

# VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA 2016–2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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# A message from the Chair & CEO

It is our pleasure to introduce the Vision 2020 Australia 2016-2017 Annual Report.

Reflecting on the period, it has been a productive year for the organisation. Importantly, Vision 2020 Australia has focused on running the organisation with discipline, which has resulted in a positive financial position. We continue to strengthen our support for members through vital work in policy and advocacy, including:

- Calling on the Australian Government to set a target of 7% employment of people with a disability within the Australian Public Service by 2020
- Publishing the Closing the Gap in Eye Health and Vision Care by 2020 sector proposal making recommendations to improve indigenous eye health
- Identifying the need for investment to address a lack of coordinated and systemic approach to eye examinations for people with diabetes.

The collective expertise of our members and stakeholders has contributed to these and other policy and advocacy achievements over the last year, which are highlighted in this Annual Report. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and significant contribution of member representatives from across the sector, through participation in Vision 2020 Australia's policy and steering committees. Clearly, success is founded on collaboration and by working together and keeping focused on our priorities we can realise our ambitious vision.

A key achievement for Vision 2020 Australia was the planning, development and endorsement of our new Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. This plan outlines our continued commitment to engage our members, the Australian Government and other relevant stakeholders and provides a framework for the work of the organisation over the next three years.

Four foundations will shape our work: Advocacy, Collaboration, Awareness and Evidence, which

together are critical to ensuring eye health and vision care remains a health priority. Through our policy committees, we will continue to develop effective policy solutions to ensure the viability and sustainability of the sector, in both Australia and our region.

Our success is also reliant upon the expertise and contribution of our Board Directors. In 2016 we farewelled long-standing Board Directors Dr Iain Dunlop and Professor Brian Layland OAM both having completed three by three year terms. We are extremely grateful to them for their years of dedicated service. We also welcomed two new Board Directors Mr Andrew Harris and Dr Anthony Hall. We express our gratitude to the Board Directors for their sustained efforts and guidance of Vision 2020 Australia's strategic direction.

We are honoured to lead this organisation, and recognise that there is continued exciting and hard work still to come in achieving our vision. The organisation would not succeed without the efforts of our Board Directors, members and employees and would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their ongoing commitment and many accomplishments to date.



*Amanda Vanstone*

**Amanda Vanstone**  
Chair



*Carla Northam*

**Carla Northam**  
Chief Executive Officer







# Board of Directors



The Hon Amanda Vanstone (Chair)



Prof Hugh Taylor AC (Deputy Chair)



Ms Amanda Davis



Dr Iain Dunlop (Retired)



Mrs Jane Edge



Dr Jessica Gallagher



Dr Anthony Hall



Mr Andrew Harris



Ms Karen Hayes



Mr John Howie AM



Prof Brian Layland OAM (Retired)



Mr Justin Mohamed



Ms Maureen O'Keefe

## Audit and Finance Standing Committee (AFSC)

The Audit and Finance Committee is responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Board and oversees the adequacy and effectiveness of internal accounting and financial control systems, the risk audit and management plan, financial reporting processes, statements, investment policy, external audit and other such matters as the Vision 2020 Australia Board may request from time to time.

In November 2016, Professor Brian Layland OAM resigned from the Board and AFSC. Following his departure Mr Andrew Harris was appointed to the AFSC. The AFSC is chaired by Ms Maureen O'Keefe and includes Director Dr Jessica Gallagher and Independent Mr Richard Forbes.

## Corporate and Governance Standing Committee (CGSC)

The Corporate and Governance Committee is responsible for providing assistance and advice to the Board on: issues regarding compliance to the Constitution, corporate governance principles, compliance and amendments to the governance charter, and the structure of the Board including nominations and appointments. From time to time the CGSC will also provide advice and assistance to the CEO and the Board in regard to human resource management and organisational development.

In November 2016, Dr Iain Dunlop resigned from the Board and CGSC. Following his departure Ms Karen Hayes was appointed to the CGSC. The CGSC is chaired by Mr John Howie and includes Director Ms Amanda Davis.

"Our vision is the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision loss and the full participation of people who are blind or vision impaired in the community."





## Who we are

Established in October 2000, Vision 2020 Australia is part of VISION 2020: *The Right to Sight*, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

Vision 2020 Australia is the national peak body working in partnership to prevent avoidable blindness and improve vision care in Australia and our region. We represent around 50 member organisations involved in local and global eye health and vision care, health promotion, low vision support, vision rehabilitation, eye research, professional assistance and community support.

## What we do

Working in partnership with our members is at the core of what we do. As the national peak body for eye health and vision care, we bring together the collective expertise of our members, advocating to the Australian Government with the strength of a united voice.



