



OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND & NORTHERN TERRITORY

ATKINSON LEADS OPTOMETRISTS

Laubman and Pank's Brisbane Manager, Mrs Nancy Atkinson, has been elected as President of the Optometrists Association Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory Division.

At thirty-two Atkinson is the youngest ever President in the Division's ninety-five year history. She heads up a strong, eight - member Council that includes regional Optometrists from the Gold Coast, Mackay and Rockhampton as well as prominent members from Brisbane.

Atkinson graduated with a BSc(Optom) from the QUT School of Optometry in 1992 and has an MBA from the University of Central Queensland. She donates her spare time to refraction and the diagnosis of eye conditions in indigenous communities and in Pacific island countries.

She said, "Being elected by my peers to lead Optometry in Queensland and the Northern Territory is one of the greatest compliments I have received since I commenced practice. I am now fortunate to be able to preside over an Optometry agenda that includes issues near to my heart including the *Queensland Vision Initiative*, the use and prescription of drugs by optometrists and vision screening for drivers and school-age children.

"The current driver's licensing arrangements are simply not acceptable. To put a driver in a position of being able to lie about his or her ability to see properly while driving is downright dangerous. At least under the old system drivers were made to undergo basic vision tests. We propose that Queensland Transport utilizes the scientific methods available to the State's 650 optometrists by making vision testing compulsory for driver's licences."

While not advocating compulsory vision screening for school age children, Mrs Atkinson said that it was a sad fact that many Queensland children were denied the opportunity to have a fulfilling education simply because they could not see writing on white boards. "Optometrists have the training and the tools to give every student the same visual opportunities, " she concluded.

End.

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For immediate release. Authorised by Greg Johnson, Executive Director, OAA Queensland/Northern Territory, media contact invited to 07 3839 4411 or 0414 783 343.