

Annual Report

2020/2021



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Our achievements

23 


23 submissions, reports and policy papers

6 

6 meetings with MPs, including the Prime Minister

150 

150 CEO meetings with members and stakeholders

26.6% 

Sector News Alert achieved an open rate of 26.6% (industry benchmark is 21.7%)

Our social media audience grew by:

 8%
Facebook

 2%
Twitter

 48%
Instagram

 34%
LinkedIn

Vision Initiative

 8 million

Promotional messages seen more than 8 million times

 1,850

Online training completed by 1,850 health professionals, an increase of 71% on 2019-20

 121%

121% increase in page views for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People resources on our website

A message from the Chair

While the world continued its uncertain recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through much of 2020-21, it's great to be able to reflect on the positive ongoing work of Vision 2020 Australia and the whole eye health and vision care sector in Australia.



Amanda Vanstone and Christopher Pyne.

I would like to start by acknowledging my predecessor, The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO, who led the Board with distinction from 2014 to 2020. As someone who has known Amanda personally and professionally for many years, I am well aware of the standard she sets and look forward to maintaining that into the future. The Board was pleased to have her join

the Hon Barry Jones AC as patrons of our organisation, and we look forward to her continued involvement and support.

Since stepping into the role of Chair in November, I have been taken by the genuine commitment across the sector to improving eye health and vision care in Australia and abroad.

In my experience, it is relatively rare to see such cross sector collaboration at the best of times, and given the challenges of the current environment, it's a testament to the commitment and passion of the hard-working eye health and vision care organisations that comprise our membership. I have also very much appreciated the warm welcome I have received from members, directors and staff. Thank you.

Over 2020-21 we have continued to strengthen our connections to the decision makers in Canberra this year. I was pleased to have opportunities to meet with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the Hon Stuart Robert, Senator the Hon Zed Seselja and Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds in the past few months to discuss the importance of the sector's work. Alongside these meetings, sector delegations also met with Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, various ministerial offices and key bureaucrats, including the



Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Christopher Pyne.

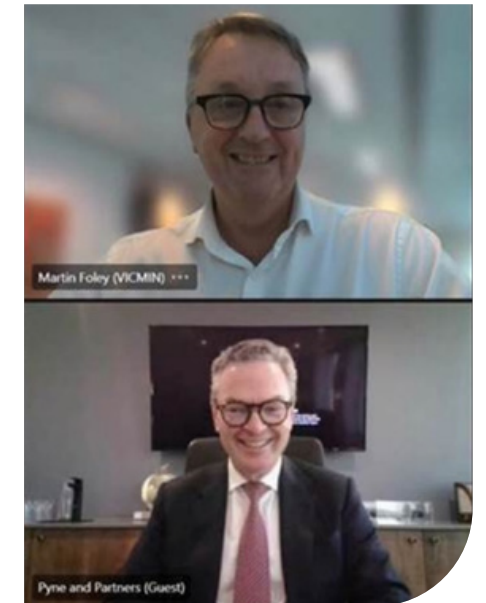


Minister Stuart Robert with Christopher Pyne.

CEO of the National Disability Insurance Agency. We also received considerable cross-party support for our World Sight Day 2020 campaign which featured a number of Parliamentarians, including the Prime Minister and Health Minister, recording videos of support for the sector's work.

Alongside this, we have also maintained good connections to the Victorian Government and I was pleased to meet with Minister Martin Foley this year to discuss the Victorian Vision Initiative.

In June 2021, I was pleased to be able to host our first face to face Canberra event since the pandemic started. Although we were sorry not all members were able to attend, it was a great opportunity for the sector to meet with MPs in Canberra. The event was a celebration of Vision 2020 Australia's 21st birthday, an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the Hon Bob McMullan who has been a longstanding supporter both in Australia and abroad, and was the perfect forum to lay out opportunities for the sector moving forward.



Victoria Health Minister Martin Foley with Christopher Pyne.



In an environment where face to face engagement has been challenging, we have continued to explore new ways to connect our members and others who support our shared goals. To that end, in late 2020 we established the annual Barry Jones Vision Oration with the inaugural address delivered by 2020 Australian of the Year, ophthalmologist Dr James Muecke AM. Named for our long-term supporter and patron, the oration will provide an annual opportunity to showcase a sector leader and highlight an area of our sector's work to the broader community.



Barry Jones Vision Oration

It is gratifying to report the achievement of another strong end of year financial result for the organisation. Sound financial management and strong organisational reserves have positioned us well for the continuing challenging environment ahead, and this remains an area of strength for Vision 2020 Australia. Vision 2020 Australia appreciates the financial support both the Australian and Victorian Governments have provided for our work, which included Health Advisory and Peak funding, Australian Government funding for specific

projects and Victorian Government funding to continue the Victorian Vision Initiative until at least December 2021.

