

Vision 2020 Australia

2012-13 Annual Report

About Vision 2020 Australia

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

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

The organisation has three key areas of focus: conducting advocacy, facilitating collaboration and raising awareness.

Our vision

Our vision is the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision loss by the year 2020 and ensuring that blindness and vision impairment are no longer barriers to full participation in the community.

Our mission

Our mission is to be the national advocate for member organisations. We work with stakeholders, in partnership, to eliminate the causes and remove the barriers of blindness and vision impairment in Australia and our region, focusing on core principles of collaboration, coordination, accessibility and equity.

Contents

Highlights	1
Chair's message	2
Chief Executive Officer's message	4
Our achievements	6
Financial contributions and in-kind support	18
Board of Directors	20
Financial statements	22

Highlights for 2012-13

National Framework Implementation Plan

Instrumental in securing a commitment from the Australian Government to develop the National Framework Implementation Plan, to ensure that the *National Framework for Action to Promote Eye Health and Prevent Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss* achieves its full potential.

Pre-election policy proposals

Developed three policy proposals prior to the 2013 Federal Election to inform major and minor parties of what is needed to achieve our goal of eliminating avoidable blindness and reducing impact of vision loss by 2020.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Actively participated in the public consultation process for the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, resulting in provisions for low vision and rehabilitation being included in the scheme.

Advocacy leadership group

Formed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocacy Leadership Group to streamline and strengthen sector advocacy efforts, such as ensuring that eye health is integrated into the Close the Gap initiative.

Regional strategy

Developed a draft regional strategy that dovetails with the new World Health Organisation global action plan to reduce avoidable blindness and vision impairment in Asia and the Pacific over the next seven years.

Completion report

Delivered the Vision 2020 Australia *Global Consortium Avoidable Blindness Initiative Completion Report*, which details the achievements of the Consortium in improving the eye health of tens of thousands of people in Asia and the Pacific over the last three years.

Vision Initiative strategy

Developed a new framework and strategy for the Vision Initiative in line with the strategic directions outlined in the Victorian Department of Health's *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*.

Vision Summits

Held two Vision Summits—one with the Coalition and the other with the former Labor Government—to facilitate discussion between the eye health sector and key Parliamentarians.



Chair's message



This year marks my tenth anniversary as Chair of Vision 2020 Australia. It has therefore been a time of deep reflection, giving me the opportunity to put into perspective our progress and success, and the rather incredible journey on which we have been over the last decade.

When I first became Chair, I thought our goal of eliminating avoidable blindness and vision loss by the year 2020 was very ambitious, perhaps even impossible. But year after year, as we have gradually gathered momentum and chalked up one achievement after the other, I am optimistic that we can reach our goal.

If I think about the organisation's greatest achievements over the last ten years, several things come to mind.

An important accomplishment has been getting the sector, with all its diversity, to speak to Government with the same voice. This has been integral to the success of our government relations efforts.

Overall, we have elevated the eye health sector to a higher ranking in the hierarchy of health needs, advocating in particular for how many eye diseases or conditions can be assisted at a relatively modest cost and how this can drastically transform lives.

Our work in securing priorities for Aboriginal eye health has been very successful, especially the campaign to eliminate trachoma.

And we have come a long way on the international stage, highlighting the important role that Australia plays in promoting eye health, including through our partnerships with IAPB and AusAID.

The 2012-13 year itself has been a productive one.

In September 2012, former Australian Government Minister Bob McMullan was appointed President of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness at the IAPB General Assembly in India. The appointment is one of notable significance, as it is the first time an Australian has been appointed to the role, and in part acknowledges Australia's position as a global leader in eye health. The appointment further strengthens Australia's role in the global VISION 2020 movement and helps to highlight the work we do in both Australia and Asia and the Pacific.

On World Sight Day 2012, Vision 2020 Australia held a wonderful Parliamentary Friends Group event which brought together many prominent Parliamentarians, including the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and members of the eye health community to raise the importance of global eye health. Vision 2020 Australia also kindly chose to celebrate my birthday at the event and I would like to thank all involved on the day for their special birthday wishes. It was indeed an honour to celebrate this milestone amongst so many friends and colleagues, many of whom have become an important part of my life over the last ten years.

In 2013, Vision 2020 Australia and its members undertook a substantial amount of work in the lead up to the Federal Election. In addition to the development of three major pre-election policy proposals, several key meetings and continued advocacy efforts, the organisation held two very successful Vision Summits in Brisbane and Sydney to discuss eye health and associated policy issues. I was particularly pleased to see more than 40 of our members attend each of these Summits to ask questions of Federal Parliamentarians from both the former Labor Government and the Coalition. The events facilitated effective dialogue around key policy changes needed to improve eye health for Indigenous Australians, the interface between the National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged care



Vision 2020 Australia CEO, Jennifer Gersbeck, and former Prime Minister Julia Gillard celebrate the Hon Dr Barry Jones' birthday

reforms, the need for a national eye health survey and ongoing commitment to addressing eye health and vision care issues in Asia and the Pacific.

