

Live the life you choose

Vision Australia
2015–16
Annual Report



Vision Australia

Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.

Why we exist

To support people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose.

How we deliver

Our values define us and drive the way we interact with each other and our clients.

They are:

**Person
Centred**



**Commercially
Focused**



Collaborative



Agile



Accountable



What we do

We work in partnership with people who are blind or have low vision, their families, supporters and other providers, to help them to achieve their goals.

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Accessibility

This Annual Report is available in standard print text, large print text, braille, audio and DAISY formats, and accessible digital formats. Contact us on **1300 84 74 66** to order a copy in your preferred format or visit our website www.visionaustralia.org

Cover image: **Chloe**, Vision Australia client. Chloe is in Year 5 and loves school. She has aniridia, a congenital and genetic condition in which no iris is present. In addition the back of her eyes have not formally formed and she has cataracts in one eye. Chloe is sensitive to light and wears glasses when reading.

Vision Australia has been there as and when the family have needed support. Staff have visited Chloe's school and provided suggestions and assistance to her teachers so she has everything she needs.

A message from our Chair and CEO

Vision Australia's mission of supporting people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose is as important today as it was when the organisation was formed 12 years ago.

Our passion for putting the client first is at the centre of everything we do. This approach is essential to the human rights of every individual we support and also to the future of our organisation.

The rollouts of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and rapid implementation of My Aged Care (MAC) have offered Australians an unprecedented level of control over the support they receive and who supplies it. These profound changes underscore the importance and relevance of our mission.

Vision Australia has been diligent in preparing for both the NDIS and MAC changes.

Three years ago, the NDIS introduced trial sites in the Hunter Valley and Barwon. At the same time, we established Demonstration Sites in Newcastle and Geelong. When the Australian Capital Territory launched the NDIS one year later, we became an active participant through our Canberra office. This experience enabled Vision Australia to develop a new service delivery model that places our clients at the centre of the decision making process.

Thanks to the Wicking Foundation's ongoing support, we have invested in information systems that enable our expert staff to be more responsive to our clients' needs. An investment in mobile technology including mobile phones and tablet computers means our clients, even in rural and remote areas, can access services through video-conferencing technology.

Investment in our core business systems over the last 12 months has been necessary to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our clients into the future. The newly implemented Client Management System will improve front-line service delivery, reduce administrative costs and provide a more integrated service experience to clients.

Vision Australia now delivers services to every state and territory in Australia. The demand for Seeing Eye Dogs is growing in Western Australia and South Australia. A growing client base in Perth is offered a wide range of services, often delivered from the East Coast via the innovative use of technology.

People living in Western Australia also have access to Vision Australia Radio for the Print Handicapped service, adding to the loyal group of listeners in South Australia and Victoria.

Vision Australia engages clients, staff, and stakeholders to design our services.

Andrew Moffat and Ron Hooton talk to the 2016 Career Start graduates.

From left:
**Chris Page, Ron Hooton,
Andrew Moffat, Caroline Lane,
and David Steeds.**



The Client Reference Group is a volunteer group of clients who ensure all people with vision impairment have a voice in service design. We would like to thank this group for providing their expert voice to the Board and management.

We are truly thankful to the many thousands of individuals, philanthropists, foundations, trusts and businesses of all sizes which, through Vision Australia, support the blindness and low vision community. We particularly acknowledge those who have supported Vision Australia by way of a bequest creating a legacy that will benefit future generations.

Effective governance is an important foundation for the success of any organisation and Vision Australia is fortunate to have an exceptional Board of Directors.

Each director brings expertise to the complex issues that we face and their passion ensures Vision Australia provides enduring benefit to the blindness and low vision community. We fondly farewell past Chair Dr Kevin Murfitt and Nick Carter, who have provided 12 and 10 years of dedicated service respectively, and we thank them for their tremendous support of our organisation.

The extensive range of services provided to people who are blind or have low vision is made possible by the efforts of many individuals. Every year nearly 2,700 people volunteer with Vision Australia. We are grateful for their support.

We also offer our sincere thanks to the nearly 800 dedicated and professional staff working for Vision Australia, all of whom contribute to supporting people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose.

We look forward to the next 12 months and the different challenges that will help us to make a big difference for the blindness and low vision community of Australia.

The next 24 months:

- Further developing services in the areas of education, employment, independence and social inclusion
- Full rollout of the NDIS and MAC
- New service locations in Sydney, Melbourne and Townsville and the redevelopment of the Wicking Centre at Kooyong
- The launch of Vision Australia's new brand.