The reporting year was a period of significant change for the Board. In addition to Amanda Vanstone's departure, board members Dr David Andrews and Ms Megan McAlpine both retired at the 2020 AGM, at which time we welcomed new members Prof Heather Mack, Ms Jane Schuller and Mr Shaun Tatipata. The importance of a capable and engaged Board for an organisation such as ours cannot be overstated and I thank all directors for their insights, guidance and continued commitment to achieving our shared goals over the reporting period.

Our members remain integral to Vision 2020 Australia's work, and we are grateful for their ongoing contributions across all our policy development and engagement activities this year. I would like to specifically acknowledge The Fred Hollows Foundation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia/NZ, RANZCO, and Optometry Australia whose continuing significant financial support proved critical to our work in 2020-21.

In May 2021, we were sad to announce the resignation of outgoing CEO Judith Abbott, who led the organisation with clarity, purpose and enthusiasm through a period of considerable change. Her contributions to the sector have been highly valued by members, funders and other partners over her past three-plus years in the role and we wished her well as she moved onto the next phase of her career.

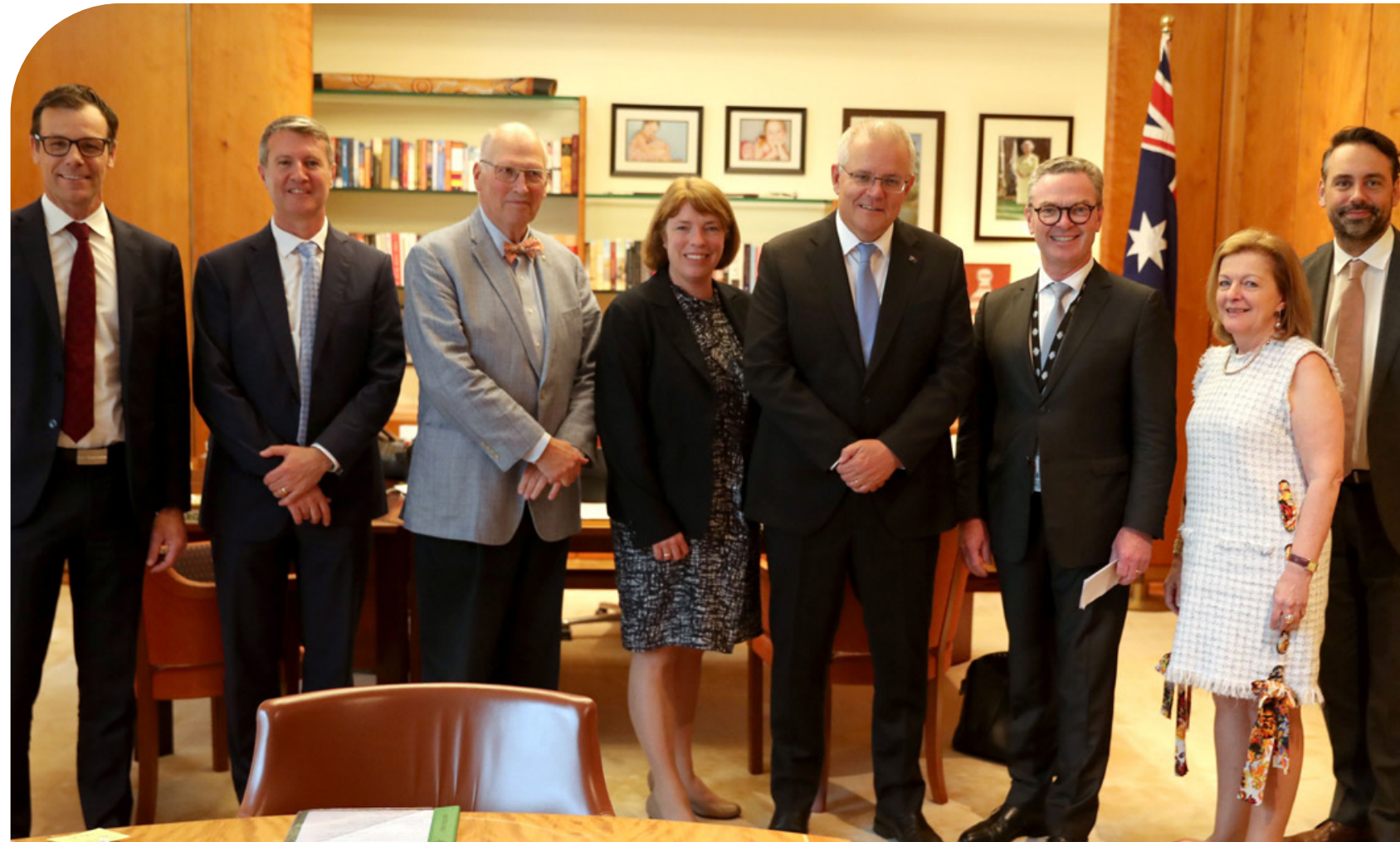
There are however exciting times ahead for our work together. A new CEO, a new Strategic Plan, a strong program of work underway, a significant government reform agenda and an upcoming federal election all offer us new and different opportunities. I looking forward to working more closely with all of you as we work toward the changes that will improve eye care for Australians and those in our region.