I was also pleased by two Federal Budget announcements this year. The first announcement of \$39 million to tackle avoidable blindness in Asia and the Pacific will help restore sight to thousands of people in the region over the next four years. The second announcement of \$16.5 million for trachoma initiatives will go a long way towards eradicating this debilitating disease in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Board is delighted with the efforts and achievements of our four core committees this year –Prevention and Early Intervention; Low Vision and Rehabilitation; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and Global. These committees are the lynchpin to our organisation's success, identifying key policy issues, generating discussion and analysis on policy development, sharing knowledge and information and undertaking joint advocacy initiatives to achieve each of the goals to which they are linked.

Each committee has made substantial progress in its own right, whether this has been playing a key role in the development of the National Framework Implementation Plan, advocating for low vision and rehabilitation to be included in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, working to close the gap in Indigenous eye health or developing a strategy to guide the sector's efforts in Asia and the Pacific. Much of the work the committees have been doing in the past year is on the cusp of fruition and I look forward to seeing many of these initiatives being endorsed and implemented in 2014.

I would like to thank the Board, Jennifer Gersbeck and staff for their continuing enthusiasm and dedication to their work. It is a privilege to be part of such a worthy organisation.

Dr Barry Jones AO
Chair

Chief Executive Officer's message

“ The past year has been an exciting one for Vision 2020 Australia, with great strides being made in the quest to prevent avoidable blindness and reduce the impact of vision loss across Australia, in our region and globally. ”

I was very pleased to celebrate with our global colleagues the endorsement of the new World Health Organisation's *Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-19* at the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2013. This represents a major milestone for global eye health and, together with our members, I was very proud of the role Australia played in helping to make this a reality.

With a global action plan now in place, Vision 2020 Australia, together with the Australian Government, brought together leaders in the Australian eye health and vision care sector to begin creating an action plan for Australia.

The National Framework Implementation Plan represents a great opportunity to address all aspects of eye health and vision care and ensure that both achievable and measureable actions are developed so that our goal of eliminating avoidable blindness and reducing the impact of vision loss in Australia can be realised.

A key tenet of the Implementation Plan is the development of a set of national eye health indicators, which the sector has strongly advocated for and the Australian Government has now agreed to action. The Australian Government is consulting widely with the sector and state/territory governments and I look forward to working with government and Vision 2020 Australia members to finalise the plan over the coming year.

With 2013 being a Federal Election year, Vision 2020 Australia, in consultation with our members, invested a significant amount of time in developing a number of policy proposals which outline a range of recommendations and funding requirements for eye health and vision care, as well as meeting with key members of the Labor Government, Coalition and minor parties.

Our Vision Summits were a major highlight and provided a great opportunity for Vision 2020 Australia members to engage with key Parliamentarians on critical issues affecting the sector. The strength of collaboration within the sector was evident to the former Labor Government and Coalition as no other sector came together in this way to collectively advocate for policy change and funding.

One of our important achievements during the year was having low vision recognised as part of the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Together with our members, Vision 2020 Australia worked tirelessly throughout the NDIS consultation period to ensure the needs of those with vision impairment were met through this scheme. Our next step in this area will be working to ensure that low vision and rehabilitation services are included in the National Framework Implementation Plan, and that the low vision needs of those aged 65 and over are addressed.

Vision 2020 Australia's membership of the National Disability Service (NDS), the Australian peak body for the non-government disability services, is another achievement of which I am proud. Our membership enables us to leverage the NDS, its networks, expertise and government relations.

A further achievement was the sector's endorsement of the *Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision*. The Roadmap forms an important part of our goal to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to quality eye health and vision care services, and having the Roadmap's recommendations incorporated into the National Framework Implementation Plan will strengthen our ability to achieve this goal. Of course, the \$16.5 million announcement in the Federal Budget for trachoma initiatives will go a long way towards eradicating this debilitating disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I would like to acknowledge the appointment of former Australian Government Minister Bob McMullan as the first Australian President of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Mr McMullan was officially sworn in as President of the IAPB at the Agency's General Assembly in India in September 2012. In 2009, as Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, his commitment to eye health saw the establishment of the Avoidable Blindness Initiative which has achieved outstanding results over recent years through projects delivered by the Global Consortium in Asia and the Pacific (read page 15-16). The results are testament to what collaboration and good teamwork can achieve and demonstrate how modest amounts of funding can significantly improve the lives of tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable people.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our member organisations for their dedication and support during the year and my committed and dynamic team for their hard work, enthusiasm and loyalty. I look forward to continuing our work together to meet the many challenges ahead.



Jennifer Gersbeck

Jennifer Gersbeck
Chief Executive Officer

“The strength of collaboration within the sector was evident to the former Labor Government and Coalition as no other sector came together in this way to collectively advocate for policy change and funding.”

Our achievements

Strategic Goal 1

To ensure eye disease prevention and early intervention is recognised as a health priority by the Australian Government

As we count down to 2020, Vision 2020 Australia's role is to ensure that eye health and vision care remains high on the health, disability and international development agendas of governments in Australia, ensuring that Australia fulfils its commitments under the World Health Assembly resolutions and Global Action Plan, *Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-2019*.

National Framework Implementation Plan

In 2012-13, Vision 2020 Australia was instrumental in bringing to life the National Framework Implementation Plan (NFIP), which will ensure that Australia's *National Framework for Action to Promote Eye Health and Prevent Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss* achieves its full potential.

