



Optometrists & Opticians Board

2016 *Annual Report*

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1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Differentiation of Practising Certificate

From August 2016, Practising Certificate (PC) for optometrists were differentiated with a new colour (pink), while PC for opticians remained in green. The main objective for the differentiation was to allow easier identification of optometrists vis-à-vis opticians by public, and to raise public awareness and encourage them to find out more about the different roles in the optical practice.

The PC would be issued to new registrants and replaced gradually for fully registered persons upon application of their next PC renewal.

1.2 OOB Decals and Optical Survey Services

In conjunction with the differentiation of the PCs, the Board has also issued decals to all shops and outlets with registered optometrists and/or opticians. The aim was to help augment public awareness of the two different groups of practitioners as well as the additional services that optometrists may provide beyond refraction and selling of spectacles, such as contact lens services and eye screening.

The decals should be displayed at the shop or premise entrance or another similarly conspicuous part of the premises. All practitioners and staff are encouraged to educate customers on the different scopes of practice between the two groups of eye care professionals. More information on the scope of practice is available at the Board's website.

The Board had also invited shops and outlets to provide information on optical services available at their practice by participating in an online survey. The information received would be made available for public access on the Board's website at a later date. Such information would be useful for consumers, patients and institutions who seek various types of eye care services.

1.3 Advisory – Verifications of Contact Lens Prescriptions (For registered Optometrists)

The Board has been alerted to a case of purported online selling of contact lenses by a private company and has received feedback from optometrists that they were requested to validate unfamiliar contact lens prescriptions within an unreasonably short period of time.

The Board has previously advised all registered optometrists and opticians through our advisory letter dated 27 December 2013 that the sale of contact lenses via online platform is an unsafe practice. Before prescribing contact lens to any person, every optometrist must ensure that the person had a recent and proper eye examination and that the measurements for the proper fitting of contact lenses are carried out accurately. The optometrist must educate the person about the benefits and risks of contact lens wear and teach him/her proper techniques on the safe use, cleaning and storage of the lenses. The person must also be scheduled for proper after care.

The Board has issued advisory to remind all optometrists not to verify or validate any prescriptions that were not personally issued or undersigned by themselves and for consumers whom they (i.e. the optometrists) have not personally examined.

Optometrists should not verify or validate any prescriptions if the use of the prescription is not in accordance with practice guidelines stipulated by the Board, or could potentially lead to harm in patients/customers. It is the duty of all optometrists to fully adhere to the guidance on contact lens practice as stipulated in the "Code of Professional Conduct and Professional Practice Guidelines for Optometrists". A copy of the guidelines may be downloaded from the Board's website at www.oob.gov.sg under "Legislation and Guidelines".

2. REGISTRATION DATA

All data in this section are based on practitioners on register with valid practising certificate.

