

From:
To: laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au;
Date: Fri, May 9, 2008 1:53 pm
Subject: Inquiry into General Health Screening of Children at Pre-Primary and Primary School Level

Education and Health Committee - Legislative Assembly

To whom it may concern,

Optometrists Association Australia is interested in the Inquiry into General Health Screening of Children at Pre-Primary and Primary School Level as it relates to screening for ocular and visual health. However the Association does not feel able to make a submission at this time as it is currently involved in a national project addressing this area - the National Children's Vision Screening Project, for which the project officer is Megan Keyes (email address: megan.keyes@mcri.edu.au)

The National Children's Vision Screening Project is being funded by the Federal Government and is being undertaken at the Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The Royal Children's Hospital, Victoria. The proposal for the project is attached.

The project group is currently preparing a literature review (of which Optometrists Association Australia has recently seen a first draft) for the Commonwealth Government as represented by the Department of Health and Ageing.

The literature survey begins with:

"This literature review was conducted to support the aims of the National Children's Vision Screening Project, which seeks to inform future policy by determining the effectiveness of vision screening for children aged birth - 16 years and considering the benefits and cost effectiveness of implementing a national vision screening project in the Australian context. The project will examine the effectiveness of screening programs designed to detect vision disorders including diminished visual acuity, amblyopia, refractive errors, cataracts, glaucoma, retinoblastoma, and strabismus or squint. The conclusions derived from the literature review will inform policy makers and practitioners and provide recommendations regarding potential development of key components of a national vision screening program for children in Australia.'

Although the Association is interested in the inquiry you are undertaking, it would not seem sensible for it to make a response when it is involved in a similar project at Federal Government level from which final recommendations have not yet been resolved.

Regards

Optometrists Association Australia

WA Division