

Policy priorities

for 2026 to 2030

We are the representative professional body for primary eye care providers in Ireland.

Our members provide more than 65% of all community eye care services.

Our mission
Our mission is to ensure high-quality, accessible, and sustainable primary eye care for all, delivered effectively through community optical practices and supported by a strong workforce, efficient systems, and trusted relationships with government and national stakeholders.

This document sets out our policy priorities for the period 2026 to 2030.

Our policy priorities are to:



SECURE

sustainable primary eye care services to meet patient needs



SUPPORT

sufficient workforce supply to meet demand



ENABLE

the sector to deliver high quality patient care

To achieve this, we will:

Work with the sector and with ministers to secure fair and sustainable funding for sight tests regardless of funding mechanism.

Advocate for and support the implementation of new and improved pathways of care which enhance the role of primary eye care in meeting the needs of patients.

Strengthen long-term evidence-based engagement with government, CORU and education stakeholders.

Improve the supply of home-trained dispensing opticians and optometrists by supporting increased training capacity.

Influence stakeholders to ensure proportionate regulation and reduced burdens on the sector.

Develop resources to support members to deliver safe, ethical and high-quality patient care.

Make the case for optometrists safely expanding their scope of practice to meet patient needs, including independent prescribing.

Delivering our priorities

To deliver our priorities, our work will include both planned activities and work that arises during each year, for example supporting our members to respond to stakeholder initiatives.

Our core activities include:

- Horizon scanning to identify and address risks and opportunities for the sector
- Influencing policy by engaging with stakeholders and responding to consultations
- Undertaking research and policy analysis to generate insight, using this to develop assets that support our members
- Collaborating with sector partners on our shared priorities
- Communicating our work to members, sector partners, stakeholders and the public.