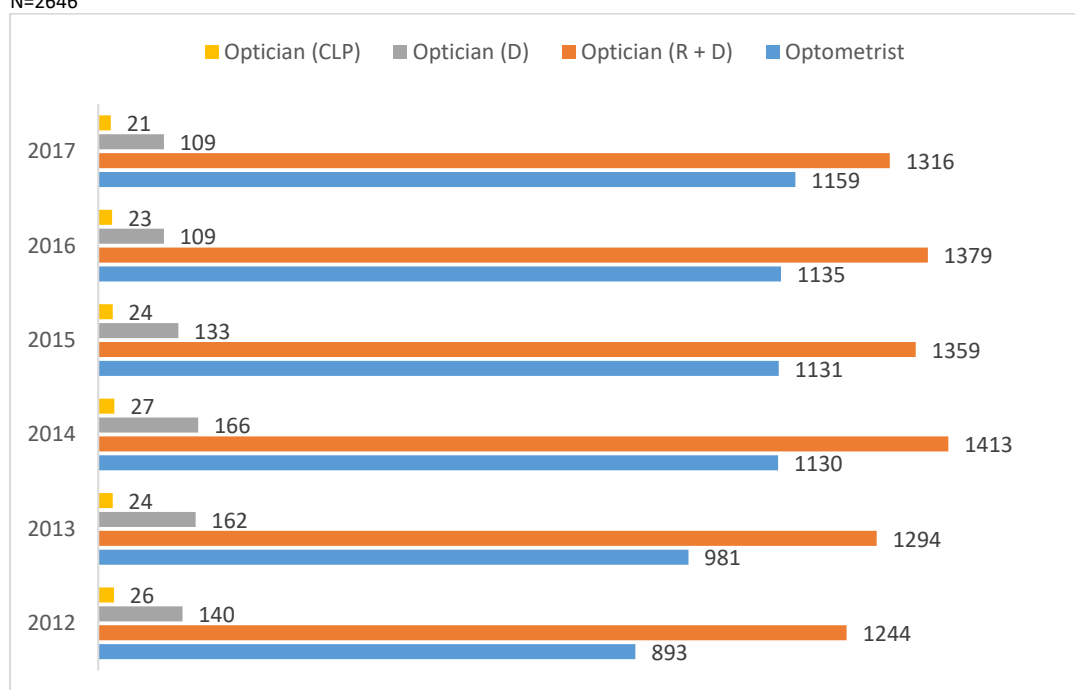
2.1 New Registrations

Since the Board started regulating the industry in 2008, there has been a steady supply of optometrists and opticians. The figures provided included new registration for all registration type (full, provisional, conditional and temporary registration).

Register Type	2013	2014	2015	2016
Optician (Dispensing)	25	21	16	5
Optician (Refraction + Dispensing)	55	105	44	58
Optometrists	166	227	146	152
Total	246	353	206	215

2.2 Registration by Categories

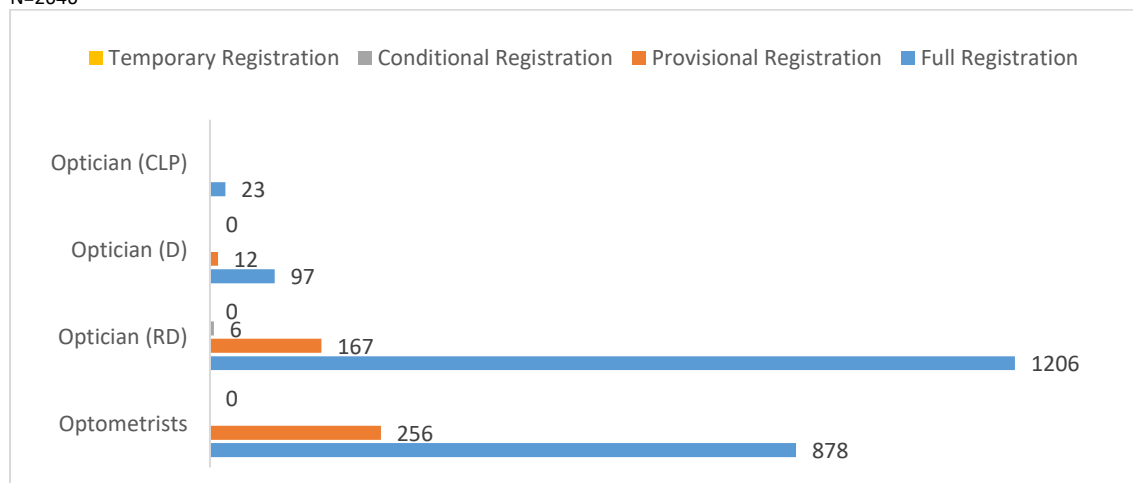
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	2014	2015	2016
Optometrist	1130	1131	1135
Optician (R + D)	1413	1359	1379
Optician (D)	166	133	109
Optician (CLP)	27	24	23
Total	2736	2647	2646

2.3 Registration by Type

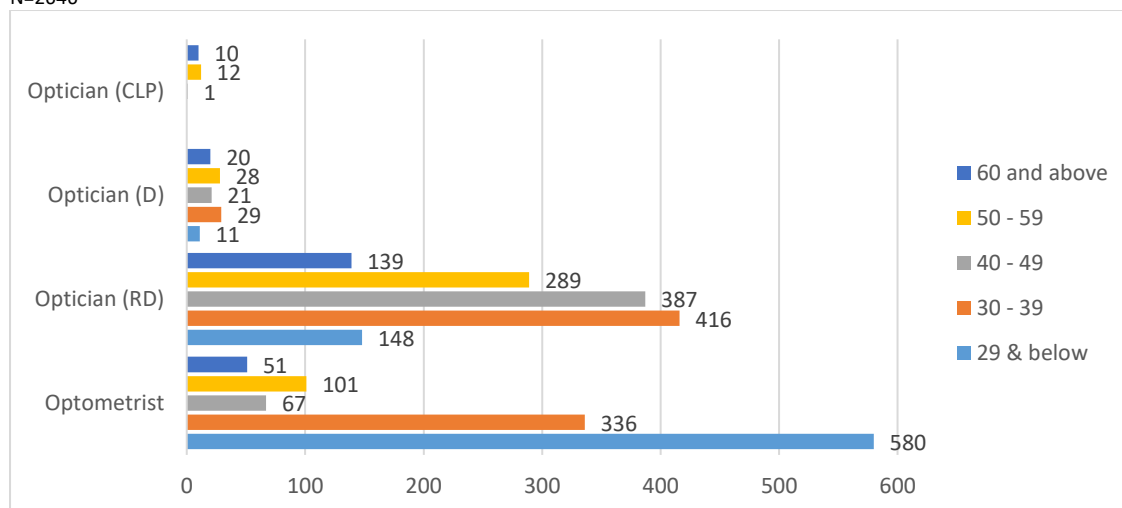
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	Optometrists	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
Full Registration	878	1206	97	23
Provisional Registration	256	167	12	0
Conditional Registration	1	6	0	0
Temporary Registration	0	0	0	0
Total	1135	1379	109	23

