and Conferences

The Optometry Council was represented at the following meetings and conferences during the reporting period:

Name	Attendance
NRAS Combined Meeting	Mr Albert Lee
Council Presidents' Forum – bi-monthly meetings	Associate Professor David Pye Mr Albert Lee
Council Presidents' Forum meeting with the NSW Minister for Health	Associate Professor David Pye

Overseas Travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

Council Communications

The Optometry Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to Optometrists, Optometry students and the community. The website is updated regularly and includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Further information may be accessed on the Council's website at www.optometrycouncil.nsw.gov.au.

Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council is as follows:

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Members	\$1,752 per annum

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees of \$448 per day and \$218 per half day for the conduct of Council Inquiries and \$256 per day and \$128 per half day for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities if held on a day other than the monthly Council meeting. Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

Financial Management

The Optometry Council's accounts performance as reported in the Financial Statements is as follows.

Accounts Performance 2014/15	\$
Revenue	195,181
Operating expenditure	139,605
Gain/(loss) on disposal	(729)
Net result	54,847
Net cash reserves (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	288,486

* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of: \$44,783

The Optometry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 is as follows.

Budget 2015/16	\$
Operating expenditure	194,451
Revenue	188,473
Net result	[5,978]

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.