



Vision 2020 Australia is inviting parliamentarians to join us in championing eye health and vision care on World Sight Day, next Thursday 12 October 2017. We will be using social media and the **#WorldSightDayAU** hashtag to share information about eye health and vision care, highlighting the important work of the sector and our members.

Overall, we will be encouraging Australian's to get their eyes tested, acknowledging that 90 per cent of vision loss and blindness is preventable or treatable if diagnosed early.

This document provides some additional examples of key eye health and vision care messages to be used on social media:

Prevention and Early Intervention

- In Australia, 90 per cent of vision loss and blindness is preventable or treatable and can be attributed to five main conditions - refractive error, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, cataract and glaucoma
- The 2016 National Eye Health Survey found that more than 453,000 Australians are blind or vision impaired.
- More than 50 per cent of participants with an eye condition weren't aware of their condition before taking part in the 2016 National Eye Health Survey, highlighting the need for improved awareness

Independence and Participation

- In Australia, it is estimated that more than 453,000 people are blind or vision impaired.
- The prevalence of vision impairment and blindness doubles with each decade over 60 years for non-Indigenous Australians.
- With specialist supports and services, people who are blind or vision impaired can become or remain independent with the freedom to participate fully in the community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are three times more likely to be blind or vision impaired than non-Indigenous Australians.
- Around half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes are not having an eye examination at the recommended frequency
- Ongoing, targeted effort is required to provide equity in eye health and vision care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Global eye health and vision care

- The Lancet Global Health Journal reported in 2017 that globally, 253 million people are vision impaired
- At global level, the prevalence of blindness is five times higher in low income countries than in high income countries
- 89% of visually impaired people live in low and middle-income countries and 55% of visually impaired people are women
- Recent global estimates suggest that up to 80 per cent of vision impairment and blindness is avoidable through the appropriate implementation of cost-effective prevention and treatment strategies
- The American Journal of Ophthalmology estimates that Global VISION 2020 eye care program could prevent more than 100 million cases of blindness between 2000 and 2020