



Optometrists & Opticians Board

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# 2017

## *Annual Report*

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## 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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### 1.1 Appointment of New Board Members

At the start of 2017, the Board welcomed the new members appointed by Minister of Health. The 12 appointed members would be serving the Board for the period from 2017 to 2019:

**Chairman**

Prof Lim Tock Han

**Registrar**

Dr Harold Tan

**Members**

Dr Julian Theng

Ms Olivia Chng

Ms Vivien Chiang

Mr Koh Lian Buck

Dr Koh Liang Hwee

Ms Dawn Tan

Mr Daniel Cheong

Ms Shirley Kwok

Mr Teoh Tiong San

Dr Sethuraman Rama

The Ministry would also like to thank members of previous Board for their invaluable contributions to the development of Optometry and Opticianry in Singapore. The Board would continue to do the necessary to carry out its functions and elevate the professional standards and knowledge in practice.

### 1.2 Advisory on Management of Van Herick Angles and Documentation of Patient Records

The Board recently assessed a complaint concerning the optometry practices at a primary eye care centre. Based on the lessons learned, the Board had issued an advisory to practitioners reminding them of the following practices:

*Management of narrow Van Herick's angles (for Optometrists' information)*

Patients with narrow Van Herick's angles are at risk of developing glaucoma. Any patient with Van Herick's angle less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>th</sup> (25%) regardless of visual acuity must be referred to an ophthalmologist to ascertain his/her risk for glaucoma. The patient must also be warned about the possible symptoms of acute angle-closure glaucoma and advised to immediately proceed to the Accident & Emergency department of a public hospital whenever such symptoms occur.

*Documentation of Records (for all practitioners)*

All patient/customer records must be clearly documented. All practitioners must ensure that they indicate their clinical findings, management details (including referral), their name and signature, as well as date and time of visit in every entry of the patient record. This is critical for patient safety and accountability, and will help practitioners recall more accurately about the care that has been provided to each patient previously.

All practitioners are reminded to use the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice Guidelines as the standard for their conduct and practice at all times when providing care to patients/customers.

### **1.3 Advisory on Professional Conduct and Ethics on Public Media**

It has come to the Board's attention that some practitioners were expressing opinions on practice matters and publicly engaging in disputes on social media platforms. Such remarks published on social media platforms could be interpreted negatively by members of public and bring disrepute to the profession. They could even invite unwarranted civil litigations.

In relation to these incidents, the Board had advised all practitioners to exercise prudence at all times when providing opinions or making comments in public media platforms.

Practitioners shall not cast aspersions on their professional peers or any other persons, or make any unsubstantiated allegations or claims regarding each other's practice. In addition, practitioners are reminded not to publicise or engage in disputes on public media. All disputes, including differences in opinions over practices, should be settled privately.

### **1.4 Optical Services Listing**

In 2016, the Board invited optical shops and outlets to provide information on optical services available at their practice by participating in an online survey. Such information would be useful for consumers, patients and institutions who seek various types of eye care services.

The compiled Optical Services Listing is now available on the Board's website under "*Forms and Downloads*". New or existing practices which would like to update optical services can continue to do so by providing the information through an online form which would be accessible from the Board's website.