Andrew Moffat,
Chair
Vision Australia

Ron Hooton,
CEO
Vision Australia



**Olivia Chan,
Wantirna South,
Victoria**

Olivia Chan, four, is like most kids her age. She adores her sister Zoe and loves going to kindergarten.

Olivia has been blind since birth due to retinopathy of prematurity, a complication that can occur among some premature babies. As a result she only has limited light perception in her left eye.

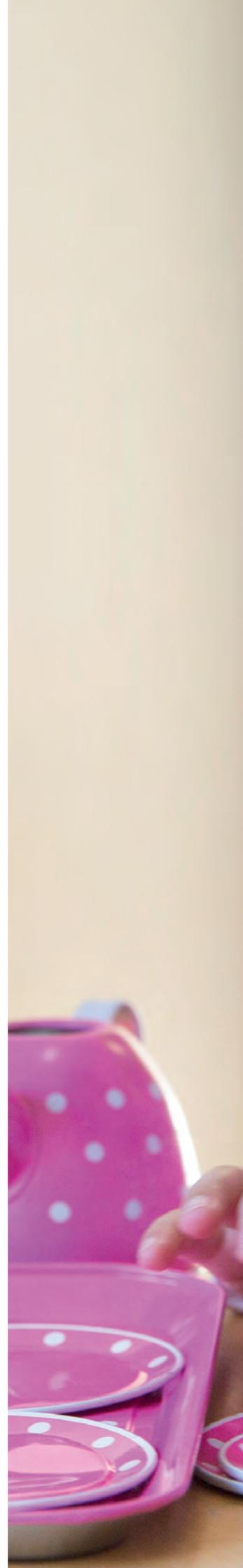
Olivia's mother, Mei-Fern, first contacted Vision Australia when Olivia was eight months old.

"It is very daunting as a new parent with a kid with low vision so it's important to have support. It is as if we need to learn a new language overnight."

Olivia is visited by a Vision Australia early childhood educator at kindergarten and home, approximately twice a month and is currently learning how to use a white cane so she can become more independent. Olivia is also referred to other services such as orthoptists and speech therapists as the need arises.

"She has developed so much. Olivia is a very independent child. She enjoys drawing, playing pretend cooking and has lots of friends at school who really adore her. She looks forward to going to school and playing with her friends. She's a very sweet and caring person," Mei-Fern said.

"Vision Australia guided me with how to cope with a child with vision loss, how to make sure Olivia reached her milestones on time."





About us

Vision Australia is proud to support Australia's blindness and low vision community.

For 150 years, we have worked with people who are blind or have low vision, their families and supporters, in a way that assists them to live the life they choose.

Over 26,000 clients receive services from 29 Vision Australia centres across all states and territories. Outreach programs provide advice and support to people living outside of metropolitan areas, or those experiencing financial, social or other barriers that make accessing services difficult.

Clients, from the very young to the not-so-young, can access services that meet their individual needs.

To help a young child reach their developmental milestones we provide early intervention services, such as occupational therapy and speech therapy. During the school years, we support children with adaptive technology equipment and training, or one-on-one advocacy, so they can do their best at school. We also support adolescents to transition to adulthood, helping them to learn the necessary skills that will help them achieve the goals they set for themselves throughout life.

