

Formal opening of ACO- housed Deakin Optometry Training Centre

Specsavers and OPSM equip test lanes; centre designed and built by Specsavers



Harrison Weisinger cuts the ribbon to open the Deakin Optometry Training Centre, with Paul Boet (commercial director, Specsavers), Peter Larsen (professional services director, Specsavers) and Robyn Weinsberg (director of community, OPSM)

The newly-built Deakin Optometry Training Centre, housed within the Australian College of Optometry's Melbourne-based facility, was formally opened on 31 October.

The brand-new training facility for Deakin University's optometry students was designed and built by Specsavers in a major sponsorship undertaking and is the most advanced of its type in Australia or New Zealand.

In addition to the Specsavers sponsorship, each of the 10 Test Lanes has been fully equipped by Specsavers and Lussoetta. Each has taken responsibility for equipping five test lanes. In addition, Specsavers has equipped the main demonstration lane.

Professor Harrison Weisinger, foundation director of optometry at Deakin University's Faculty of Health in Geelong, formally opened the centre, commenting: "This is a massive step forward for optometry in Australia and in many ways represents a critical piece in Deakin University's optometry training program, adding as it does to the state-of-the-art Geelong campus and our clinical residential placements.

"As a part of the overall suite of infrastructure needed to deliver up to 100 new Deakin graduates each year, this Training Centre at the ACO is another cornerstone. I thank the



Maureen O'Keefe, CEO of the Australian College of Optometry



Dr Craig Woods



Five Specsavers test rooms and five OPSM test rooms



Part of the attentive audience

ACO for agreeing to house us in their vaulted Melbourne facility and I also thank Specsavers and OPSM for equipping our testing lanes. I am particularly grateful to Specsavers who funded the design and build of the centre."

Asked why Specsavers had chosen to get involved in the build side of the Deakin facility,

commercial director Paul Boet explained: "We recognise as well as anyone that Australia has a potential shortfall of optometrists. Investing in the design and build of this facility to support Deakin University's vision demonstrates that we also support a growing optometry workforce. We particularly support Deakin's regional focus. It is paramount that regional areas are not left behind in the supply of community optometrists as we look to the future."

Robyn Weinsberg, director of community at OPSM added: "We have been thrilled to work with Deakin in this initiative, which exposes Deakin's optometry students to the expertise and resource of Australia's largest community optometry clinic, here at the ACO. We wholeheartedly support Deakin's commitment to creating clinically-excellent, work-ready graduates. Australians, particularly those in the regions, are the real winners here." ■



A trial run



Checking lens power and centration