Vision 2020 Australia played a central role in securing a commitment from the Australian Government to develop the plan, taking the Global Action Plan as a blueprint, and advocating for a national plan that would best meet Australia's needs.

The intent of the National Framework Implementation Plan is to identify a series of measurable actions to ensure Australia's strategic focus on eye health and vision care is aligned with its international obligations.

To progress the plan, Vision 2020 Australia worked with members through its committees to identify priority areas and progress the development of eye health indicators, to be embedded in the plan.

Vision 2020 Australia, together with the Australian Government, also conducted a sector consultation with leaders in the eye health and vision care sector to discuss key elements of the plan.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Health and Ageing, has agreed to action the inclusion of a set of national eye health indicators in the NFIP.

Next steps will include securing endorsement and funding for the NFIP from all Australian health ministers and ensuring that it is implemented effectively.

Vision 2020 Australia also continued to advocate for a national eye survey to enable effective measurement of progress against the NFIP.

Progressing eye health and vision care

In 2013, Vision 2020 Australia developed a pre-election policy proposal, entitled *Progressing Eye Health and Vision Care in Australia*, to inform both major and minor parties of the commitments required to improve eye health in Australia.

The proposal provides a strategic approach to ensure that Australia successfully meets its international obligations and offers key recommendations that recognise and complement the the World Health Organisation's global action plan, and support the further development of Australia's *National Framework for Action to Promote Eye Health and Prevent Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss*.

Proposal recommendations

- To undertake a national eye health survey that will provide universal data on eye health and inform policy makers where eye care and vision services are most needed.
- A stronger focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure that the Government honours the Close the Gap Statement of Intent with respect to Indigenous health, including eye health.
- Improve funding and access for low vision and rehabilitation services and supports, including having blindness and vision loss incorporated into the National Disability Insurance Scheme and ensuring the needs of those over the age of 65 with vision impairment are met through the aged care system.
- Increase public and health professional awareness of the importance of eye health and vision care.



Lisa Briggs, NACCHO, Jennifer Gersbeck and Janet Quigley, Department of Health and Ageing at the Sector Consultation in March 2013



Virginia Hagger, Diabetes Australia - Vic, the Hon David Davis MLC and Jennifer Gersbeck launch the Diabetes and eye health project, October 2012

Vision Initiative

The Vision Initiative is an integrated health promotion program in Victoria funded by the Victorian Department of Health and administered by Vision 2020 Australia. The program aims to prevent avoidable blindness and address the impact of vision impairment in the Victorian community.

New direction

In May 2012, Vision 2020 Australia embarked on a new three-year Vision Initiative program with funding of \$2.55 million from the Victorian Government. The initiative was realigned with the strategic directions outlined in the Victorian Department of Health's *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*.

A review of unpublished data from the 2008 Victorian Population Health Survey data revealed four Local Government Areas (LGAs)—Darebin, Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton and Latrobe—as areas that would benefit most from targeted eye health interventions.

Pilot projects

The Vision Initiative will deliver a coordinated health promotion approach, bringing together the primary health and eye health sectors to work to reduce avoidable blindness and vision loss in the four LGAs through pilot projects. These pilot projects were launched on World Sight Day (10 October 2013) by the Victorian Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon David Davis MLC.

Key achievements

- Development of a framework and strategy for the Vision Initiative for the new three-year funding period.
- Launch of the Diabetes and eye health project—a joint collaboration between Diabetes Australia - Vic, Vision 2020 Australia and the Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes to combat diabetic retinopathy in Victorians newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.
- Publication of community information sheets with Quit Victoria on smoking and vision loss.
- Audit of the Vision Initiative website, resulting in improvements to the site and compliance with disability guidelines.
- Redesign of the Vision Initiative website to improve both the look and feel, and functionality of the site.
- Significant increase in media coverage of the Vision Initiative in mainstream, local and online media as a result of a concerted effort in this area.



Vision Summits foster dialogue on eye health issues

In July 2013, Vision 2020 Australia held two Vision Summits in the lead up to the Federal Election: one with the Coalition and the other with the former Labor Government. More than 40 CEOs from leading eye health and vision care organisations across Australia attended the Summits.

The aim of the Summits was to facilitate discussion and dialogue between the various parties on a range of eye health and vision care issues. The Summits also gave Vision 2020 Australia members the opportunity to ask questions of the major political parties.

During the Summits, Vision 2020 Australia members outlined gaps and concerns with current eye health and

disability services policy. Suggestions were made where policy may be improved, including the need to improve eye health for Indigenous Australians, the interface between the National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged care reforms, the need for a national eye health survey and an ongoing commitment to address eye health and vision care issues in Asia and the Pacific.

The Vision Summits provided a great opportunity for both sides of politics to demonstrate their commitment to eye health in the lead up to the Federal Election. It is hoped these discussions with key Members of Parliament will result in some lasting policy changes that support the needs of the sector.

The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP and the Hon Shayne Neumann MP at the Vision Summit with the Government

Strategic Goal 2

To ensure low vision and rehabilitation is recognised as a priority by the Australian Government

Vision 2020 Australia brings together a diverse group of stakeholders across the low vision and rehabilitation landscape in Australia through its Low Vision and Rehabilitation Committee. The Committee works to achieve sector wide consensus, by developing a shared understanding and common goals, and ensuring that low vision and rehabilitation is recognised as a priority by the Australian Government.