# Policy Committees

Drawing on the knowledge, experience, and resources of the Committee's broad and inclusive membership, the Committees are central to supporting Vision 2020 Australia's key roles as an effective conduit to government, offering a unified and consistent voice.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee advocates for equitable eye health and vision care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The cornerstone of the Committee's work this year was the launch of *Closing the Gap in Eye Health and Vision Care by 2020*. This sector-wide proposal reassessed recommendations put forward in previous funding proposals and was sent directly to key Australian Government ministers in June 2017. The proposal reflects a truly collaborative approach in setting out program and implementation priorities.

## Prevention and Early Intervention Committee

The Prevention and Early Intervention Committee advocates for the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision loss in Australia through prevention, early detection and intervention, and improved awareness.

In consultation with the Committee, Vision 2020 Australia and Diabetes Australia developed *A Case for an Australia Diabetes Blindness Prevention Initiative*, seeking a \$1.5 million investment over two years to establish a coordinated prevention system. In March 2017, the proposal was sent to key parliamentarians, including the Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt.

The Committee continued to advocate for an implementation plan under the 2005 *National framework for action to promote eye health and prevent avoidable blindness*.



Image courtesy of  
The Fred Hollows Foundation



## Independence and Participation Committee

The Independence and Participation Committee works to improve the ability of Australians who are blind or vision impaired to participate in the community. Key advocacy priorities included the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), aged care and meaningful employment for people with disability.

In September 2016, Vision 2020 Australia developed a position statement calling for the Australian Government to set a target of seven per cent employment of people with disability within the Australian Public Service by 2020. The position statement has received support from parliamentarians.

## Global Committee

The Global Committee works to ensure that eye health and vision care are regarded as a public health priority in the Indo-Pacific region. It continued to work in partnership with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness on *Achieving the Global Action Plan for Universal Eye Health* through sector led coordination and collaboration in three focus countries, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Vietnam and Cambodia.

The \$204,000 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded project, which concluded in June 2017, strengthened in-country collaboration between international and local NGOs, the private sector and national governments in all three countries. This enabled better integration of eye health within the broader health system in PNG, and the development of national eye health strategic plans in Cambodia and Vietnam.

# Steering Committee

## The Vision Initiative

The Vision Initiative Steering Committee provides strategic advice to the Victorian Vision Initiative, an integrated health promotion program that aims to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss. The Vision Initiative was funded \$3.6 million by the Victorian Government to expand the Vision Initiative to a further ten local government areas in communities with increased risk of eye disease by June 2019. Activity in an initial four local government areas was completed in June 2017 with six new areas commencing from July 2017.



Launch of VACCO eye health resources - Genevieve Napper, Uncle Leon Saunders, Kim Sedick, Dee Tumino, Mitchell Anjou, Susan Forrester

# Engagement



1. Parliamentary Friends Group on Eye Health and Vision Care (PFG), World Sight Day 2016 (WSD) and National Eye Health Survey (NEHS) Launch - Gerhard Schlenther, Carolyn Sousa, Mitasha Yu, Jennifer Gersbeck, Carla Northam, Erin Ryan, Genevieve Quilty  
2. PFG, WSD and NEHS Launch - Dr David Gillespie and Carla Northam 3. PFG, WSD and NEHS Launch - Jess Gallagher  
4. Labor Party National Health Policy Summit **Photo credit:** PFG, WSD and NEHS launch photos courtesy of idphoto.com.au





5. PFG, WSD and NEHS Launch - Minister Ken Wyatt, Dr David Gillespie, Jess Gallagher, Dr Mohamed Dirani 6. Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 National Conference 2017 - Rhonda Stilling, Carla Northam, Barbara O'Connor, Prof Hugh Taylor 7. PFG, WSD and NEHS launch - Guide Dog Nancy 8. PFG, WSD and NEHS launch 9. 'Eyes on Diabetes' Parliamentary Friends Group Event - Judi Moylan AO, Andrew Laming MP, Carla Northam, Minister Ken Wyatt, Greg Johnson 10. IAPB 10th General Assembly 11. IDEAS Van Charleville Queensland

# Our year in numbers

Here are some highlights from 2016-2017 from our committees and initiatives.

7%




In September 2016, we called on the Australian Government to set a target of **7% employment** of people with a disability within the Australian Public Service by 2020.

We published the position statement on our website.

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8x



We published **eight policy submissions and proposals** during the year. Topics included:

- National Aged Care Advocacy Framework
  - Transition mobility allowance to the NDIS Bill 2016
  - Reforms to Australia's aged care system
  - Response to New Disability Employment Services from 2018
  - Response to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry to improve health services in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
  - Response to Foreign Policy White Paper for global eye health care
  - Case for an Australian Diabetes Blindness Prevention Initiative
  - Closing the Gap in Eye Health and Vision Care by 2020
- 

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We made **four recommendations** to the Australian Government in our response to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Foreign Policy White Paper consultation in March 2017.