Maureen O'Keefe, Christopher Pyne, Prof Hugh Taylor, Amanda Vanstone, Bob McMullan and Judith Abbott.

The Hon Christopher Pyne
Board Chair





Richard Tew, Dr David Andrews, Prof Hugh Taylor, Judith Abbott, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Christopher Pyne, Lyn Brodie and Nick Martin.



Damian Papps, Heidi Limareff, Jim Colligan, Minister for the NDIS Linda Reynolds, Christopher Pyne, Tony Starkey and Judith Abbott.



Tony Starkey, Jane Schuller, Maureen O'Keefe, Judith Abbott, Christopher Pyne, Jess Gallagher, Dee Hopkins and Jaki Adams.

A message from the CEO

While opportunities to come together face to face were limited in 2020-21, it proved to be a highly productive year for our cross-sector efforts.

Vision 2020 Australia made more than 20 submissions on behalf of the sector to government reviews and inquiries spanning a diverse range of themes from aged care and disability through to preventive health, research, evaluation and building standards. Thank you to all our committee members whose tireless work and adaptability has enabled this tremendous contribution to the national policy decision-making process.

On behalf of all our members, I would also especially like to thank the chairs of our four national policy committees over the reporting period: Brandon Ah-Tong, Kris Rallah-Baker, Marion Rivers and John Simpson, all of whom expertly supported discussion and collaboration to help further our shared purpose. More than 70 committee members and proxies participated in these meetings and I also thank them for their contributions.

Embedding eye health into broader health and social care and improving access to priority treatments and services remained priorities throughout the reporting year for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australians. We continue to encourage governments to invest in these areas to prevent avoidable blindness, alongside continued work with blindness and low vision member organisations to improve support for people living with blindness and vision loss.

This year we hosted the inaugural National Eye Research Collaborative Forum, which brought together impressive range of members and experts from across the sector to begin working towards setting a shared research agenda. Increasing investment in eye research and cross sector collaboration is essential to achieving our shared mission of ending avoidable blindness and improving opportunities for people who are blind or have low vision and we particularly appreciated

the support of research members in this work. It was also a significant year on the global stage, with the release of the Lancet Global Health Commission's report on eye health and vision and the World Health Assembly's adoption of new global eye targets. Both Vision 2020 Australia members and staff have been involved in this work, a reflection of the important leadership role members of our sector play on the international stage. Closer to home, detailed work on development of a funding proposal to tackle world-leading rates of cataract blindness in Papua New Guinea was testament to how collaboration between member organisations can make us more than the sum of our parts.

The Victorian Vision Initiative achieved significant reach into the local community with its messages and materials viewed more than 8 million times over the year. While extended Victorian lockdowns required major changes to



our work program, we still achieved good engagement with target CALD communities and saw more than 1850 health practitioners complete accredited on line training - an increase of over 70% on the previous year. Alongside that, we progressed projects and partnerships that offered us new ways of embedding eye health in the community.

Within Vision 2020 Australia, we also continued to enhance our operating models which have enabled us to enhance delivery for members, promote their achievements and support information sharing connections across the sector. The Board has a strong commitment to increasing the involvement of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and people with lived experience of blindness and low vision throughout our organisation, and in 2020-21 we were pleased to welcome the first intern employed under Blind Citizens Australia's Eye to the Future program.

I would like to recognise the energy, commitment and flexibility shown by our Vision 2020 Australia staff who, despite being in lockdowns for much of the reporting year, have worked tirelessly with our members and funders. Thank you, team, for your commitment, adaptability and good humour - we've needed it all!