NDIS public consultations

As part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) public consultations in 2012, Vision 2020 Australia and its members worked tirelessly on behalf of the eye health sector to present a united voice to government on the needs of people with vision impairment.

Vision 2020 Australia provided submissions and responses to the proposed statements on eligibility and reasonable and necessary support under an NDIS, the draft NDIS Bill 2012, the Regulation Impact Statement and the NDIS Rules Consultation Paper.

Advocating for low vision support

A problematic tenet of the NDIS relates to the age cut-off for people over the age of 65 years and their exclusion from the scheme. This means that people who are blind or have low vision and are over the age of 65 are deferred to the aged care sector, which does not have a meaningful, co-ordinated approach to address the issue.

To overcome this, Vision 2020 Australia began to work with the Australian Government in 2013 to ensure that the aged care sector can adequately provide aids, equipment, services and support for older Australians with low vision.

As part of this effort, Vision 2020 Australia provided a response to the Home Care Packages Program—Consultation Draft in 2013 recommending that the specific provisions made for people with vision impairment be clearly described. The recommendations made went some way in being incorporated in the final version of the document released by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Key achievements

- Assurance that a person's eligibility for the scheme will be determined by functional assessment rather a medical diagnosis.
- Inclusion of a specific provision in the NDIS Bill 2012 for early intervention which clearly incorporates people with degenerative conditions.
- Establishment of a separate division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to conduct independent reviews of decisions made by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

“Vision 2020 Australia and its members worked tirelessly on behalf of the eye health sector to present a united voice to government on the needs of people with vision impairment.”

World Sight Day 2012 champions eye health

On 11 October 2012, Vision 2020 Australia celebrated World Sight Day (WSD) by uniting the Australian eye health and vision care sector around the key message that 75 per cent of blindness and vision loss is preventable or treatable. In addition to the successful '75 photos for 75% campaign', this message was conveyed through social and traditional media, at events and by our many WSD ambassadors.

Parliamentary Friends Group event

A special Parliamentary Friends Group event was held in Canberra on WSD to bring together Federal Parliamentarians and members. The focus of the event was an a special birthday celebration for Vision 2020 Australia Chair the Hon Dr Barry Jones AO. Dr Jones called for attendees to support eye health and encouraged those in attendance to sign a declaration to eliminate avoidable blindness. Among the attendees were former Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, and the former Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP.

Eye health champions

State and Federal Parliamentarians showed their support for eye health by becoming WSD Champions. Champions took part in a range of media and social media activity to spread the WSD message far and wide.

