

# Ocularists Receive Certificate Of Recognition

It is estimated that five thousand patients per annum either need an ocular prosthesis or, for various reasons, require a replacement. The profession of Ocularistry in Southern Africa provide specialised services to patients who have lost an eye due to disease or trauma, impacting positively on the quality of life of the patients concerned and their families.

The Ocularists Association of Southern Africa (OASA) was recently officially recognised and registered as a professional body by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). As such, the designation of 'Ocularist' has been included within the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and represents a qualification built on the principles of relevant and appropriate standards, quality and excellence.

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) held their Policy and Criteria launch for the recognition of Professional Bodies on the 29th January 2013 and welcomed OASA as an honoured guest to share in the celebration and receive an award along with other statutory and non-statutory professional bodies.

Of the initial 120 professional bodies applying for registration with SAQA, OASA is among the 40 professional bodies whose application proved successful. The key note speaker was the honourable Dr Blade Nzimande (Minister of Higher Education and Training) who presented the Certificate of recognition to OASA President, Mr Pedro Carvalho. 



*Mr Joe Samuel (CEO of SAQA) and Dr Blade Nzimande (Minister of Higher Education and Training) present the Certificate of Recognition to the Ocularists Association of Southern Africa (OASA), received by Mr Pedro Carvalho (President of OASA).*



*Members of the OASA Executive Committee proudly display their Certificate of Recognition received from SAQA. From left to right: Jackie Heatlie, Chantal Downward, Beryl Carvalho and Pedro Carvalho.*