## 2. REGISTRATION DATA

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

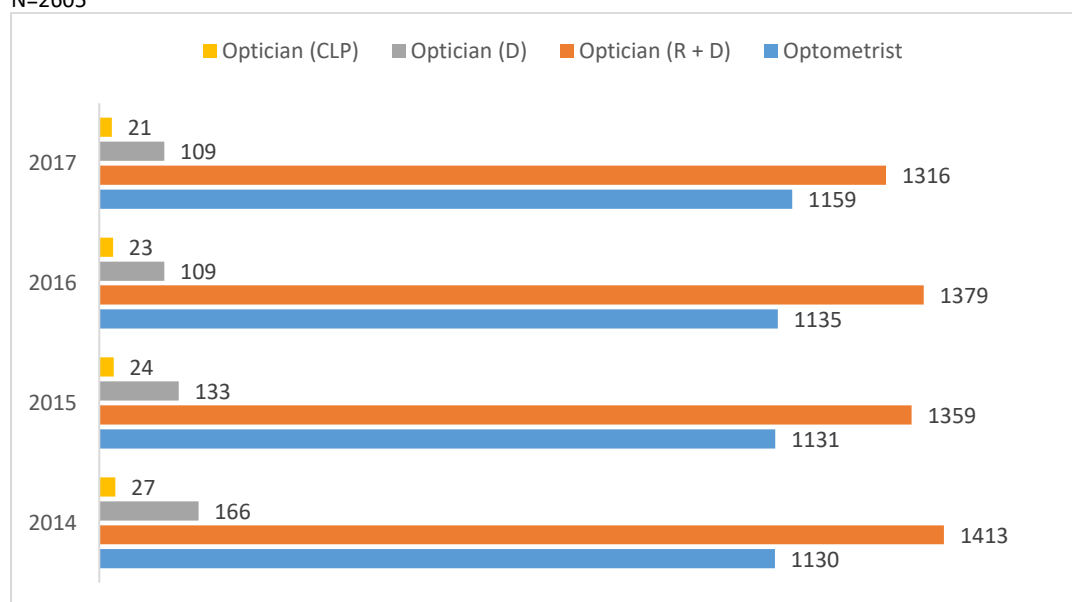
### 2.1 New Registrations

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	2014	2015	2016	2017
Optician (Dispensing)	21	16	5	18
Optician (Refraction + Dispensing)	105	44	58	50
Optometrists	227	146	152	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>214</b>

### 2.2 Registration by Categories

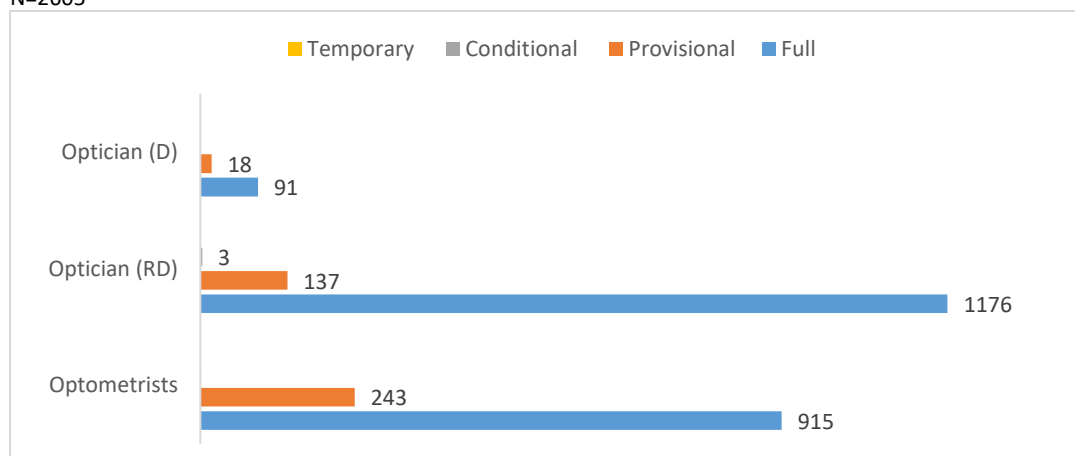
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	2014	2015	2016	2017
Optometrist	1130	1131	1135	1159
Optician (R + D)	1413	1359	1379	1316
Optician (D)	166	133	109	109
Optician (CLP)	27	24	23	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>2736</b>	<b>2647</b>	<b>2646</b>	<b>2605</b>

## 2.3 Registration by Type

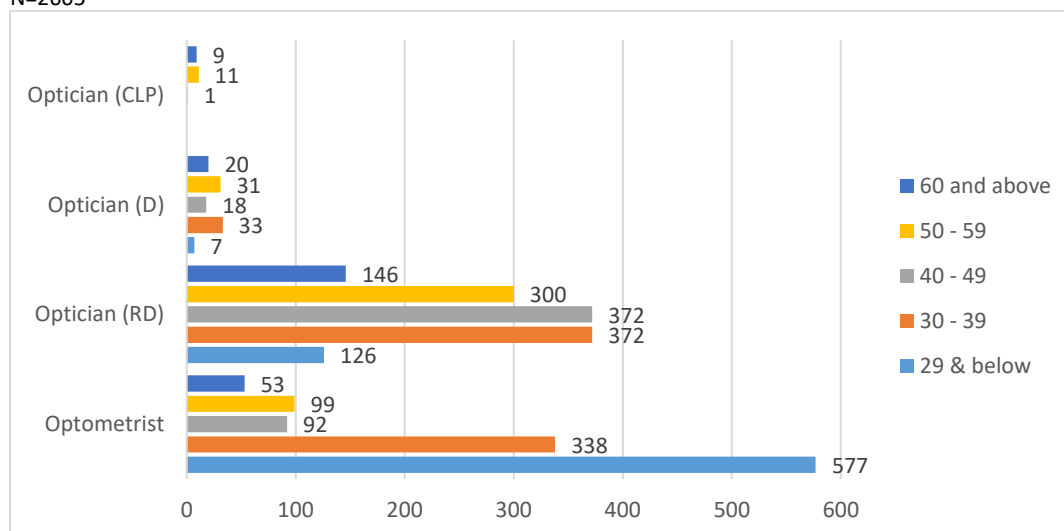
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	Optometrists	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)
Full Registration	915	1176	91
Provisional Registration	243	137	18
Conditional Registration	1	3	0
Temporary Registration	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>109</b>