As this is my final Annual Report in this role, I'd like to take the opportunity to bid a fond farewell to the members, supporters and staff I've worked with over my time as CEO. I would particularly like to thank Christopher, Amanda and Vision 2020 Australia Directors past and present for their enthusiasm, support and wise counsel. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

I am proud to be leaving the organisation in such a good position, with some great work to be taken forward with the support of an enthusiastic and engaged membership.

So much can be achieved through working together and I wish you all the best for the future.

Judith Abbott
Chief Executive Officer



Celebrating our 21st year

In 2021, Vision 2020 Australia celebrated its 21st year and to mark the occasion, MPs and members from across the nation (who were not affected by pandemic restrictions) joined with Vision 2020 Australia directors, patrons and other eminent people within the sector to celebrate.

This milestone has been a great opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the past 21 years which have highlighted just how effective we can be when we come together across the sector and speak with a unified voice.

It is also timely to recognise the particular contributions of those who have previously served as directors of the organisation since its inception. These are voluntary roles and ones that require directors (who are often themselves in other leadership roles) to dedicate their time and energies to ensuring the good governance and strong strategic direction required to navigate and lead a small organisation such as our through constantly changing circumstances.

Thank you to all the organisation's past directors, as listed, for the wisdom, guidance and expertise they have contributed.

- Dr David Andrews
- Sandra Bailey
- George Barnard
- Dr Anthony Bennett Hall
- David Blyth
- Murray Chapman
- Neil Cook
- Dr Margaret Crowley
- Malcolm Daubney
- Amanda Davis
- Dr Iain Dunlop
- Ms Jane Edge
- Karen Hayes
- Prof Brien Holden OAM
- Janet Holmes a Court AC
- John Howie
- John Jeffries OAM
- The Hon Barry Jones AC
- John Landau
- Professor Brian Layland OAM
- Michael Lynch
- Michael Lynskey
- Megan McAlpine
- Mr Gerard Menses
- Justin Mohamed
- Sheila O'Sullivan
- Barry Palmer
- Prof Richard Smallwood AO
- Belinda Sullivan
- Prof Debbie Sweeney
- Prof Hugh Taylor AC
- The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO
- Dr Graeme White
- Tony Wright





Vision 2020 Australia Chair Christopher Pyne speaking at the 21st birthday event.



Jennifer Gersbeck, Maureen O'Keefe, Judith Abbott, Meryl Swanson MP and Jess Gallagher.



Dr James Muecke, Prof Hugh Taylor and Prof Bill Morgan.



Warren Snowdon MP, Warren Entsch MP and Bob McMullan.



Prof Hugh Taylor, Amanda Vanstone and Bob McMullan.



Neville Turner and Maureen O'Keefe.



Judith Abbott, Christopher Pyne, Andrew McLachlan and Damien Papps.



Meryl Swanson MP and Michael Kightley.



Wayne Hogan and Wayne Tennent.



Brandon Ah Tong, Jennifer Gersbeck, Jane Madden and Ian Wishart.



Sarah Byrne, Sarah Davies, Lyn Brodie and Skye Cappuccio.



Prof Bill Morgan, Judith Abbott, Fiona Martin MP, Dave Sharma MP and Julian Simmonds MP.



David Andrews, Maureen O'Keefe and Lyn Brodie.



Wendy Murray, Tania Hudson and Max Holmes.



Tony Starkey, Jane Schuller, Maureen O'Keefe, Christopher Pyne, Jess Gallagher, Dee Hopkins and Jaki Adams.



Phillipa Nicholson and Jess Gallagher.



Bob Katter MP, Christopher Pyne, Warren Snowden MP and Prof Hugh Taylor.



Ron Hooton, Jess Gallagher and Chris Edwards.



Judith Abbott, Senator David Van.



Christopher Pyne, Meryl Swanson MP and Amanda Vanstone.



Gillian Cochrane, Warren Snowden MP, Jaki Adams and Prof Hugh Taylor.



Professor Bill Morgan and Lyn Brodie.



Judith Abbott and Michelle Landry MP.

Board of directors



The Hon
Christopher Pyne
Chair from November 2020



The Hon
Amanda Vanstone AO
Chair until retirement in November 2020



Ms Maureen O'Keefe
Deputy Chair



Dr David Andrews
Retired November 2020



Ms Jacqueline (Jaki) Adams



Mr Dale Cleaver



Dr Jessica Gallagher



Mr Andrew Harris



Ms Deidre (Dee) Hopkins



Prof Heather Mack
Appointed November 2020



Ms Megan McAlpine
Retired November 2020



Ms Jane Schuller
Appointed November 2020



Mr Tony Starkey



Mr Shaun Tatipata
Appointed November 2020

Board of directors – Committees

Audit and Finance Standing Committee (AFSC)

The Audit and Finance Standing 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.