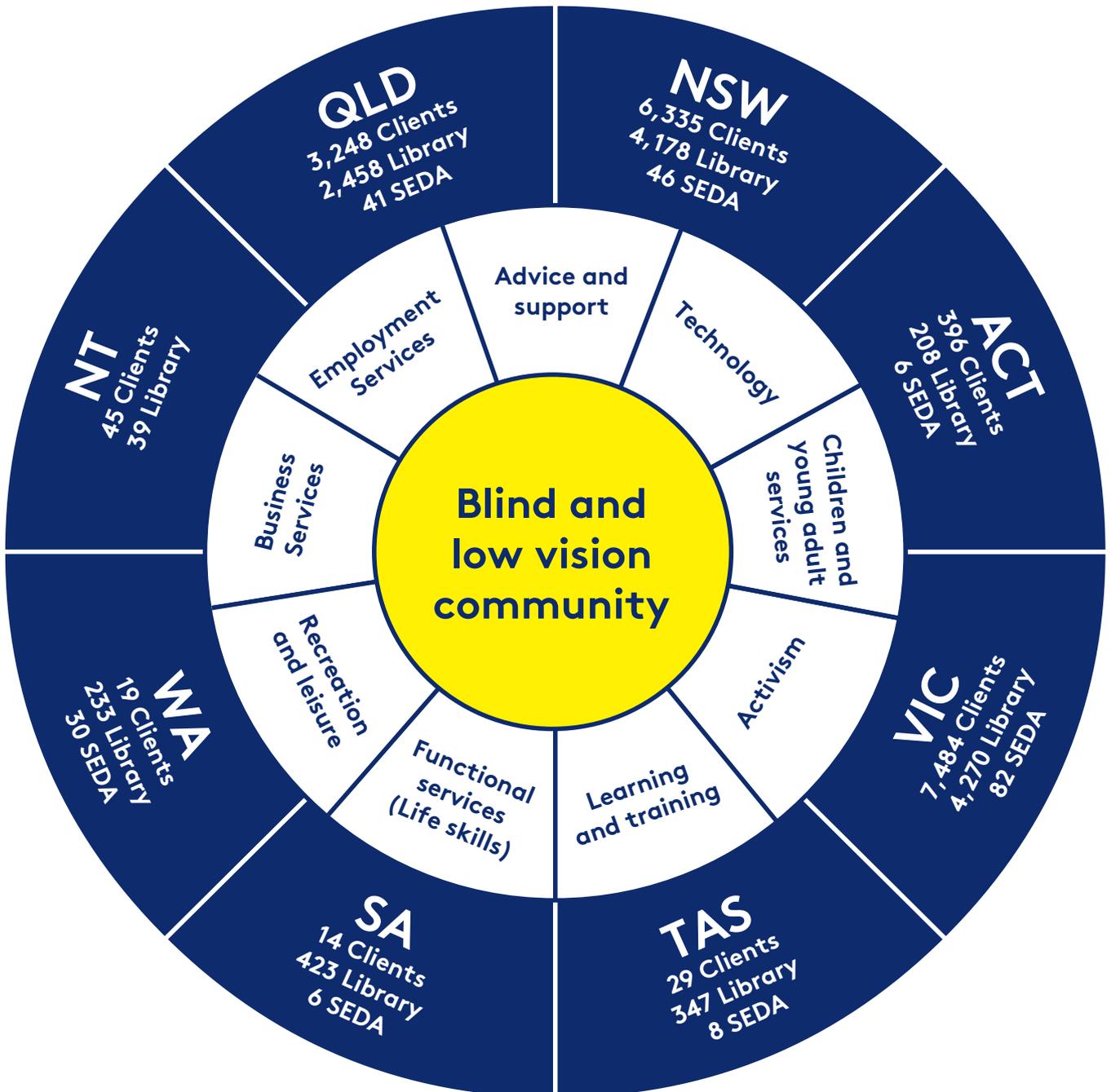
Innovative tele-health technology makes it possible for clients to connect with us, regardless of where they live. Even in regional and remote locations we are delivering high quality services and supports direct into clients' homes.

So much is possible, however the blindness and low vision community still face challenges within everyday society; whether it's not being able to enjoy free-to-air television with their family due to the lack of audio-described content or their job is threatened due to their vision impairment.

Vision Australia takes on these challenges at an individual and societal level to influence positive change. Working with government and industry, and standing alongside our community's side, we add our voice to the issues that matter.

Service type:

Clients: Vision Australia clients
Library: Library Service clients
SEDA: Working Seeing Eye Dogs



A refreshing change

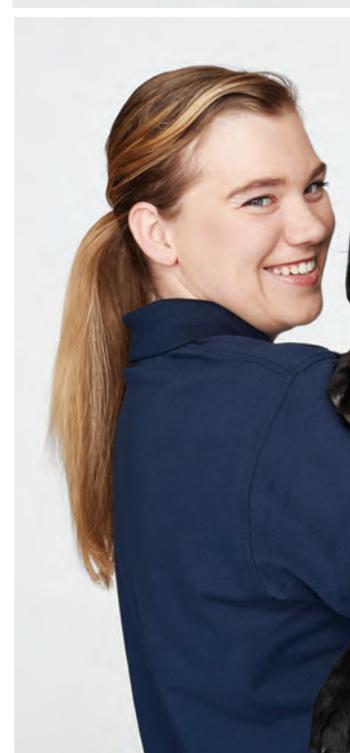
Vision Australia has grown and evolved since it began 150 years ago. Today, Vision Australia is a national provider of disability services that supports people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose.

Our relationship with clients covers their entire vision loss journey and we're proud to offer the right tools, experience and services to guide and support them along the way.

Over the next few months we will refresh our brand to reflect both the evolution of the organisation as well as its vision for the future. And, in an increasingly competitive marketplace, these changes will help us increase our visibility and relevance to the community of people who are blind or have low vision, our donors and supporters, referral partners, employees and volunteers.

While the brand including the logo will change to better represent who we are today, Vision Australia's proposition remains the same – our combination of a deep understanding of blindness and low vision, a commitment to quality service provision, and our desire to put clients at the centre of the decision-making process will enable us to continue to develop long-lasting and rewarding client relationships.