## 2.4 Practitioners by Age Group

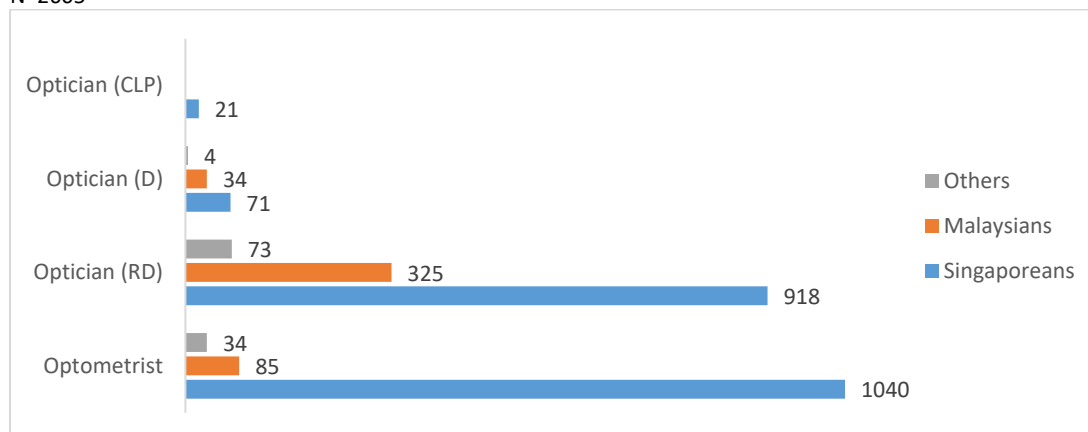
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	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
29 & below	577	126	7	0
30 - 39	338	372	33	0
40 - 49	92	372	18	1
50 - 59	99	300	31	11
60 and above	53	146	20	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>21</b>

## 2.5 Practitioners by Nationality

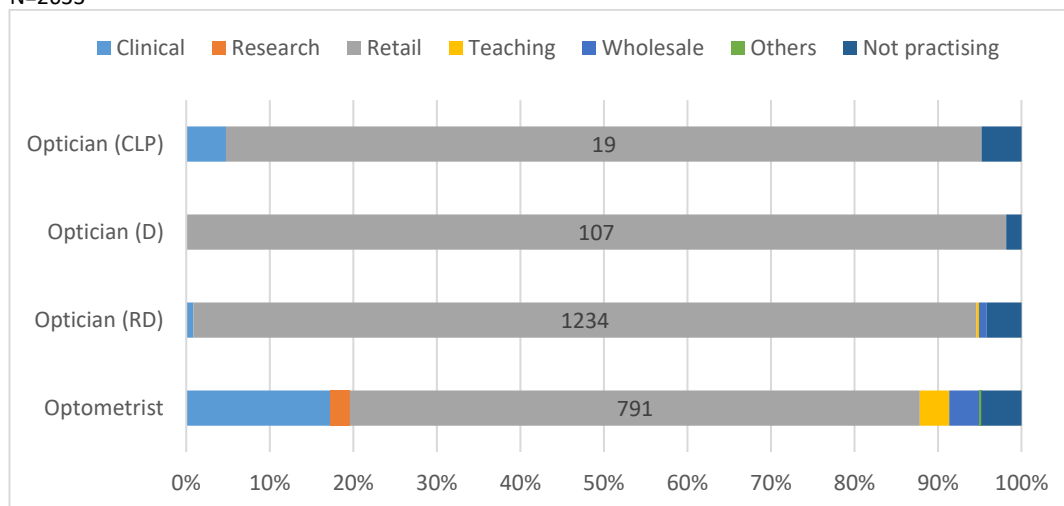
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	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
Singaporeans	1040	918	71	21
Malaysians	85	325	34	0
Others	34	73	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>21</b>

## 2.6 Practitioners by Fields of Employment

N=2633



	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)
Clinical	200	11	0	1
Research	27	0	0	0
Retail	791	1234	107	19
Teaching	41	4	0	0
Wholesale	41	12	0	0
Others	3	0	0	0
Not practising	56	55	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>21</b>