For the period to November 2020, Dr David Andrews chaired the Committee. In November 2020, Dr David Andrews resigned from the Board and AFSC and Mr Andrew Harris concluded his time on the AFSC. Mr Tony Starkey assumed the Chair role, with new members Professor Heather Mack and Ms Jane Schuller joining continuing members Dr Jessica Gallagher and Independent Mr Richard Wingrove on the Committee.

Corporate and Governance Standing Committee (CGSC)

The Corporate and Governance standing 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 committee will also provide advice and assistance to the CEO and the Board regarding human resource management and organisational development matters.

Until November 2020, Ms Megan McAlpine chaired the Committee. Both Ms McAlpine and member Dr David Andrews resigned from the Board and the CGSC in November 2020 and director Ms Jaki Adams also concluded her time on that Committee. Mr Dale Cleaver subsequently assumed the Chair role for the Committee and directors Mr Andrew Harris and Mr Shaun Tatipata were appointed to the CGSC alongside continuing Committee members Ms Deidre Hopkins, Ms Maureen O’Keefe and Mr Tony Starkey.

Our Patrons

Vision 2020 Australia has appreciated the long term support of the Hon Barry Jones AC in his role of Patron and in April 2021 we were pleased to have the Hon Amanda Vanstone AO become a second patron of the organisation.

As past Board Chairs, both have been strong supporters of the organisation and as patrons, continue to lend their support for our efforts to end avoidable blindness and improve opportunities and outcomes for people affected by blindness or low vision.



The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO



The Hon Barry Jones AC

About us

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.

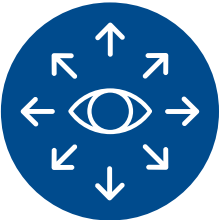
Vision 2020 Australia is the national peak body working in partnership to prevent avoidable blindness and improve vision care in Australia and our region. We represent around 45 member organisations involved in local and global eye health and vision care, health promotion, low vision support, vision rehabilitation, eye research, professional assistance and community support.

Four foundations underpin our approach:



Advocacy

Influencing policy change on behalf of the eye health and vision care sector, presenting a united voice to the Australian Government and other policy makers to improve eye health and vision care outcomes.



Awareness

Facilitating access to the latest information and research to build awareness of eye health and vision care among the Australian Government, policy makers, the community and other relevant stakeholders.



Collaboration

Partnering with members and developing relationships with other relevant stakeholders to identify and successfully achieve eye health and vision care priorities.



Evidence

Building a strong evidence base is critical to identify service delivery gaps, support effective policy development and strengthen the sustainability of the eye health and vision care sector.

Our work

A strong year for submissions

The year 2020-21 saw us have possibly our busiest year in terms of submissions made to government reviews, inquiries and other key decision-making processes.

Overall, we made 20 submissions, as well as releasing the long-awaited blindness and low vision adult pathway, a position statement regarding independent assessments in the NDIS and released commissioned research from UNSW regarding the unmet need for public cataract surgery.

Thanks go to the 70-plus+ representatives of Vision 2020 Australia member organisations who contributed to the following reviews, inquiries and consultations:

- Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- Productivity Commission's Draft Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
- Department of Health Revised Outreach Service Delivery Standards and Reporting Template
- National Disability Insurance Agency: Review of Support Coordination Service Model
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- National Preventative Health Strategy
- Consultation to inform the third Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2020-2022
- Productivity Commission - Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
- A New National Disability Strategy: Stage 2 Consultations
- Review of current version of Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice
- Pre-Budget submission for 2021-22 Federal Government Budget
- National Disability Insurance Scheme: Supporting young children and their families early, to reach their full potential
- National Disability Insurance Scheme: Planning Policy for personalised budgets and plan flexibility
- National Disability Insurance Scheme: Access and eligibility policy with independent assessment
- National Preventative Health Strategy Draft
- Medical Research Future Fund Dementia Ageing and Aged Care Mission Review
- Medical Research Future Fund Genomics Mission Review
- Medical Research Future Fund Indigenous Health Research Fund mission review
- Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS Inquiry into Independent Assessments
- National Skills Commission Care Workforce Labour Market Study

Full details available at:

vision2020australia.org.au/submissions



Our work

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 full Committee met twice over the 2020-21 year, with associated working groups meeting a further 19 times over the period to progress specific work priorities.

