

# AUSTRALIAN ORTHOPTIC BOARD

PO Box 1035  
Hampton North Vic 3188  
Australia  
Chairman: Associate Professor Kerry Fitzmaurice

Telephone 03 9597 0979  
Facsimile 03 9598 9499  
AOBoard@vicnet.net.au  
www.australianorthopticboard.org.au

## **Clinical competencies expected of a beginning Orthoptic practitioner**

The Australian Orthoptic Board considers that graduates from approved Orthoptic programs of study in Australia should meet the following competencies:

- Ability to work within a multidisciplinary healthcare team, to provide quality eye health care to patients with vision / eye conditions within secondary health care settings, such as hospitals, specialist private clinics and low vision / rehabilitation agencies.
- Communicate effectively with patients and colleagues, and consult with people of different ages, CALD backgrounds and varying abilities in order to aid in their management.
- Assess patients by applying appropriate investigative techniques to detect, diagnose, monitor and manage refractive error and common ophthalmic conditions such as cataract, AMD, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.
- Assess patients, particularly infants and children, by applying specialised orthoptic investigative techniques to detect, diagnose, monitor and manage conditions affecting binocular vision and eye movements, such as amblyopia and strabismus.
- Assess patients with the use of highly specialised ophthalmic medical equipment including retinal photography and related imaging technologies (OCT, HRT, GDx) for the management of eye diseases such as retinal disease and glaucoma; and assess ocular structural integrity using appropriate techniques of biometry and ultrasonography to provide for example pre-operative measurement for refractive and cataract surgery.
- Assess patients who have low vision and or multiple handicaps and provide vision rehabilitation to maximise visual potential in order to improve function and positively impact on quality of life and independence.
- Graduates should have an understanding of the need to be flexible and adaptable in the workplace to facilitate the changing scope of health care practice. And the need for lifelong learning.