

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Council

FROM: Executive Committee

DATE: December 2, 2019

SUBJECT: 5.3 Clinical Practice Committee

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To consider whether the College of Opticians should consider striking a new Clinical Practice Committee.

Background:

There are two types of non-statutory committees at the COO: ad-hoc committees and standing committees. Ad-hoc committees are non-statutory committees that are struck by Council on a temporary basis to fulfill a particular mandate or function. Standing committees are non-statutory committees that are struck by Council with the intention that they be a permanent committee of the College.

The COO currently has one standing committee (Governance Committee) two ad-hoc committees (Standards of Practice Committee and Professional Misconduct Regulation Committee).

Under COO By-laws, all committees, including ad-hoc and standing committees, require at least 1 public member. We have been advised by the Public Appointment Secretariat that public members may not claim prep time for work relating to a non-statutory committee.

For Consideration:

Several RHPA colleges, including the College of Optometrists,¹ have a committee that deals with ongoing issues relating to clinical practice.

If approved, the Clinical Practice Committee would be responsible for the following:

- Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines (this work would be taken over from the Standards of Practice Committee, which would be wound up)
- Developing Professional Growth modules and other practice resources that opticians could apply toward their quality assurance requirements

¹ The College of Optometrists have designated a Clinical Practice Panel as a panel of the Quality Assurance Committee.

- Such other work as the Council determined to be appropriate

Council would have the discretion to determine the composition of this committee via by-law. Typically, it has been the COO's practice to include public members on all committees. In light of the fact, however, that public members are not compensated for prep time for standing committees, the Council may wish to consider whether there are other ways to ensure that the public perspective is considered in the work done by the Clinical Practice Committee. This may include a by-law amendment that would permit the Council to appoint non-opticians to committees.

Recommendation:

Executive Committee recommends that Council approve the formation of a Clinical Practice Committee, subject to the review and approval of the necessary by-law amendments and terms of reference.