



**STRATEGIC PLAN
2014-17**

Vision 2020 Australia Members

as at 30 June 2014

PRINCIPAL



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



MAJOR SUPPORTING



SUPPORTING



CORRESPONDING



ASSOCIATE





4 OUR VISION

6 OUR MOTIVATION

8 SECTOR LEADING
MEMBER DRIVEN

10 OUR FOCUS

12 OUR PLAN

Our VISION

Our vision is the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision loss by the year 2020 and the full participation of people who are blind or vision impaired in the community.

“

We have already made great headway towards the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision loss both in Australia and our region. It is also encouraging to see the progress we are making to ensure people who are blind or vision impaired are able to fully participate in the community, but there is still so much more that needs to be done.

Jennifer Gersbeck

”



Our MOTIVATION



Eliminating avoidable blindness is the difference between an individual being needlessly blind and able to see; having opportunities and not; and in some cases, the difference between life and death.

Amanda Vanstone



PHOTO CREDIT: VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA

Globally

Globally, 223.4 million people are vision impaired, 32.4 million of whom are blind.

- Around 80 per cent of this vision impairment is avoidable or treatable.
- In addition, 517 million people globally are vision impaired from Presbyopia, a treatable condition commonly known as distance vision.
- Meaning that 696 million people around the world are needlessly blind or vision impaired.

90% of people with vision impairment live in developing countries.

- Around half of all blindness occurs in Asia and the Pacific.
- Women account for approximately 64 per cent of all blind people globally.



“

We need to make eye health in Australia a priority. The annual economic cost of vision loss in Australia is estimated to be over \$16 billion but the personal and social cost is even greater.

Barry Jones

”

Nationally

- Almost 575,000 Australians over the age of 40 were blind or vision impaired, in 2004, and this figure is expected to double by 2020.
- Five conditions are responsible for 80 per cent of vision impairment in Australia: age-related macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, uncorrected refractive error.
- Blindness rates in Indigenous adults are six times the rate in mainstream Australians, yet 35 per cent of Indigenous Australians have never had an eye exam.
- Indigenous people suffer 12 times more cataract blindness but cataract surgery rates are seven times lower.
- Vision loss significantly affects an individual's physical and emotional wellbeing, and can also impact their independence.
- People who are blind or have vision loss are more likely to:
 - suffer twice as many falls, often leading to hospitalisation
 - have three times the risk of depression
 - be admitted to nursing homes up to three years earlier.

Around 75% of vision loss in Australia is preventable or treatable.

Some 94% of vision loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is preventable or treatable.

Sector leading **MEMBER DRIVEN**

Our mission is to be the national advocate to government working in partnership with members for policy change and for the funding of programs that will eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment and ensure community participation of people who are blind or vision impaired in Australia and our region.

Vision 2020 Australia leads the eye health and vision care sector through:

Advocacy

Lead sector advocacy to secure government support for policy change and prioritisation of eye health and vision care across Australia, and Asia and the Pacific.

Collaboration

Bring members and key stakeholders together to share knowledge and expertise, develop policies, strategies and submissions to improve the state of eye health and vision care.

Awareness

Conduct activities, with members and government, to raise awareness and promote the importance of eye health and vision care issues.

Programs

Work with members towards the elimination of avoidable blindness and community participation of people who are blind or vision impaired through the coordination and delivery of programs in Australia and our region.



PHOTO CREDIT: ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Committees



PHOTO CREDIT: STEFAN DANILUCHENKO

Members from across the sector are represented on Vision 2020 Australia's four policy committees which ultimately shape the direction of the organisation's advocacy.

The committees cover: Prevention and Early Intervention; Independence and Participation; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Global.

In addition to identifying advocacy opportunities and strategic directions, the committees develop key policy positions and implement advocacy work plans.

This collaborative approach to partnering and consensus building creates a powerful platform for the sector to unify its key messages and project its combined force more effectively.

Program Delivery

Vision 2020 Australia is coordinating two programs delivered by Vision 2020 Australia members: the Global Consortium and the Vision Initiative.

The Global Consortium

A partnership of Australian eye health and vision care organisations working with the Australian Government and partners across the region to eliminate avoidable blindness and reduce the impact of vision impairment.

Through extensive planning and collaborative program implementation, Consortium programs are improving eye health, building local capacity, and integrating eye health into existing health care systems.

The Vision Initiative

An integrated health promotion program funded by the Victorian Government which aims to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss in Victoria.

To target Victorians who are most at risk of eye disease, the Vision Initiative in conjunction with a number of partner organisations, is delivering four pilot projects in local government areas of Darebin, Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton and Latrobe.

The pilots aim to strengthen relations between the health and eye health sectors and increase the number of at risk people having an eye test. In each area, targeted activity is being delivered through health services and local community organisations.