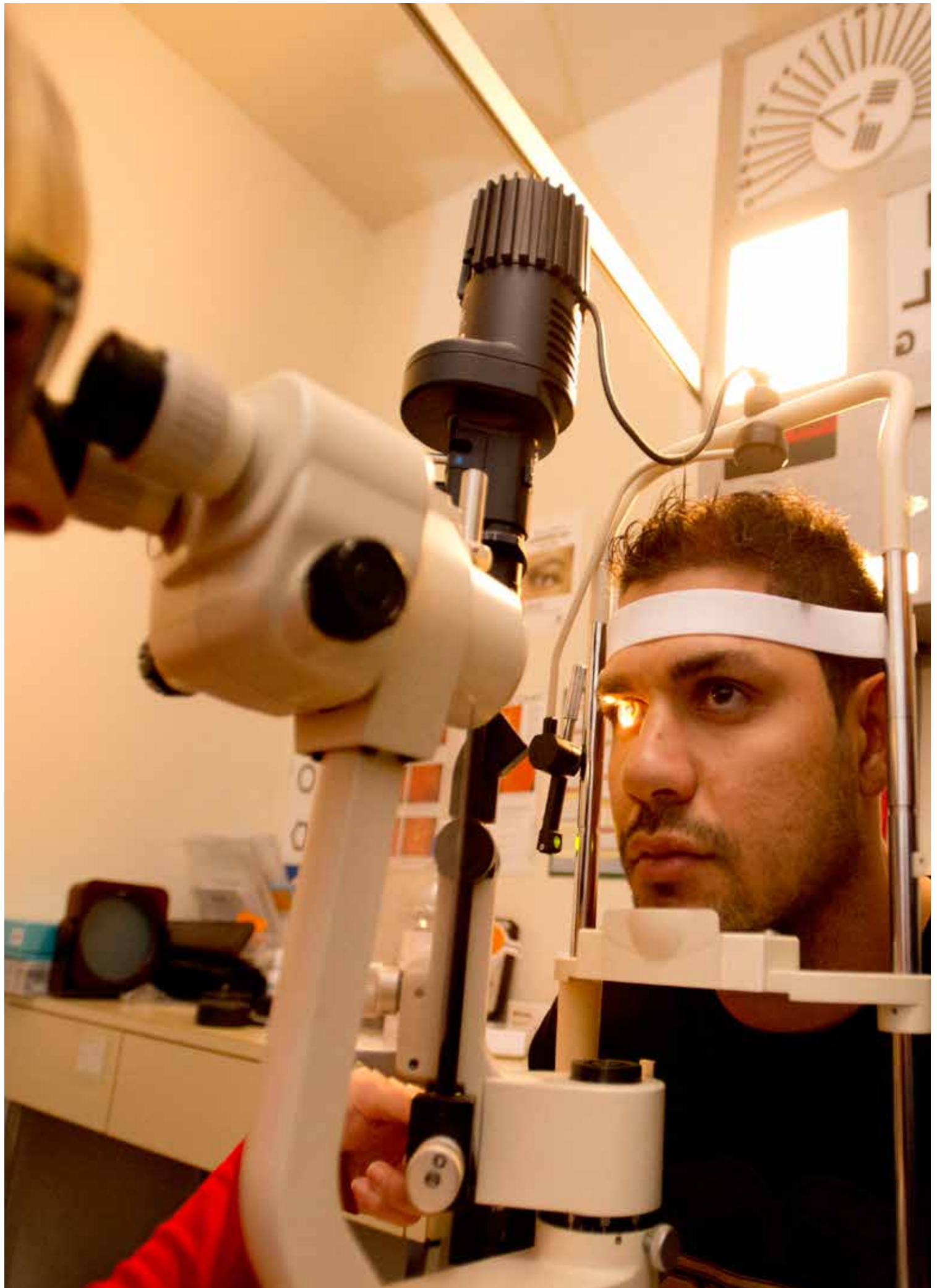
A visionary approach

In the lead up to World Sight Day, Victorian Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon David Davis MLC, announced a new Vision 2020 Australia and Diabetes Australia - Vic project which is raising awareness with people newly diagnosed with diabetes about the link between diabetes and eye health.

Key stats of the day

- 724 people visited our World Sight Day online hub during World Sight Day week
- 11 state and Federal Parliamentarians acted as World Sight Day Champions
- 55 guests signed a declaration to eliminate avoidable blindness
- Over 100 media outlets ran stories on World Sight Day nationally
- 144 people and organisations tweeted using #WSD12





Strategic Goal 3

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

In Australia, there is a significant disparity between the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians. Vision 2020 Australia continues to advocate strongly for funding and measures that will close the gap in eye health.

Pre-election policy proposal

In 2013, Vision 2020 Australia developed a pre-election policy and funding proposal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health and vision care, which calls for a three-year funding commitment of \$67.13 million to be consistent with the \$90.75 million over a five-year period as outlined in *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision*.

A total of \$53.63 million is sought for a three-year period taking into account the \$16.5 million 2013 Federal Budget announcement for trachoma.

Vision 2020 Australia is also advocating for the 42 recommendations contained in the 'Roadmap' to be incorporated into the National Framework Implementation Plan and that eye health be integrated into the overall Close the Gap initiative.

Trachoma funding

In its 2013 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$16.5 million to tackle trachoma, the blinding eye infection found in some Indigenous communities. The new funding will go towards the screening and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Key achievements

- Eye health included in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Performance Framework.
- Submitted response to National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan discussion paper.
- Criteria developed for nationally consistent low cost spectacle schemes.
- Formed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocacy Leadership Group to streamline and strengthen sector advocacy efforts, such as ensuring that eye health is integrated into the Close the Gap initiative.

“In Australia, there is a significant disparity between the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians. Vision 2020 Australia continues to advocate strongly for funding and measures that will close the gap in eye health.”

Strategic Goal 4

To maximise Australia's global contribution to the improvement of eye health and vision care in the developing world

Vision 2020 Australia actively advocates for policy change and development that enables Australia to make a strong contribution to the improvement of eye health and vision care in developing countries around the globe. Our focus is to ensure that avoidable blindness and vision loss remains high on the agendas of the Australian Government and other organisations.

Asia and the Pacific focus

In 2012-13, Vision 2020 Australia worked on a number of initiatives to help reduce avoidable blindness and vision loss globally. These included:

- Development of a pre-election policy proposal, outlining a five-year plan for eye health funding and initiatives to increase efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness and increase the participation of people with permanent blindness and vision loss in Asia and the Pacific.
- Development of a draft regional strategy that dovetails with the World Health Organisation's *Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-19* and includes specific objectives and indicators to achieve the goal of reducing avoidable blindness and vision impairment in Asia and the Pacific over the next seven years.

- Hosting a globally-focused Parliamentary Friends Group for Eye Health and Vision Care event that brought together key agencies in the eye health sector and Federal Members of Parliament to discuss issues around eye health and disability inclusiveness.

Vision 2020 Australia gratefully acknowledges additional funding from CBM Australia for its global advocacy efforts. Without this support, our ability to make a difference to those in developing countries would be greatly reduced.

In 2013-14, Vision 2020 Australia will work to bring the regional strategy to life, together with agencies involved in program delivery, to ensure that we make a difference to eye health globally.

2013 Budget announcement

In the May 2013 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$39 million to tackle avoidable blindness in Asia and the Pacific.

The new initiative will focus on preventing avoidable blindness and restoring sight to thousands of people in the region over the next four years.