The new brand identity will launch later this year in time for Carols by Candlelight.





A year in review

A focus on supporting clients

Your expert NDIS and MAC partner

The NDIS and MAC are changing the way disability services are delivered.

Vision Australia has been involved in both schemes from the beginning. We are proud that our advocacy efforts improved the breadth and level of services and supports available to our community under these schemes.

This year, we led successful negotiations with the Department of Health to secure three-year funding agreements to transition to the national aged care's Commonwealth Home Support Program. Now, clients in Queensland and New South Wales have access to our services through MAC.

- Clients who had contact with Vision Australia before applying for the NDIS were more aware of the services available and had a higher level of overall satisfaction with their package
- 77% of clients felt that the support they received through their NDIS package was greater than what they previously received
- 653 people who we were not previously supporting are now receiving MAC supports through us

Supporting you, where you live, with what you need

To make accessing services easier for clients, we've opened new support centres and relocated others. Vision Australia centres in Bendigo, Wollongong and Canberra have moved so that they are more accessible; new centres have opened in Epping, New South Wales and in Townsville, Queensland; and we have new teams servicing clients in Wangaratta and the New England area.

Not all clients live in metropolitan areas. So, we deliver support to them through video-conferencing technology in their homes. We also make scheduled visits to places as far north as Weipa, and west to Mt Isa and remote communities including Tenant Creek and Katherine.

- A new bi-monthly outreach clinic was established at The Gathering Place, an Indigenous health service in Werribee
- A new Memorandum of Understanding was established with the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health in Queensland
- 127 new home care packages were brought to the Eastern Melbourne and Melbourne South East regions
- 48,610 pairs of spectacles and optical appliances have been provided to eligible recipients through the NSW spectacles program

Independence and inclusion

Tools for life

Life is so much easier with the right equipment and technology, and the right training.

- 23,450 equipment sales orders were fulfilled
- 7,000 talking timekeeping products were sold through our stores
- 4,414 technology-related questions from clients were answered by our help desk
- 31,192 hours of adaptive technology training were delivered

Connecting with others

We're bringing people together to share their experiences with others who are blind or have low vision, learn from each other and stay in touch.

- The first men's social group in Caringbah, New South Wales was established
- 52 Vision Australia Community Groups met regularly in person
- 2,554 Telelink® telephone social and recreation discussion group sessions were held including eight groups in non-English languages
- 451 clients participated in 52 Quality Living Programs

Growing our six-legged partnerships

With a \$500,000 grant from the Victorian State Government the Seeing Eye Dogs Australia breeding and training centre will be extended to include a new Indoor Mobility and Safety Training Centre. The centre will contain real-life settings including pedestrian and train crossings, a café, and overhanging obstacles.

Our clients will have a safe and controlled environment in which they can practice their Seeing Eye Dog and white cane orientation and mobility skills, before they are used in the real world.

Lots of puppies

We were in the fortunate position of experiencing a puppy boom and for the first time, our puppy centre was at capacity. So we didn't have to slow down our breeding program we launched an innovative social media campaign to call out for much-needed puppy carers.

- A social media video campaign attracted more than 85,000 views and 3,500 comments
- 961 people enquired about puppy caring in direct response to the campaign

Turn the page

A world of information is available to people with print disabilities and new technology is making it even easier to access different content.

- 600 library members are using our new app Vision Australia Connect to download from our online library
- 2,139 library members have instant access to titles through an easy-to-use 3G player
- 70% of library content is delivered online
- 46,614 titles are available in our library collection

What's your goal?

For families it might involve helping their child to achieve the greatest levels of independence, participation and development, so that once school is finished they can participate fully in life.

For adults it might include gaining a qualification to support a career change, playing a team sport or starting a business.

Whatever the goals are, we're helping people of all ages to reach them.

- 13,812 hours spent supporting children in their early years
- 25,263 hours spent supporting young children in their primary school years
- 10,569 hours spent supporting older children in their high school years
- Six children and eight adult clients from Sydney participated in a workshop led by world-renowned echolocation expert, Daniel Kish
- 232 volunteers supported clients to access recreational activities

Scarlett,
Vision Australia client





Josh Campbell, Albury, New South Wales

Josh Campbell wants to make a difference to youth in regional areas who are living with mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety.

The 22 year-old is in the third year of a Bachelor of Human Services and Master of Social Work at La Trobe University in Wodonga.

This year, Josh has chosen to defer his studies to complete a three-week intensive employment workshop through Vision Australia.

