

Introducing Vision Australia

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Technology Specialist**

About Vision Australia



We exist to support people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose

We work in partnership with people of all ages who are blind or have low vision, their families, supporters and other providers

We are a for-purpose organisation and the leading national provider of blindness and low vision support services

We serve more than 26,000 clients across 28+ locations around Australia.



Anthony, Vision Australia client

Locations



Victoria

Albury Wodonga

Ballarat

Bendigo

Boronia

Dandenong

Geelong

Kensington

Kensington - SEDA

Kooyong - Head Office

Mildura

Shepparton

Warragul

Warrnambool

New South Wales

Albury

Caringbah

Coffs Harbour

Enfield - Head Office

Epping

Gosford

Lismore

Newcastle

Orange

Tamworth

Wagga Wagga

Wollongong

Queensland

Brisbane - Head Office

Cairns

Townsville

Gold Coast/Robina

Maroochydore

Western Australia

Perth

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra



Our teams



- Occupational therapists
- Orientation & mobility specialists
- Children's services
- Accessible technology experts
- Employment & education support
- Emotional and social support
- Quality living groups
- Library
- Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA)
- Vision Australia Radio
- Advocacy...and more



Liselle, Vision Australia team member

Vision statistics

An estimated **357,000 people** in Australia are blind (10%) or have low vision (90%)

Approx **90%** of blindness and vision impairment is **preventable or treatable** if detected early

Blindness is **3 times more prevalent** amongst indigenous Australians than non-indigenous

Approximately **1 in 3 people** with low vision will experience depression



Aston, Vision Australia client

Our shop

- Large print calendars and diaries
- Braille products
- Home and kitchen gadgets
- Lighting
- Technology
- Magnifiers
- Time keeping
- Out and walking about
- Reading and writing...and more



Triggers for referral

- When **glasses** no longer correct their vision
- When someone reports difficulty with **daily living tasks**
- **Harder** to watch TV, things more blurry, bumping into objects, tripping/falling over, noticing glare, holding objects closer to face, not as social.
- When someone needs **emotional support** or advice adjusting to their vision loss
- When someone is diagnosed with a permanent and non-correctable **eye condition** or one that is likely to be progressive
- When eye specialist says there is **nothing more that can be done** for their eyes



Jayna, Vision Australia client

How can VA Assist?



- **Transition to Education**
- **Study Support**
- **Print/Information Access**
- **Equipment**

Vision Australia Further Education Bursary



- To assist students to access assistive technology whom otherwise would not be able to afford it
- Laptops, CCTV, screen reading software, magnification software, scanners, magnification, braille devices

Who can apply?

- Eligibility – Australian citizen or permanent resident, be or become a VA client, be or enrolled in, a tertiary course graded Certificate IV or above

How to apply?

- Complete an application form – download available from the start of August at ; www.visionaustralia.org.au/bursary

Case Study



Chrissy is 32 and has Leber's Congenital Amaurosis. She has been seeking employment with the assistance of her PSP, an Employment Consultant. Chrissy has recently decided to upskill by undertaking tertiary study.

Chrissy and her PSP discuss the types of qualifications that will support her career aspirations and employability. They examine the different learning modes and institutions she can select from, and investigate course fees and potential government funding. They also consider Chrissy's eye condition, potential changes in her vision, related learning support needs and the types of resources that may be available to her such as Disability Liaison Officers (DLO).

While Chrissy is waiting to hear if she's been accepted to her preferred institution, the PSP introduces her to Vision Australia's Tertiary Education Bursary. The PSP provides contact details for the Vocational Consultant who coordinates this program. Chrissy contacts the Vocational Consultant directly and develops and submits her application. She uses this as an opportunity to practise the assignment skills she'll need to use in her studies. The Vocational Consultant coordinates necessary Access Technology assessments.

Chrissy agrees to participate in the Tertiary Education Telelink program so she can link up with other tertiary students so she can learn what to expect from university.

Chrissy is offered a place at Uni, selects her subjects and receives her lecture and tutorial timetable. She and her PSP meet with her university Disability Liaison Officer to talk about things like accessing textbooks in accessible format, accessing the online student portal, lecture note taking options, connecting with lecturers and tutors and joining social clubs. The PSP is able to support Chrissy to advocate for her needs.

The PSP consults the refers to the O&M in the team who assists with on-campus orientation as well as learning the the new route to and from campus.

During her first semester, Chrissy catches up with her PSP by phone periodically to develop her study and self-advocacy skills and to work through any problems she's encountering.

How to refer



Online www.visionaustralia.org/referrals

Email referrals@visionaustralia.org

Post PO Box 176, Burwood, NSW, 2134

Call 1300 84 74 66

Fax 1300 84 73 29

Referral form – Download via website

Self referral card – Pictured

A detailed referral form for eye specialists. It includes sections for patient details (Title, Full name, Street address, Suburb, Phone number, DOB), medical history (Primary eye condition, Other eye conditions), and referral details (Referrer name, Provider number, Address, Phone, Signature, Date). It also has checkboxes for legal blindness and consent. The form is branded with the Vision Australia logo and tagline "Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity." at the top right.

A screenshot of the Vision Australia website. The header includes the logo, tagline, and navigation links like "Donate now", "Vision Australia Radio", "Contact us", "Locations", and "Site map". The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: Home > Business and professionals > Medical and health professionals > Make a referral". A sidebar on the left lists various services, with "Medical and health professionals" expanded to show options like "Make a referral", "Order education materials", etc. The main content area is titled "Eye Care Specialist/Health/Educational Professional Referral Form" and includes a section for "Professional Referrals" with a question "What is your occupation?" and radio button options: "Eye Care Specialist", "Health Professional" (selected), and "Education Professional".

Thank you
Any questions?





**Vision
Australia**

Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.