Parliamentary Friends Group shines a light on global eye health

On 19 March 2013, Vision 2020 Australia hosted a Parliamentary Friends Group for Eye Health and Vision Care breakfast at Parliament House with a special focus on global eye health.

The event attracted over 95 guests, including 18 Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. Special guests included former Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retired) and Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

A distinguished line-up of speakers took to the stage to tell everyone about the many eye health and vision care initiatives being delivered across the world.

Brian Doolan, CEO of The Fred Hollows Foundation outlined some of the work being done to end avoidable blindness, including efforts to eliminate trachoma, embed disability, low vision and blindness into the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) discussions and the launch of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust in Australia, which had chosen to focus its activity on

blindness prevention.

The Hon Richard Marles MP, former Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, took the opportunity to remind attendees that the impact of blindness and vision impairment in the region was significant.

The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, former Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, commended Vision 2020 Australia on its new draft regional strategy, which aims for a world in which nobody is needlessly vision impaired, where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential and where there is universal access to comprehensive eye care services.

Professor Ron McCallum paid tribute to the work being done by the sector to include disability in eye health services. Professor McCallum called for two outcomes. The first was to ensure people with a disability had access to services and the second was for those who could not be cured to be able to live a full life.

Major General Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retired) and Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO at the breakfast

Global Consortium

The Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium is a partnership of seven Australian eye health and vision care organisations that work in conjunction with AusAID to deliver programs in Vietnam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa.

The programs focus on the key tasks of training eye health staff, developing much needed infrastructure, directly tackling treatable diseases such as cataract through surgery and other sight restoring interventions, and supporting those people whose sight cannot be restored.

The Global Consortium provides the opportunity for member organisations to combine their complementary skills and resources to deliver better aid outcomes on the ground. Now in its fourth year, the work of the Consortium has had a major impact on reducing levels of blindness and vision impairment across Asia and the Pacific.

Completion report

In June 2013, the Global Consortium delivered a comprehensive report to AusAID, *Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium Avoidable Blindness Initiative Completion Report*, detailing the achievements of the Consortium over the three-year period between January 2010 to March 2013.

Over this time, tens of thousands of poor and disadvantaged people in Asia and the Pacific have had their lives improved thanks to the reach and success of Global Consortium programs.

Global Consortium members

- Brien Holden Vision Institute
- CBM Australia
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- Foresight Australia
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists





Young boy at Pa'apu'a Primary School in Samoa having his vision screened

Reflections Workshop

In November 2012, the Consortium held a 'Reflections Workshop' in Fiji that brought together more than 30 key Pacific partners to discuss and document the achievements and lessons learned from programs that have been delivered in the Pacific region over the last three years. These learnings have been captured in the *Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium Avoidable Blindness Initiative Completion Report*.

East Asia Vision Program

With new funding received to deliver eye health programs in East Asia, Vision 2020 Australia completed its work plan for the Global Consortium's East Asia Vision Program (Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Cambodia), and began implementing the plan. The plan focuses on workforce development in-country to deliver eye care services, including training and skills development and training for doctors, nurses and eye health professionals.

IAPB General Assembly

In September 2012, Vision 2020 Australia CEO Jennifer Gersbeck and Chair the Hon Dr Barry Jones AO presented the work and achievements of the Global Consortium at the IAPB 46th General Assembly in India.

Key achievements

- **772,182** people screened or examined for eye health conditions.
- **419,389** people received eye health care treatment.
- **86** new eye health care centres providing integrated eye health care services.
- **48** new eye care services with referral pathways to disability services.
- **49** new eye health care service buildings constructed or renovated.
- **14,147** individuals received training.
- There is also evidence that in-country health systems are being strengthened through working in partnership with 24 new commitments of policy support shown by partner governments and 12 new funding commitments by partner governments at an AUD equivalent of \$1.54 million.

Financial contributions and in-kind support

Strength is gained through partnership and Vision 2020 Australia greatly values the contributions and in-kind support it receives from members, sponsors and governments to make its work possible. For the financial year 2012-13 Vision 2020 Australia had 54 members and associates.

Principal Member \$57,290



Gold Member \$40,100



Silver Member \$28,650



Bronze Member \$11,460



Major Supporting Member \$6260

Association for the Blind WA
Centre for Eye Health
Centre for Eye Research Australia
Brien Holden Vision Research
Lions Eye Institute
Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association of Australia
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Save Sight Institute
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital

Supporting Member \$2,865

Australian College of Optometry
CanDo4Kids - Townsend House
Centre for Vision Research
Guide Dogs Association SA.NT
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
Guide Dogs QLD
Guide Dogs Victoria
Lions Australia
Optometric Vision and Research Foundation
Orthoptics Australia
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
VisionCare NSW

Corresponding Member \$817

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW
Aboriginal Health Council of SA
ASPECT Foundation
Blind Citizens Australia
Danila Dilba Health Services
Diabetes Australia - Vic
Foresight Australia
Glaucoma Australia
Indigenous Eye Health Unit, University of Melbourne
International Association of Contact Lens Educators
Macular Disease Foundation Australia
Optometry Giving Sight in Australia
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council
Retina Australia - National
Royal Guide Dogs Association of Tasmania
Royal Society for the Blind SA
Sight for All Foundation
School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of NSW
The Queensland Vision Initiative