"I have cone rod dystrophy, which means that I have no night vision and I struggle to see in low light. I am also sensitive to glare, which affects the level of contrast between objects," said Josh.

Josh received an iPhone 6S, iPad and a new laptop computer through the Vision Australia Further Education Bursary program.

"Reading is difficult. I use technology to enlarge text and change the contrast to make it easier to see," he said.

With the employment workshop and his studies under control, Josh, an aspiring musician who plays the guitar and sings, is looking for part-time paid work in information technology. He'd also like to spend some time focusing on his musical goals.

Vision Australia's Further Education Bursary program is 20 years old and has supported 316 students across Australia since 1996





"On the iPad and iPhone, I can quickly change the contrast to white text on a black background. It is really convenient and easy to use, especially in lectures. My new laptop is much faster and more reliable, so my study won't be disrupted as it has been in the past."

Shifting ways of thinking

Advocating together for change

Our community still faces many barriers, so it's important that our clients have the tools and support they need to take on these challenges.

To help our clients navigate the education and welfare systems we published the self-advocacy resource 'Early, Primary and Secondary Education' and guides to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and Aged Pension (Blind). We also conducted training with 16 community groups.

Nationally, we delivered systemic advocacy initiatives related to accessible voting, accessible banking, audio description services, tactile currency, employment, and touchscreen technology.

Equal access to technology

There is a growing trend towards the use of onscreen menus and touchscreens on telecommunications products, household appliances and IT equipment. Despite the availability of accessible touch screen technology, which is commonly used in smartphone devices, many products do not take advantage of this technology or include accessibility features.

We're raising awareness of this important issue through our public policy on Access to Equipment. In November 2015, we presented on this topic at the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities.

Breaking down information barriers

Less than 5% of print information is available in a format that can be accessed by people with print disabilities.

The Marrakesh Treaty enables organisations to share books across borders, effectively opening up a world of information for people who are blind or have low vision. Our advocacy work helped secure Australia's ratification of the Treaty, which will come in to effect on 30 September 2016.

We continue to partner with Australian businesses and government to ensure their information – whether it's printed or digital – is accessible to our community.

- 350,000 pages of material were converted into large print text, braille, audio, and electronic text
- 67 accessibility training workshops were delivered to public and private sector professionals across the country
- 1,368 Our Document Accessibility Toolbar which helps users to make documents and information accessible was downloaded 1,368 times. The toolbar was launched at the NDIS New World Conference.

Getting the job done

The workforce participation rate for people with disability was recorded as 54.9% in 2012, compared with 82.5% for the remainder of the population. It is a big concern.

Our research shows that education is critical for transitioning successfully into meaningful employment. It empowers students who are blind or have low vision with opportunity and choice.

It's one of the reasons we started our 12-month Career Start graduate program. Now in its second year, the program enables participants to gain valuable training and work experience in a paid role. Both graduates from last year's program went on to find meaningful paid employment.

So they are more job-ready, we also provided six job seekers with a 16-week work placement. This training was proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government through its Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

- 107 job seekers were successfully placed
- 20 people were supported through our Jobs in Jeopardy program
- 14.48% of Vision Australia's full time workforce is blind or has low vision

Making your priorities, a priority

The 2016 federal election provided an opportunity to advocate to the leading political parties on the top five priorities that were identified by our clients: creating meaningful employment opportunities, ensuring quality education, supporting access to blindness and low vision services for seniors, mandating audio description on Australian free-to-air television and introducing accessible voting through an iVote-style system.

We secured written commitments from the four major parties, and minor parties, on these priorities and are now in a stronger position to continue lobbying Parliamentarians to make changes to related laws and programs.

More bang for your buck

Identifying the different banknote denominations can be difficult for some members of our community.

Our research found that 61 per cent of people who are totally blind have trouble differentiating between the banknote denominations and nearly half of these people do not receive the right change on occasion.

Also, 93 per cent of people who are blind or have low vision advised they would welcome a tactile feature on Australian banknotes.

Our advocacy efforts and the efforts of many others in our community have succeeded. On 1 September 2016, the first Australian banknote – the \$5 note – will have a tactile feature.

But the work is not done. The banking system in Australia still has many accessibility issues. We continue to work closely with the big banks and the Australian Bankers Association to ensure our community is included.

Going places

Many people in our community rely on public transport, especially taxis, to get around. Following numerous submissions and campaigning by Vision Australia the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme in NSW was lifted from \$30 to \$60.

Pass the remote

Watching television is part of Australian culture. But our community needs audio-described content to enjoy this past-time. By lobbying the Government we secured an extension of the audio description trial on ABC iview.

Connecting with the community

Standing by your side

In nine months, Sarah Hocking got married, gave birth to her first child, and became blind.