Highlights:

- Continued advocacy to government for funding to support the recommendations of Strong Eyes, Strong Communities in line with the Australian Government's commitment to end avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by 2025.
- Led development of two submissions to the Productivity Commission and the Australian Government and contributed to five cross-committee submissions.
- Completed distribution of funds for the distribution of the funds for delivery of additional subsidised glasses under the National Subsidised Spectacle Scheme project (NSSS), with around 6,000 glasses delivered by the end of the reporting period.
- Finalised research and commenced advocacy to improve access to public cataract surgery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- Provided feedback to the Federal Government on proposed changes to the Outreach Programs Service Delivery standards and proposed Outreach Programs review.
- Engaged with members to explore developing and enhancing sector's capacity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research.

Vision 2020 Australia was also pleased to participate in the ministerial launch of the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing's Indigenous Eye Health Report 2020, with the Chair of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee Assoc Prof Kris Rallah-Baker joining Minister Greg Hunt, Prof Hugh Taylor and other speakers at the event.



Health Minister Greg Hunt (left) and Assoc Prof Kris Rallah-Baker (right) at the launch of the Indigenous Eye Health Report 2020.

Our work

Global Committee

The Global Committee advocates for activities to improve international eye health. It met twice in the 2020-21 year, with a further 18 meetings of a committee working group focussed on a Papua New Guinea (PNG) proposal.

Highlights:

- Development and refinement of a budget proposal to tackle high rates of blindness in PNG supported by an active program of advocacy including meetings with the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senior DFAT representatives and the First Secretary of Health Security at the PNG Australian High Commission.
- Partnered with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness to host an international World Glaucoma Week event.
- The long-awaited Lancet Commission on Global Eye Health was released in February 2021, including contributions from Vision 2020 Australia members and staff.
- Adoption of new global eye health targets at the 74th World Health Assembly. The second National Eye Health Survey which is scheduled to commence later this year.



World Glaucoma Week panellists.



World Glaucoma Week participants Annie Gibbins, Keith Martin, Lisa Keay, Amanda Davis, Drew Keys, Jude Stern and Mitchell Lawlor.

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. The full committee met twice during the 2020-21 year, with six associated working groups meeting over the period to progress specific work priorities.

Highlights:

- A busy program of national policy and advocacy, supported by the completion of 10 blindness and low vision specific submissions alongside input to several cross-sector submissions. This included:
 - several submissions addressing limitations of proposed independent assessment processes,
 - submissions identifying opportunities to enhance funded aged care and disability services, and
 - submissions identifying opportunities to enhance support arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who are blind or have low vision.
- Launch of the Adult Referral Pathway for Blindness and Low Vision Services, the culmination of several years' work.
- Delivery of a joint CEO forum with the National Disability Insurance Agency, attended by sector CEOs, the NDIA CEO and other senior NDIA staff.
- Support for blindness and low vision CEO meetings, to drive among other things ministerial advocacy to maintain the program flexibility implemented during the COVID19 pandemic which has benefited the blind and low vision community and sector.
- Sector meetings with ministers including Ministers Colbeck, Reynolds and Robert.



Sector delegation meets with Minister Richard Colbeck.

Our work

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. It met twice during the 2020-21 year. In addition to Committee meetings, working groups met during the year to progress work in relation to improving access to public cataract surgery, embedding eye health in chronic health checks, children's vision and a cross-committee group that commenced exploring enhancements to mental health support for people affected by blindness and low vision. The Committee also maintained a strong interest in both the development of the second national eye health survey and the KeepSight program.

Highlights:

- Two submissions made to the Department of Health's National Preventive Health Strategy, alongside a submission to the RACP regarding increasing eye health and vision content in its Red Book, and contributions to cross sector submissions in areas including review of the Medical Research Future Fund Missions.
- Progress towards greater embedding of eye health and vision into chronic health checks, with analysis and policy development completed near the end of the reporting period.
- The Children's Vision Working Group has made significant progress towards the development of a national scheme to help ensure all Australian children aged 3.5 to 5 years have a vision screening to ensure they are vision ready for school.
- The release of commissioned research into the unmet need for public cataract surgeries (pre-pandemic), which informed early advocacy and engagement work with the Australian Government.

Vision Initiative

The Vision Initiative is a Victorian Government funded eye health promotion program that aims to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss in the Victorian community. While the COVID19 pandemic had a significant impact on the program over 2020-21, it was able to adapt its approach and deliver content via different platforms.

