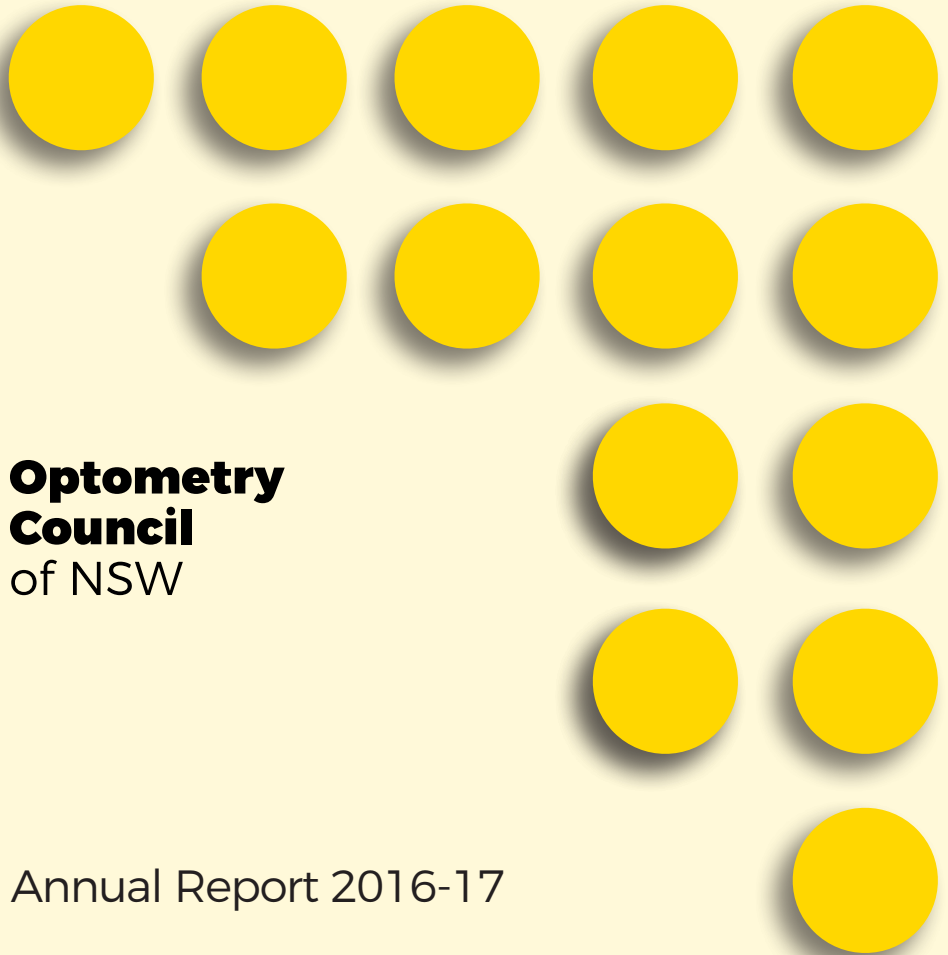


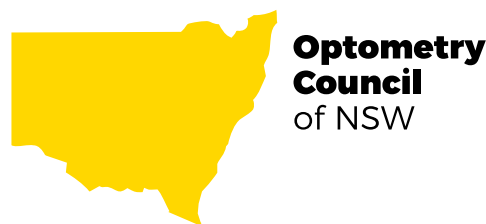


**Optometry
Council**
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



President's Message



I am pleased to submit the 2017 Annual Report of the Optometry Council of NSW.

The Council manages complaints and notifications about the performance, health and / or conduct of optometrists and optometry students practising (or studying) in New South Wales.

The overarching objective of the Council in the exercise of its functions under the national legislative framework is to protect the health and safety of the public of New South Wales. In pursuing that objective, the Council works in close collaboration with the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

The Council also shares a close working relationship with the Optometry Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and contributes in a variety of ways to the promotion of the National Board's Code of Conduct and Registration Standards.

I am pleased to report that the regulatory activity has been relatively low this year, which has assisted the Council to post an operating surplus. It also speaks to the high standard of care that the overwhelming majority of optometrists deliver on a consistent basis.

I'm very fortunate to have a Council with great depth of knowledge and experience and I believe that our robust, yet respectful discussions, have led to balanced decision making. I would like to thank Pauline O'Connor for her legal and community member perspective. I would also like to thank John Davis and Derek Fails for their professional and insightful advice throughout the year.

My gratitude as always to the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) staff, Mr Michael Jaques and Ms Christine Gursen for their continuous support and ability to make the Council's processes seamless and effective.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Albert Lee'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Albert Lee
Council President
Optometry Council of New South Wales

Regulation of
Optometrists in 2016/17

Summary overview



27

**New complaints
received during the
year related to**

Conduct – 8
Performance – 19
Health – 0
0 complaints were mandatory
notifications



1,807

**Registered
Optometrists in NSW**

3.7% more than the previous year
33.8% of Optometrists in Australia
1.5% of Optometrists in NSW had
complaints made about them –
27 practitioners



31

Complaints managed

4 open at start of year
27 received during the year
0 immediate actions including reviews
0 assessments and hearings concluded
23 closed during the year
8 open at year end
1 active monitoring at year end



23

Outcomes for closed complaints*

11 discontinued
7 no further action
4 counselling
1 withdrawn

* A complaint may have more
than one outcome

Council Communications

The Optometry Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with optometrists and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation that included workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

Council Members

Four members sit on the Optometry Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

Registered optometry practitioner members:

- Mr Albert Lee M Optom, Grad Cert Oc Ther, B Optom
- Mr John Davis B.Optom (Hons)
- Mr Derek Fails BSc(Hons), MCOptom (UK), Cert Oc Ther (SUNY), G Dip Bus (Tas), FAICD

Legal member:

- Ms Pauline O'Connor LLB, LLM

Mr Albert Lee is appointed by the Governor as President of the Optometry Council.

Ms Pauline O'Connor is appointed by the Governor as Deputy President of the Optometry Council.

Executive Officer

Mr Michael Jaques is the Executive Officer for the Optometry Council and Ms Christine Gursen is the Assistant Executive Officer.

Staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

Council Meeting Attendance

The Optometry Council met 11 times during the year.

Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Mr Albert Lee – President	10	11	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2018
Ms Pauline O'Connor – Deputy President	8	11	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2018
Mr John Davis	11	11	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018
Mr Derek Fails	11	11	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018

* Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Optometry Council did not appoint any regulatory committees or panels during the year.

Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Optometry Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

Meetings and Events

The Optometry Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

Optometry Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
NRAS Conference	Mr Albert Lee	Participant
NRAS Accreditation Systems Forum	Ms Pauline O'Connor	Participant
Optometry Regulatory Reference Group	Mr Albert Lee	Participant

Overseas Travel

The Optometry Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

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

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

Education and Research Account

The Optometry Council maintains an Education and Research account to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

Financial Management

The Optometry Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2016/17	\$
Revenue	217,144
Operating expenditure	162,469
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
Net result	54,675
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	381,628

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$45,980.

The Optometry Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

Budget 2017/18	\$
Revenue	228,508
Operating expenditure	149,937
Net result	78,571

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