

FACT SHEET

Optometry Offences Bill 2010

The Bill is part of the package of Bills to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professionals in Tasmania.

The Bill restates certain offence provisions relating to the supply of optical appliances currently contained in the *Optometrists Registration Act 1994*. The Optometrists Registration Act will be repealed when the National Law commences in Tasmania. .

The relevant provisions:

- prohibit dispensing an optical appliance without a prescription from an optometrist or medical practitioner
- prohibit dispensing an optical appliance on an expired prescription (18 months for contact lenses and three years for other appliances)
- require an optometrist, or the person who dispenses according to a prescription, to provide a free copy of the prescription on request. This is to ensure that a person can shop around for other optical appliances using the one prescription and
- prohibit a person who is not an optometrist or medical practitioner from assessing a person's suitability to wear a contact lens or teaching a person how to place or remove a contact lens from their own eye, and care for the lens.

The Bill maintains existing safeguards against the supply of optical appliances by persons not properly trained to do so.