The 28-year-old, who is a primary school teacher, realised her vision was deteriorating about three weeks before giving birth to son Archer.

"I noticed the whiteboard blurring a bit, and the kids were picking up on things when I was reading to them," she said. "I didn't think anything of it. I just put it down to being tired and my pregnancy."

She and husband Cameron started to worry when the features of the newsreaders' faces on television were no longer identifiable.

"I got sent for a CT scan about midnight and was woken up with the results of that about three in the morning."

The scan revealed three benign tumors in Sarah's brain, two of which were on her optic nerve. Archer was born by emergency caesarean within hours.

Nine days later, Sarah underwent more than seven hours of brain surgery.

Two tumors were removed and Sarah was at first hopeful of keeping her sight, but then it started to deteriorate rapidly.

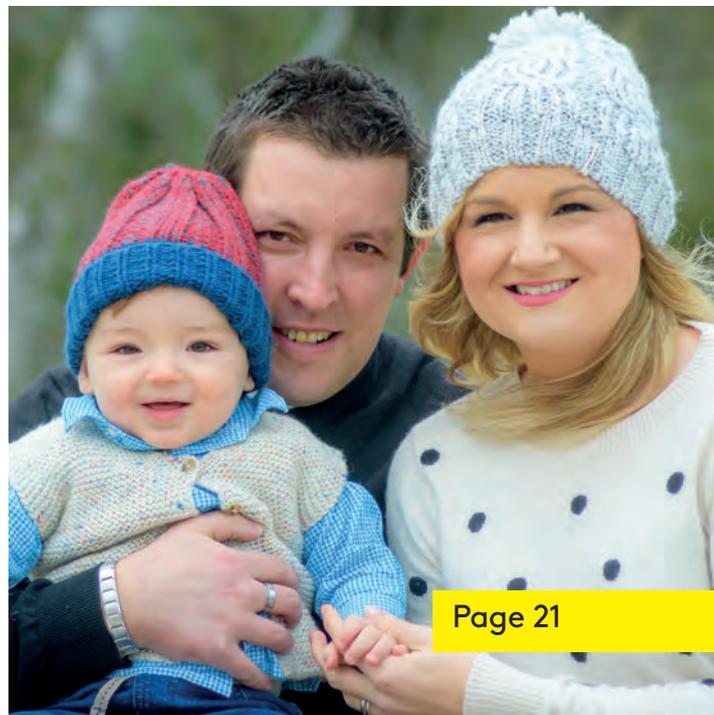
Two events mark the start of Sarah's recovery: her mother's arrival, and her first appointment with Vision Australia.

"I'm forever thankful to Vision Australia for standing by my side. I would have been lost without them," she said.

Fast-track one year later and Sarah is now training for a half marathon, running her own blog, giving media interviews and busily chasing after her on-the-go toddler. In time, Sarah hopes to be matched with a Seeing Eye Dog.

Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight

- Nearly \$1.38m was raised - thank you Australia
- Ticket sales increased by 13% from the previous year
- Donations increased by 16%
- Media exposure increased by 28% from the previous year



An army of dedicated volunteers

We couldn't achieve such great outcomes for our clients without the dedication of our volunteers.

Whether it's reading the news headlines, caring for our Seeing Eye Dog puppies, or preparing reading material for our library members.

We thank you all.

- 2,653 active volunteers supported us in the last year
- 39 volunteers were recognised for 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service
- 814 volunteers supported our radio network, delivering over 213 hours of content

Victoria is just one of our 2,653 volunteers including Seeing Eye Dog puppy carers, who provide care and early training support to our pups, from eight weeks of age until they go into our formal training program when they are between 12 to 15 months old.

"Looking after Gino is a really rewarding experience. It makes me so happy that he will go on to help someone. Gino gives me so much happiness and will give his future handler the same."

Victoria,
Vision Australia volunteer





Lizzey D'Sylva-Clark, Burton, South Australia

Lizzey D'Sylva-Clark, 22 has been blind since birth. A vivacious and ambitious young lady, she regularly volunteers at Radio Adelaide as an on-air presenter and hopes to work in the radio industry one day.

She is passionate about music. She has sung since she was six years old and played the piano since she was nine. She is also a keen sportswoman and rides tandem with a cycling club, competing in the women's national and state championships every year.