Our FOCUS

“

Central to Australia’s ability to meet its international obligations under the Global Action Plan and to achieve implementation of the National Framework, is the ability to monitor and report on progress against accurate and up to date baseline prevalence data.

The commitment by the Australian Government to support the National Eye Health Survey demonstrates a truly collaborative partnership of government, non-government and the private sector working together to deliver mutually beneficial research essential to achieving evidence-based eye health outcomes for all Australians.

Jennifer Gersbeck

”

PHOTO CREDIT: VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA



PHOTO CREDIT: STEFAN DANILICHENKO

Government

For real change to be effected, the full support of governments across Australia, together with the right policies, are needed to ensure eye health and vision care are seen as priorities.

Members

Members have the knowledge and expertise to identify the crucial issues that need to be tackled. The strength in a united voice is only made possible by the collective membership working together.

Evidence

Without a strong evidence base there is less capacity to identify the location or size of the problem in order to effectively direct frontline services. Building on the evidence base is critical and a major focus of our work.

Sustainability

If hard-earned gains are to translate into long-term benefits, it is essential that Vision 2020 Australia continues to be a sustainable organisation by remaining effective, efficient and highly respected.

Our PLAN

National

To eliminate avoidable blindness and vision loss in Australia by 2020 and to enable greater community participation of people who are blind or vision impaired.

Goal 1

To eliminate avoidable blindness and vision loss in Australia through prevention, early detection and intervention, and improved awareness.

Eye health and vision care interventions will be improved for all Australians through initiatives such as the development of the National Framework Implementation Plan. Through the work of our members and our advocacy efforts to improve awareness and support, implementation of this plan will improve the efficiency, effectiveness and integration of frontline service delivery.

Goal 2

To improve the ability of Australians who are blind or vision impaired to participate in the community.

The ability of Australians who are blind or vision impaired to participate in the community and live independently will be improved through better understanding of the social and economic benefits of delivering services and supports. Advocacy to improve outcomes and sustainability of existing funding streams will also assist, while highlighting limitations and gaps for further reform to support those of all ages with a disability.



PHOTO CREDIT: VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA

Goal 3

To ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equity of access to quality eye health and vision care services.

Implementation of the recommendations of *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision* by all Australian governments, including the establishment of a national oversight function to set priorities and monitor progress, will increase access to services and improve the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIEN HOLDEN VISION INSTITUTE

Goal 4

To ensure evidence supports better, sustainable service and program delivery.

Advocacy for further research funding and current initiatives such as the National Eye Health Survey, Vision Initiative, and a new sector information hub will improve information sharing among stakeholders and expand the evidence base. This evidence will better inform and focus future policy, program and service delivery across the sector.



PHOTO CREDIT: VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA

Our PLAN

Global

To reduce avoidable vision impairment as a global public health problem and to secure access to rehabilitation services for people who are blind or vision impaired in Asia and the Pacific.

Goal 5

To ensure that eye health and vision care is regarded as a public health priority in Asia and the Pacific.

Working with our members, efforts to support improvements in eye health and vision care across Asia and the Pacific will focus on improving in-country policy frameworks and securing the continued support of the Australian Government through eye health policy and program development.

Goal 6

To increase capacity to deliver eye health, vision care and services and supports for independence and participation in Asia and the Pacific.

The Global Consortium of member organisations will continue to collaborate in the delivery of eye health and vision care services within Asia and the Pacific with ongoing funding to improve in-country policy and health outcomes across the spectrum of need.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE FRED HOLLOWES FOUNDATION

Organisational

To operate a respected, effective, efficient and sustainable peak organisation.

Goal 7

Vision 2020 Australia's structure and systems ensure its sustainability, capacity to comprehensively represent the eye health and vision care sector as its peak body, and support delivery of its work in policy development, advocacy and program coordination, in partnership with members.

As an organisation operating in an ever-changing environment, Vision 2020 Australia will ensure it is internally healthy and sustainable, and externally respected, in order to deliver maximum value to its members as the representative peak body of the eye health and vision care sector.



PHOTO CREDIT: ID PHOTOGRAPHY

“We're excited about the new strategic plan. It gives us clear goals to work towards and also reminds us of the great things we have already achieved.”

The Vision 2020 Australia Board





VISION
2020
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT
AUSTRALIA

Vision 2020 Australia

Level 2, 174 Queen Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Telephone +61 3 9656 2020
Facsimile +61 3 9656 2040

Website www.vision2020australia.org.au

National body working in partnership to prevent avoidable blindness and improve vision care.

A special thank you goes out to the member organisations who provided images for this document, including:

- Australian College of Optometry
- Brien Holden Vision Institute
- CBM Australia
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- Vision Australia



ACFID
MEMBER

Vision 2020 Australia is an Affiliate Member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We support the values of ACFID and its mission to unite the Australian development sector against poverty. See www.acfid.asn.au