Introducing Vision Australia

18th April 2018 Presented by Rochelle Richards – OT, Jacqueline Walker RPL/Orthoptist, Greg Madson Assistive Technology Specialist



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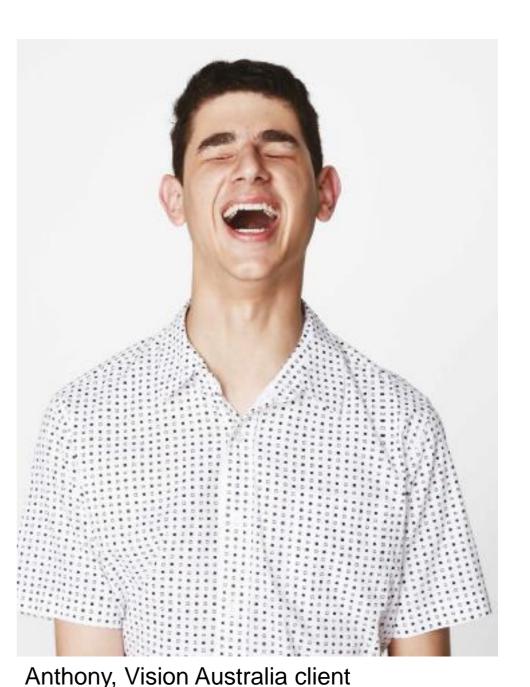
About Vision Australia

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.





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



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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



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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



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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





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 aggress 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.

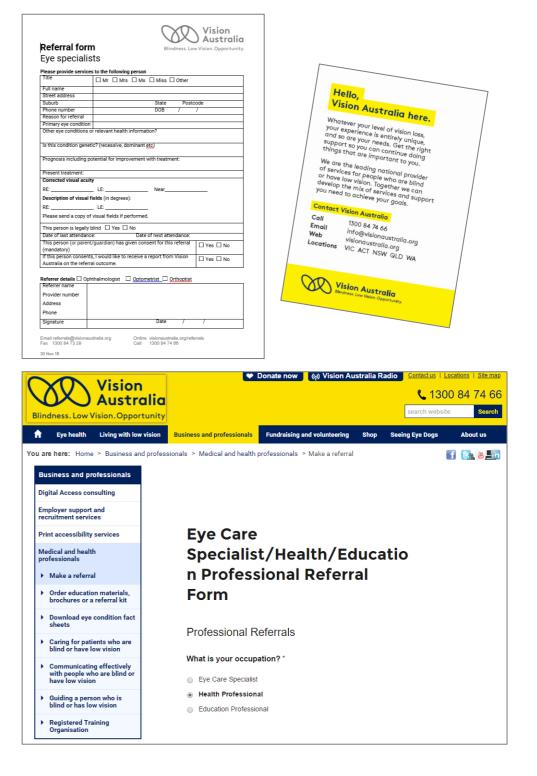
How to refer



- **Online** <u>www.visionaustralia.org/referrals</u>
- 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



Thank you Any questions?