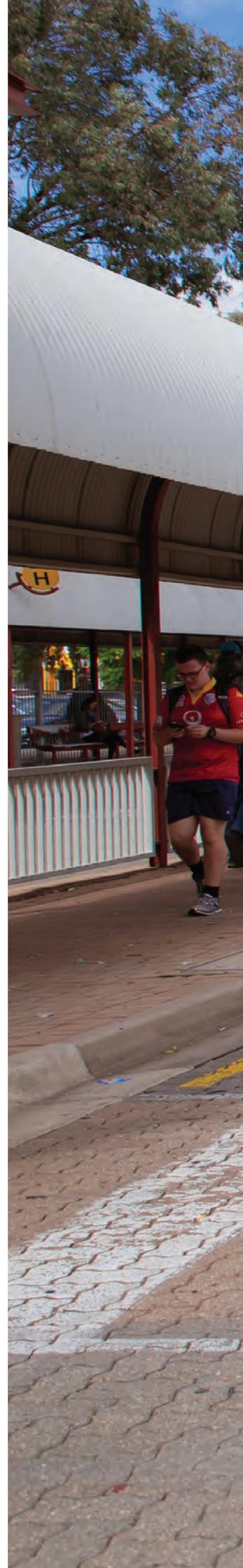
When Lizzey moved to Adelaide, she decided to apply for a Seeing Eye Dog to help her get around faster, safely and on her own.

Vision Australia matched her with Lacey. They spent three weeks getting to know each other and training with one of our instructors, Greer.

Lacey has changed Lizzey's life, helping her overcome her fears and giving her the confidence to become completely independent.

"I remember saying, 'I will not ever, ever walk on a train platform by myself', but now I have Lacey I am not scared anymore."

For Lizzey, her Labrador Lacey has allowed her to move more quickly and navigate obstacles. Lacey is also trained to use her own initiative to stop at roads and navigate train platforms to move Lizzey out of the path of danger.





"As soon as I met Lacey I thought: 'This is my dog, she is an extension of me, she is like me.' I knew straight away this was the dog for me, there was no hesitation. Ever since then, I've just embraced her with open arms and we've been a great team together."

Performance against our Strategic Plan

The past 12 months saw further transformational progress against the five priorities in our Strategic Plan.

The following pages contain a summary of the outcomes we achieved against each of these priorities, this year.



Lois,
Vision Australia client

Strategic Plan Objective 1:

Introduce new personalised services reflecting individual goals and choice

Every client has been appointed a primary service provider. Together, they make decisions about the individual's support, adding services and supports as needed, based on their goals.

Fifteen Regional Practice Leaders were appointed to support and lead best practice and ensure compliance with industry standards.

To reinforce a person-centred model of service and culture, person-centred principles have been incorporated into staff recruitment, induction, training and performance plans.

Looking ahead

Clients will continue to provide insights to develop and improve services and supports that will enable them to reach their goals and aspirations.



Strategic Plan Objective 2:

Market our personalised services so referrers and clients know exactly what we do

We're adapting to the new competitive landscape created by the NDIS and MAC through a number of initiatives.

We have:

- Signed new partnerships that offer opportunities for referrals, co-location and partnered service delivery. These partnerships include Australian Hearing, European Eyeware and general practitioners.
- Developed business prospects with fee-for-service training in the aged care market.
- Created a 360 degree view of the local demographics, population profile, competitors and infrastructure for each Vision Australia office.
- Tracked our website visitor journeys and adapted our site to ensure they can easily find the information they need.
- Appointed a Chief Marketing Officer and a Communications Director to develop brand awareness and position Vision Australia as a credible authority in the disability sector.

Looking ahead

We're developing Local Area Marketing plans to establish relationships and professionally market our services in distinct geographical areas.



Strategic Plan Objective 3:

Create new business systems and processes so staff can provide great service

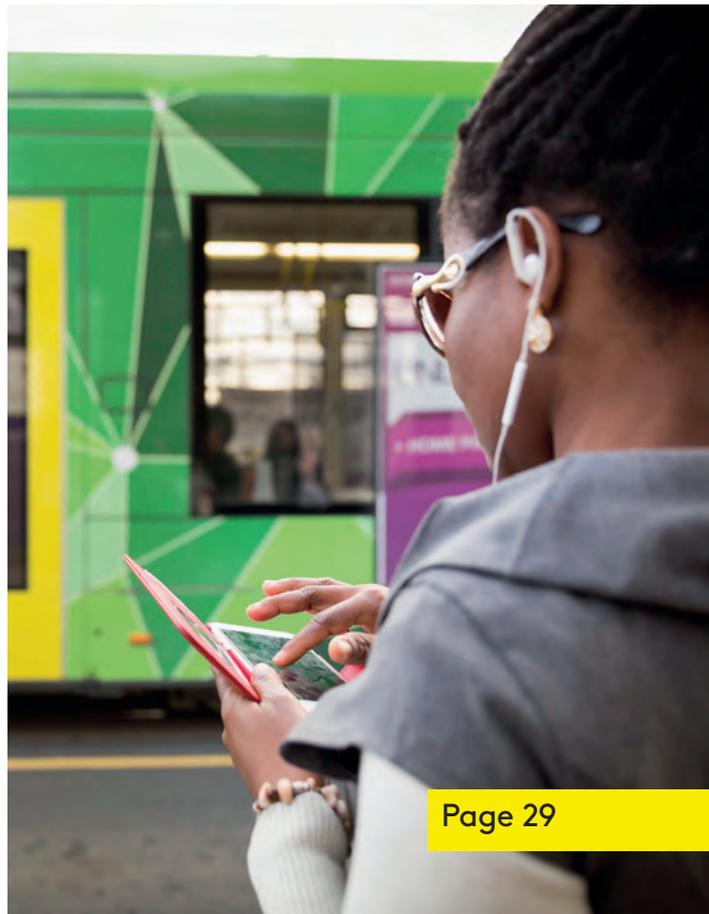
Client service productivity has lifted from 47.13% to 64.86%, against a target of 65%.