- To strengthen the delivery of eye health and vision care services in the region
  - To focus on promoting disability inclusiveness and gender equality
  - To prioritise aid in foreign policy
  - To align foreign policy with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
-



## Vision Initiative highlights:



Distributed eye health kits to more than **240 health practices**

**279**

Home and community care staff trained



**88** individual health providers ordered an additional **16,300 resources**



Developed and distributed eye health resources to **all 32** Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across Victoria



Distributed eye health resources to all people with type 2 diabetes - more than **25,000** Victorians



Resources were translated into **four new** migrant/refugee languages, bringing the total languages represented to **11**

## World Sight Day highlights:

**25**

Parliamentarians tweeted or posted about **#snapforsight**

**27**

Members tweeted or posted about **#snapforsight**

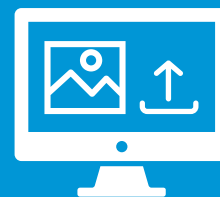


**#snapforsight** hashtag on Twitter was seen **608 times per hour**. There were **21k impressions** on Twitter for the week of World Sight Day

There were **233** **#snapforsight** public posts on Facebook



Over **550** uses of **#snapforsight** hashtag on Instagram



**+32%**

**619 uploads** to the **#snapforsight** website [www.snapforsight.com](http://www.snapforsight.com), **an increase of 32%** from the number of published photos in 2015





# Financial contributions and in-kind support

## Member Global advocacy support

- The Fred Hollows Foundation \$25,000

## Government funding

- Commonwealth Department of Health \$375,000
- Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \$40,800
- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services \$824,915

## Policy Committees

Vision 2020 Australia is thankful to all members and stakeholders who have contributed time and expertise throughout the year to following:

- Prevention and Early Intervention Committee
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee
- Independence and Participation Committee
- Global Committee

## Provision of meeting venues and facilities

- 333 Capital
- Australian College of Optometry
- Australian Hotels Association (Victoria)
- Guide Dogs SA/NT
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

## Contributions to the Vision Initiative

- Australian College of Optometry
- Australia Primary Health Care Nurses Association
- Brimbank City Council
- Campaspe Primary Care Partnership
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Diabetes Victoria
- Enliven
- Guide Dogs Victoria
- HealthWest
- Murray Primary Health Network
- North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network
- Optometry, pharmacy and GP practices in Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Campaspe and Swan Hill, Greater Shepparton, Greater Geelong, Darebin and Latrobe areas
- Optometry Victoria
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Victorian Branch
- Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network
- Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Vision Australia

# Financial overview

## Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Revenue	1,885,783	3,660,465
Employee benefits expense	(1,024,409)	(1,389,420)
Consultants expense	(176,447)	(521,696)
Depreciation expense	(20,577)	(22,018)
Stationery and printing expense	(22,844)	(30,823)
Travel expense	(85,053)	(142,870)
Occupancy expense	(137,469)	(136,491)
Promotional events and material expense	(86,097)	(70,696)
Repairs and maintenance expense	(8,264)	(3,894)
Computer support and internet expense	(32,276)	(44,809)
Monitoring, evaluation and planning expense	(51,682)	(65,121)
Events and catering expense	(69,096)	(83,871)
National Eye Health Survey project expense	-	(1,016,496)
Other expenses	(67,182)	(55,687)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>104,387</b>	<b>76,573</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>104,387</b>	<b>76,573</b>

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2017

ASSETS	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	725,222	958,979
Trade and other receivables	282,466	8,420
Financial assets	370,432	361,550
Other assets	11,527	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,389,647</b>	<b>1,328,949</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	49,158	52,837
Total non current assets	49,158	52,837
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,438,805</b>	<b>1,381,786</b>

LIABILITIES	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	113,329	265,965
Unearned income	523,093	398,601
Short term provisions	44,502	62,629
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>680,924</b>	<b>727,195</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>		
Long term provisions	10,128	11,225
Total non current liabilities	10,128	11,225
Total liabilities	691,052	738,420
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>747,753</b>	<b>643,366</b>

EQUITY	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
<b>Accumulated surpluses</b>	<b>747,753</b>	<b>643,366</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>747,753</b>	<b>643,366</b>



# Auditor's report



## Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia

ABN 34 094 070 014

### Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

#### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017 and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia for the year ended 30 June 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 2 November 2017. That financial report, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report.

#### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Regime and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

#### The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 2 November 2017.

#### Board's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summary financial statements.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants

Peter Shields  
Partner  
9 November 2017

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**PRINCIPALS:** Bruce Saward FCA Peter Shields FCA  
Joshua Morse CA Jeff Tulk CA  
**Directors:** Cathy Braun CA Jeff Davey FCA  
Marie Ickeringill SSA Matthew Stokes CA  
Murray Nicholls CA Vicki Adams CA CPA CFP®

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# Member organisations

## Principal members:



## Corporate member:



## Gold member:



## Silver members:



## Bronze members:



## Major supporting members:

## Supporting members:



## Corresponding members:



## Associate members:





## **Vision 2020 Australia**

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Established in October 2000, Vision 2020 Australia is part of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