Highlights:

- More than 330 community members participated in predominantly online community education sessions, delivered in partnership with key multicultural and older persons' peak bodies.
- Some 1850 health professionals completed eye health education through a combination of live webinars and online modules including bilingual health workers, refugee health nurses, pharmacists, GPs and diabetes health educators. Over the period, updated programs were released for both general practitioners and pharmacists, with new content developed for bilingual health workers.
- 76% growth in social media followers across LinkedIn and Facebook, delivering timely messaging about eye health and leveraging significant awareness raising days to promote eye health to community and professional audiences.
- Development of an updated Investment Logic Map and Program Logic for the Vision Initiative, to support enhanced program design, impact and evaluation.



Bilingual health workers who participated in training.

Our work

National Subsidised Spectacles Schemes Project

This Australian Government funded project made modest progress over the 2020-21 period, with many of its key partners focussed on pandemic related matters.

Despite this, Vision 2020 Australia and its project partner the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation progressed those elements of the project that were less contingent on direct engagement or delivery by community-controlled organisations and other partners, with guidance from a Project Group comprising interested representatives of Vision 2020 Australia member organisations.

Highlights:

- Funding agreements reached with six state and territory governments and funds allocated to support the provision of additional subsidised glasses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. In total approximately 6,000 additional subsidised spectacles had been delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with NSSS funding in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria by 30 June 2021.
- Development of a community-led pilot model for delivery of spectacles in WA, which received in-principle endorsement from the Department of Health in 2021.
- Continued consultation with stakeholders including State and Territory Government departments, to identify opportunities and barriers to improving their subsidised spectacles schemes.

It has been pleasing to see that alongside this project, several jurisdictions have progressed towards enhancing their ongoing arrangements for provision of subsidised glasses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, some of which reflect many years work by a range of eye sector stakeholders.

National Eye Research Collaborative

In the United Kingdom, a collaborative, cross sector approach to agreeing to priorities for eye and vision related research and advocating for funding, has proven successful in increasing both collaboration and support in this important area.

In response to requests from its members, Vision 2020 Australia has supported work to establish an Australian national eye research collaboration to achieve similar goals.

On 28 April 2021, Vision 2020 Australia hosted the inaugural meeting of the developing collaborative, a national online forum that brought together more than 60 people from across Australia.

Participants discussed principles to guide the collaboration and shared ideas for research priorities and focus areas and this work will be taken forward over coming months.

Several Vision 2020 Australia research members were instrumental in progressing this work and continue to volunteer their time and expertise to achieve real gains in this area.

Our work

Providing information and raising awareness

Throughout 2020-21, Vision 2020 Australia continued to share information across our network of members and supporters, showcasing their achievements, promoting cross-sector connections and supporting broader awareness raising.

There were 26 editions of Sector News Alert (SNA) published over the past 12 months, reaching an audience of more than 900 subscribers, including Vision 2020 Australia members, supporters and stakeholders. SNA provides a platform to profile developments across the sector, recent reports and information releases, and keep our networks updated on cross sector priorities and actions. In 2020-21, SNA achieved an open rate of 26.6%, which exceeds the industry benchmark of 21.7%.

We continued to utilise social media to amplify our members activities and saw noticeable increases in reach and engagement across all channels in 2020-21.

A recent review of our communications activities over the past three years has shown some pleasing trends, including:

- The Vision 2020 Australia website is accessed more than 90,000 times annually, with approximately 20% of traffic going to the resources section
- Our social media channels continue to experience significant growth with a 48% increase in audience over the past three years and an average of more than 100,000 organic impressions each year.
- SNA has maintained an open rate above 30% during this period.

Alongside our focus on existing platforms, the reporting year also saw the establishment of PyneSight, a new periodic newsletter from the Vision 2020 Australia Chair to member CEOs and executive representatives, to complement the ongoing communications the Vision 2020 Australia team has with policy committee members and other member representatives involved in its work.

World Sight Day 2020

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of both Vision 2020 Australia and World Sight Day on 8 October 2020, we shared a series of videos from MPs and eminent Australians recognising the contributions of individuals and organisations across the eye health and vision care sector.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison, a range of his Cabinet Ministers, the Shadow Minister for Health Chris Bowen and the leader of the Greens Adam Bandt all recorded messages, recognising the importance of vision and the work being done across a wide range of areas including prevention, treatment, research, and blindness and low vision.

The videos received a great response, with our social media activities reaching more than 400,000 people, and World Sight Day trending across Twitter for the first half of the day.

Additionally, we partnered with Optometry Australia's Good Vision For Life campaign to promote World Sight Day across radio and other media, featuring Vision 2020 Australia Board member and dual Paralympian Dr Jessica Gallagher. This campaign generated a reach of almost 750,000 people across the country.



A sample of the MPs and other eminent Australians who participated in the campaign.

