



OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND & NORTHERN TERRITORY

QUEENSLAND ELECTION SUMMARY 2006

Queensland Election 2006

What some of the candidates said about optometry's 5 goals

In the lead up to the 9 September 2006 election Council wrote to sitting members, replacements for retiring members and other candidates with a chance of success. Five issues were highlighted – therapeutics, Forster Report recommendations, plano lenses, vision tests for drivers and Queensland Vision Initiative funding.

Both Labor and the Coalition responded and those responses are highlighted below in red (Labor) and blue (Coalition). Other candidates responded as follows.

Algester

William Tan for the Liberal Party standing against ALP sitting member Karyn Struthers MP.

"I support the adoption of the Victorian (therapeutics) model of care, implementation of recommendations on optometry from the Forster Report, legislation for plano lenses, compulsory vision tests for drivers, and government funding of the Queensland Vision Initiative."

Burdekin

Nationals sitting member **Rosemary Menkens** MP

"I am sure that the coalition's policy and views will be forwarded to you."

Capalaba

ALP sitting member **Michael Choi** MP

"After being misquoted, misrepresented and misunderstood so many times by others, it is my regret that I no longer participate in this type of survey...."

Fitzroy

ALP sitting member **Jim Pearce** MP

"I am more than happy to pursue your concerns with the Health Minister once the election is completed."

Kawana

ALP sitting member **Chris Cummins** MP

"The contents of the letter and report have been noted with interest."

Logan

ALP sitting member **John Mickel** MP

"I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Minister Robertson for his consideration and reply direct to you."

Maryborough

Independent sitting member **Chris Foley** MP

"I support the adoption of the Victorian (therapeutics) model of care, implementation of recommendations on optometry from the Forster Report, legislation for plano lenses, compulsory vision tests for drivers, and government funding of the Queensland Vision Initiative."

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Maroochydore

Nationals sitting member **Fiona Simpson** MP

"I understand that the leader of the Coalition, Lawrence Springborg, has replied to your queries on behalf of the Coalition team."

Nicklin

Nationals candidate **Steve Morrison** standing against sitting independent Peter Wellington MP

"I support the adoption of the Victorian (therapeutics) model of care and implementation of recommendations on optometry from the Forster Report."

"I do not support legislation for plano lenses as you cannot legislate for stupidity. I do not support compulsory vision tests for drivers. I am not fully informed to make a decision about government funding of the Queensland Vision Initiative."

Noosa

Independent (formerly Labor) sitting member **Cate Molloy** MP

"I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence."

South Brisbane

Labor sitting member and Deputy Premier **Anna Bligh** MP

"I understand the committee (ODAC) report has been provided to the Honourable the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Robertson MP. If the Beattie government is re-elected, the Minister for Health will then bring it to cabinet for discussion."

"The issue of therapeutic eye drops has been a matter for consideration by ODAC. The Health Systems Development Unit is currently exploring the use of optometrists in outpatient services for the review of eye conditions. I understand initial consultation is occurring with stakeholders including yourselves, and QUT."

"If re-elected, the Beattie government will explore whatever avenues are available to regulate the sale of plano lenses and I would welcome your input into this process."

"Earlier this year the Minister for Transport and Roads approved arrangements that will see the reintroduction of an eyesight test for all new licence holders. An eyesight test will however not be required for licence renewals, as these will be captured under medical condition reporting requirements."

"The Beattie government, through Queensland Health, is developing a Health Vision Strategy which is based on analysis of the Vision Initiative."

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Southern Downs

Nationals sitting member and Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg MP

"Indeed, it is a sign of the problems that do exist in the Queensland Health system that issues such as the capacity of optometrists to issue prescriptions has not been addressed by this Labor Government."

"Your comments concerning Plano contact lenses, which are a fashion item, do give some cause for concern and raise issues that need to be addressed in the context of an appropriate consumer protection policy containing compulsory warnings to consumers about the risks of their use."

"There are issues in regard to the effectiveness of (driver's vision) tests to be undertaken, by whom they are to be undertaken, and any costs inherent therein that need to be addressed."

"Certainly, as part of any government's health maintenance and improvement campaign, the issue of vision protection will need to be addressed in conjunction with the many other health challenges that face the Queensland community."

Tablelands

One Nation sitting member Rosa Lee Long MP

"Your letter shall be drawn to the member's attention."

Toowoomba North

Lyle Shelton for The Nationals standing against sitting ALP member Kerry Shine MP

"Should I be elected I would warmly welcome the opportunity to talk to you about the issues raised."

Greg Johnson
Executive Director
7 September 2006