

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**Health Professions Boards (Procedures) Act 1981
Optometrists Act 1956**

APPOINTMENTS TO THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD
OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

INSTRUMENT NO. 236 OF 1998

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The *Optometrists Act 1956* (the Act) provides for the registration of Optometrists.

Section 6 of the Act establishes the Optometrists Board (the Board) and provides for the constitution of the Board. Paragraph 7(1)(a) requires that the Chairperson and one other member be appointed in accordance with the *Health Professions Boards (Procedures) Act 1981*.

Subsection 7(2) provides that a person is not eligible for appointment unless currently registered and for a period of 3 years immediately preceding his or her appointment has been registered as an optometrist under the law of a State or Territory.

The Act provides for the registration of persons engaged in the practice of optometry and to control optometrical practice.

Vacancies on the Board were notified by a notice mailed to all registered optometrists. Closing date for nominations was the 1st July 1998. The positions of chairperson and the appointed member on the Board become vacant on the 2nd November 1998.

In making the appointments consideration was given to gender equity, and the continuity of Board business.

Two persons nominated for positions on the Board, Ms Thomas, currently the Chairperson and Mr Langley, currently a member. Both are eligible for appointment. Appointments to the Board are for a period of three years commencing from the date of the Instrument of Appointment.

After consideration by Government, these appointments were referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Care, in accordance with the *Statutory Appointments Act 1994*.