2.4 Practitioners by Age Group

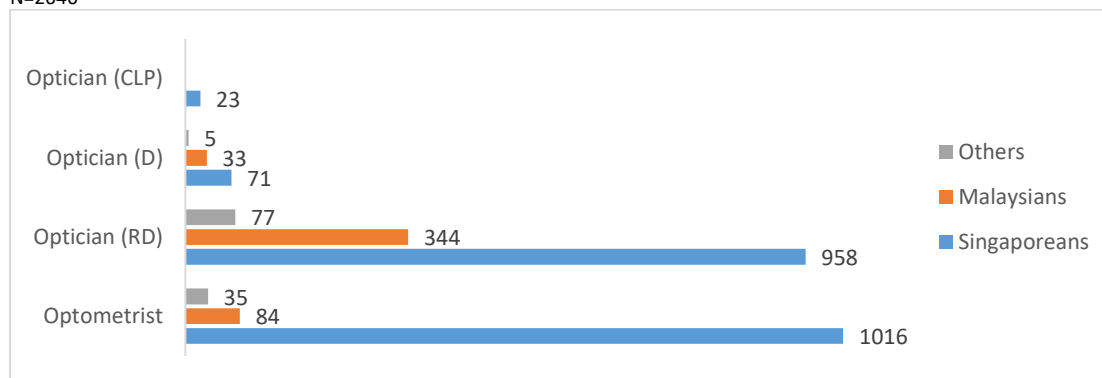
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	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
29 & below	580	148	11	0
30 - 39	336	416	29	0
40 - 49	67	387	21	1
50 - 59	101	289	28	12
60 and above	51	139	20	10
Total	1135	1379	109	23

2.5 Practitioners by Nationality

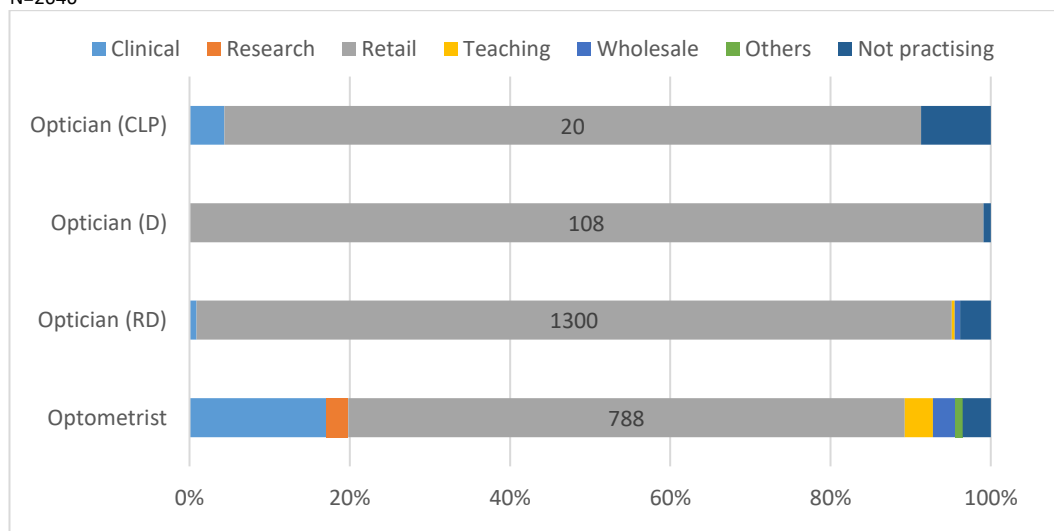
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	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
Singaporeans	1016	958	71	23
Malaysians	84	344	33	0
Others	35	77	5	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1135</i>	<i>1379</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>23</i>

2.6 Practitioners by Fields of Employment

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	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
Clinical	194	12	0	1
Research	31	0	0	0
Retail	788	1300	108	20
Teaching	40	5	0	0
Wholesale	32	9	0	0
Others	10	0	0	0
Not practising	40	53	1	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1135</i>	<i>1379</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>23</i>