Vision 2020 Australia Associate \$217

Australian Diabetes Council
Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
Diabetes Australia - National Office
Keratoconus Australia Inc
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
SunSmart - Cancer Council Victoria

Advocacy program support

CBM Australia \$25,000
The Fred Hollows Foundation \$15,000
Guide Dogs Association of NSW/ACT \$20,000

Government funding

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Chronic Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Fund \$443,571
Victorian Department of Health \$662,058

Attendance at meetings

Vision 2020 Australia is thankful to all members and stakeholders who have contributed time, expertise and administrative support throughout the year. To the members represented on committees including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee, Prevention and Early Intervention Committee, Low Vision and Rehabilitation Committee, Global Committee, Regional Plan Steering Committee, Consortium Program Committee and Vision Initiative Steering Committee—this commitment is gratefully acknowledged.

Provision of meeting venues and facilities

Brien Holden Vision Institute
The Fred Hollows Foundation
Indigenous Eye Health Unit, University of Melbourne
Macular Disease Foundation Australia
Optometrists Association of Australia
Royal Australian New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

In addition thanks go to the following organisations and people for their contribution to the Vision Initiative in Victoria:

Australian Nursing Federation
Australian Practice Nurses Association
Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes
beyondblue
General Practice Victoria
Optometrists Association Australia (Victorian Branch)
Quit Victoria
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian Branch)
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Victorian Department of Health
Sheila O'Sullivan

Board of Directors



The Hon Dr Barry Jones AO, Chair

Member, Victorian Legislative Assembly (1972–77); Member of the House of Representatives (1977–98); Minister for Science (1983–90); Australia's Representative to UNESCO in Paris (1991–95); National President, Australian Labor Party (1992–2000, 2005–06); Chair of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (2000–2011); Professorial Fellow, Melbourne University.

Barry is a writer and broadcaster, and serves on three medical research boards. He is the only person to have been elected as a Fellow of all four Australian learned Academies. His best known book is *Sleepers, Wake! Technology and the Future of Work* (1982), which ran to 26 impressions. He also wrote the *Dictionary of World Biography* (1994) and an autobiography, *A Thinking Reed* (2006).



Professor Hugh Taylor AC, Co-Deputy Chair

Melbourne Laureate Professor and Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne; Former Vice President, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; Treasurer and Incoming President, International Council of Ophthalmology; Vice President, Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis.

Hugh is an ophthalmologist who has been actively involved in research and teaching for 30 years and has published extensively including a recent book on trachoma.



Professor Brian Layland OAM, Co-Deputy Chair

Director of Aboriginal Eyecare Programs (NSW), Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation; Chair, Brien Holden Vision Institute; Co-Chair, VisionCare NSW; Board Member, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation; Board Member, Optometric Vision Research Foundation (OVRF); Board Member Viscorp.

Brian is an optometric practitioner, active in the scientific and professional communities. He is a visiting lecturer and committee member of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Optometry and Vision Science and is a Visiting Professor.



Mr John Jeffries, Company Secretary, Chair, Audit and Finance Standing Committee

John has served with CBM Australia since 1982, the past 19 years as CEO. During this time John has contributed to the worldwide growth of CBM into the largest organisation working with and for people with disabilities in the developing world.

His international commitments have included service on the Boards of CBMI Switzerland, CBM USA, and also the key strategy development bodies of the global CBM Family. He chairs the CBM National Director's Committee. John has also served on the boards of the Centre for Eye Research Australia, Servants Community Housing and Optometry Giving Sight.



Dr Margaret Crowley, Director

Chief Executive Officer, Association for the Blind of Western Australia from 1997–2012, Margaret has served on a number of government education, health, disability and research task forces in Western Australia and is actively involved in the development of an eye health and rehabilitation strategy for Western Australia.

Margaret is a leading advocate for evidence based practice in rehabilitation and has established the Guide Dog Discovery Centre as a significant community education and blindness prevention centre.

**Resigned from the Board in December 2012*



Ms Amanda Davis, Director

Global Chief Operating Officer of the Brien Holden Vision Institute (Public Health Division) with responsibilities of the Regional Director for Asia Pacific; Member of the National Advisory Committee for Optometry Giving Sight, Australia; Director of Optometry Giving Sight (Global); Director of Vision CRC; Director of Viscorp; Director of PNG Eyecare.

Amanda has a background in health and management. She has worked in a number of key management roles within the eye care sector for the past 13 years.



Dr Iain Dunlop, Director

Senior Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) and past Chairman, Sydney Hospital-Sydney Eye Hospital; Director Sight for Life Foundation; Chair DoHA Ophthalmic Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group; AMA Nominee to National Disability Insurance Scheme taskforce, Professional Services Review Advisory Committee and Health Technology Assessment Consultative Committee; ACHS Councillor; Former President, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO), Chairman of Council and Director AMA Federal; Director AMA-ACT; Director, Canberra Microsurgery.



Mrs Janet Holmes à Court AC, Director

Janet is Chairman of the John Holland Group Advisory Board; the West Australian Symphony Orchestra; the Australian Children's Television Foundation and the Australian Urban Design Research Centre. Board Member of the Rio Tinto Community Investment Fund, the Australian National Academy of Music, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Major Performing Arts Group and Chamber of Arts and Culture WA.