Living our values

The Board and staff of Vision 2020 Australia are strongly committed to ensuring genuine, ongoing involvement and engagement of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people with lived experience of blindness and low vision in all facets of our work and governance.

Over the reporting year, there have been continued efforts to expand and embed this commitment through practical action. This has included:

- Maintaining strong input at the Board level with one director who is blind, one director who has low vision and two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander directors.
- Employing the first intern under Blind Citizens Australia's Eye to the Future program, an NDIS funded program to promote people who are blind or vision impaired to potential employers and provide information and support to those employers.
- Development of Vision 2020 Australia's first Reconciliation Action Plan, which will be released in 2021-22.
- Changes to internal policies, procedures and operating models to ensure optimal accessibility in Vision 2020 Australia's work and products and take all opportunities to promote the importance of accessibility more widely.
- Changes to internal processes to support increased use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned suppliers.
- Alongside these changes, the organisation continued to:
 - Actively include member representatives with lived experience in all major meetings;
 - Partner with community controlled organisations in the design and delivery of projects to enhance eye care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, and
 - Continued to collaborate with Blind Citizens Australia including joint meetings with NDIA representatives to drive a whole of sector approach where this can benefit Australians living with blindness or low vision.

Financial Overview

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue	2,054,112	2,626,432
Employee benefits expense	(1,090,708)	(1,300,022)
Consultants expense	(236,932)	(143,284)
Depreciation expense	(5,424)	(11,327)
Stationery and printing expense	(668)	(16,238)
Travel expense	(12,476)	(42,495)
Occupancy expense	(59,926)	(76,689)
Promotional events and material expense	(128,511)	(116,093)
Repairs and maintenance expense	(2,411)	(10,786)
Computer support and internet expense	(33,078)	(53,643)
Monitoring, evaluation and planning expense	(39,500)	(61,359)
NSSS funds distributions	(309,978)	(550,487)
Events and catering expense	(12,052)	(22,659)
Other expenses	(63,191)	(76,994)
Surplus for the year	59,257	144,356
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	59,257	144,356

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

ASSETS	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,818,568	4,076,995
Trade and other receivables	229,396	209,186
Financial assets	-	398,802
Prepayments	-	10,200
Total current assets	4,047,964	4,695,183
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	12,142	14,212
Total non-current assets	12,142	14,212
TOTAL ASSETS	4,060,106	4,709,395

LIABILITIES	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	258,225	370,186
Unearned income	2,611,007	3,205,520
Short-term provisions	73,773	77,101
Total current liabilities	2,943,005	3,652,807
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term provisions	3,483	2,227
Total non-current liabilities	3,483	2,227
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,946,488	3,655,034
NET ASSETS	1,113,618	1,054,361

EQUITY	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Accumulated surpluses	1,113,618	1,054,361
Total EQUITY	1,113,618	1,054,361

Contributions and support

Government funding

- Commonwealth Department of Health
- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

Other financial and in-kind contributions

- InSync
- Jones Day Lawyers
- The Kirkman Group
- Minter Ellison Lawyers
- Pyne & Partners
- Zaynab Siddiqi

Contributions to the Vision Initiative

- Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities Inc.
- Associate Professor Bang Bui (Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences, The University of Melbourne)
- Australian College of Optometry
- Australian Diabetes Educators Association
- Australian Multicultural Community Services
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Association
- Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
- Cancer Council Victoria

- Carers Victoria
- Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- Chinese Health Foundation of Australia
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Whittlesea (WEXPO)
- Council of the Ageing
- Diabetes Victoria
- Emmy Cui (Optometrist)
- Enliven Victoria
- Ethnic Community Council Victoria
- Guide Dogs Victoria
- Jason Teh (In2Eyes Optometry)
- Jue Wang (Optometrist)
- Kate Pecar (Optometrist)
- Loan Quach Optometry
- Mark De Paola (Optometrist)
- Migrant Information Centre Eastern Melbourne
- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
- Murray Primary Health Network

- North Western Melbourne PHN
- Optometry Victoria South Australia
- Orthoptics Australia
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Victorian Branch
- Refugee Health Nurses
- Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre
- Springvale Indochinese Mutual Assistance Assoc. Inc
- Statewide Vision Resource Centre
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- The Well
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Victorian Refugee Health Network
- Vietnamese Australian Senior Association of Victoria Inc.
- Vision Australia
- Zeinab Fakhri (Optometrist)

Member organisations

Principal member



Corporate member



Silver members



Bronze members



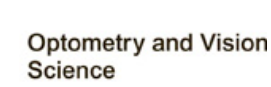
Major Supporting members



Supporting



Corresponding members



Associate Members

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