Janet has won numerous awards recognising her contribution to the community and to business, including a Companion of the Order of Australia.



Professor Deborah Sweeney, Director

Deborah has held senior management roles with CCLRU, CRC for Eye Research and Technology and the Vision CRC where she served as CEO for five years. Deborah is Secretary of VisionCare NSW; Treasurer of CRC Association; Treasurer and Member of the Optometric Vision Research Foundation; Past President and Member of the Executive of the International Society for Contact Lens Research; Immediate Past President of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators; Assistant Secretary General of the Keratoprosthesis (KPro) Study Group; Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry; Member of ARVO; Member, Optometrists Association Australia and Member, Contact Lens Society of Australia.

*Resigned from the Board in December 2012



Dr Graeme White, Director

Chief Executive Officer, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT since October 2009. Director, Centre for Eye Health; Director, Australian and New Zealand Assistance Dogs Association. Graeme has served as Deputy Chair and Director, International Guide Dog Federation; Director, Ocular Sciences Australasia; Director, Guardian Family Care Chemists.

Graeme has 30 years' experience in the Australian Pharmaceutical, Healthcare and Optical Industries in Marketing, General Management and Chief Executive roles. He has worked at the multinational companies Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Baxter Healthcare, Smith and Nephew, Sigma Pharmaceutical Wholesale and Ocular Sciences.

Financial overview

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue	3,484,694	3,549,298
Employee benefits expense	(1,416,225)	(1,348,005)
Consultants	(931,035)	(898,467)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	(38,635)	(39,999)
Stationery and printing	(26,548)	(29,787)
Travel expenses	(221,515)	(273,237)
Occupancy	(133,476)	(141,528)
Promotional events and material	(39,579)	(52,882)
Repairs, maintenance and hire	(13,718)	(11,584)
Computer support and internet	(62,008)	(95,350)
Monitoring and evaluation	(43,744)	(110,431)
Events and catering	(28,434)	(102,268)
National audit and phase 2 grant expenditure	-	(235,040)
IAPB – Trachoma Project Expenditure	(378,740)	(27,811)
Other expenses	(67,008)	(70,429)
Surplus for the year	84,029	112,480
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	84,029	112,480

The statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position have been extracted from the company's 2012-13 Audited Financial Report. Interested parties can obtain a full copy of the company's statutory financial statements, inclusive of these statements, notes to the accounts, a directors' report and declaration and an independent audit report by contacting the Company Secretary on 1800 678 069.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,216,439	1,122,148
Trade and other receivables	77,458	114,337
Other current assets	2,055	-
Total current assets	1,295,952	1,236,485
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	66,392	97,913
Total non-current assets	66,392	97,913
Total assets	1,362,344	1,334,398
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	784,004	840,335
Short-term provisions	93,417	89,199
Total current liabilities	877,421	929,534
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term provisions	3,385	7,355
Total non-current liabilities	3,385	7,355
Total liabilities	880,806	936,889
Net assets	481,538	397,509
Equity		
Accumulated surpluses	481,538	397,509
Total equity	481,538	397,509

Note 15 ACFID Requirements

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue		
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	-	-
Non monetary	-	-
Bequests and legacies	-	-
Grants		
AusAID	1,817,740	1,821,722
Other Australian	1,183,549	1,201,881
Other overseas	-	-
Investment income	31,054	38,507
Membership income	369,749	361,321
Other income	82,602	125,867
Revenue for international political or religious adherence promotion programs	-	-
Total Revenue	3,484,694	3,549,298
Expenditure		
International aid and development programs expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	-	-
Program support costs	1,738,388	1,675,189
Community Education	-	-
Fundraising costs		
Public	-	-
Government, multilateral and private	10,850	13,940
Accountability and administration	467,946	506,665
Non monetary expenditure	-	-
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	2,217,184	2,195,794
International political or religious adherence promotion programs	-	-
Domestic program expenditure	1,183,481	1,241,024
Total Expense	3,400,665	3,436,818
Excess (shortfall) of revenue over expenses	84,029	112,480

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 For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Report on the summarised financial report

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprises the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, summary statement of financial position and ACFID compliant statement as at 30 June 2013 are derived from the audited financial report of Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia for the year ended 30 June 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 25 September 2013. 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.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia. The information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report and the ACFID statement in accordance with the Code of Conduct to meet the needs of users.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Opinion

In our opinion,

- (a) the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia for the year ended 30 June 2013 are consistent, in all material respects with the audited financial report.
- (b) The ACFID statement is in compliance, in all material respects, with the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Peter Shields
Partner
11 November 2013

20 Albert St
Blackburn Vic 3130



20 Albert Street / PO Box 256
Blackburn Victoria 3130
T: 03 9894 2500 F: 03 9894 1622
contact@youraccountant.com.au

PRINCIPALS: Bruce Saward FCA Cliff Dawson FCA
Peter Shields CA Tim Flowers CA Joshua Morse CA
ASSOCIATE: Cathy Braun CA
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Services Legislation





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**



ACFID
MEMBER

ACFID Affiliate Member and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. Vision 2020 is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. More information about ACFID and the Code can be found at: www.acfid.asn.au