To provide a better service to clients and improve operational efficiency a new client management system was launched. Accessible and available through mobile technology, the system enables our front-line staff to be more effective and efficient when delivering services out in the community.

The launch of a new financial management system that provides real-time budget information is enabling more stringent monitoring and management of our finances.

Looking ahead

Soon, clients will be able to manage their own appointments and information using Salesforce, our new Client Management System.



Strategic Plan Objective 4:

Advocate for social reform using evidence and a human rights approach.

A Program of Engagement, including a new portfolio-based Client Reference Group, was launched to encourage open conversation with the blindness and low vision community and ultimately, improve the way we support them.

More blindness and low vision service types will be funded through My Aged Care due to the successful negotiation of a new 'specialist service' category.

Through our advocacy efforts, and the efforts of others in our community, the new generation of Australian banknotes will have a tactile feature. Read page 18 to learn more about this achievement.

Looking ahead

Building the capacity of our clients and providing them with self-advocacy tools will enable them to advocate of their own behalf. We will also continue to monitor the political environment and respond to the big issues that affect our community.



Strategic Plan Objective 5:

Shift leadership and workforce culture to client focus, integrity, professionalism, respect

The Swinburne University Leadership Development Program was completed by another 20 staff members, who have five management-style projects ready to be implemented in the new financial year.

Goal setting has been embedded in our culture. Senior leaders have successfully undergone leadership and coaching training to support their teams to set goals and in turn, support our clients to set goals.

Volunteers supporting Peer Support and Telelink programs are highly valued team members and are now receiving regular training and development opportunities.

Looking ahead

Supporting our clients with high quality service, when and where they need us, will be driven by flexible work practices and ongoing investment in professional development and transdisciplinary training for our staff.





Barry Watts, Tallarook, Victoria

Imagine waking up one morning to find that you had no vision in one eye and only very little vision remaining in the other. For Barry Watts, 83, this became a reality when he suffered a stroke overnight.

That was almost two years ago. With the support of Vision Australia's Assist woodworking program at our centre in Kensington, Melbourne Barry is able to carry on pursuing his interests.

Barry was already somewhat familiar with working with timber. The woodworking program however, offered an opportunity to explore some new techniques.

So far Barry has produced chopping boards, bench seats, jewellery boxes and a wine rack.

"The program is designed to build people's confidence and give them skills they can take home and use in their own projects," said Vision Australia Instructor, Bret Behan.

The woodworking shop is equipped with a variety of adapted tools, such as talking tape measures, to make it possible for people who are blind or have low vision to get involved.

Barry travels to the woodworking program each week by train from his home in Tallarook.

"I was originally a carpenter by trade and worked on things like houses and buildings. I hadn't really had much experience with joinery and making smaller things."





Thanking our donors

We are sincerely grateful that you have chosen to support us.

Your support means more people who are blind or have low vision are reaching the goals and aspirations they have chosen for life.

- 100,000+ donors gave to Vision Australia and Seeing Eye Dogs Australia
- \$51.6M total donations and gifts in wills gratefully received

Meet the wonderful individuals, businesses and organisations that have supported us by giving over \$10,000 this year, as well as our corporate partners, and Fundraising and Friends of Vision Australia Committees

“Vision Australia has been there for our whole family. With their help, my husband and I have the right advice and tools to support our girls, Chloe, 11 and Scarlett, two to reach their milestones and goals. For Chloe, this meant she could join her classmates on the school camp,”
Trisha Ross.



Gift in Wills

Estate of the Late Mr Eric Hyam Abrahams
Estate of the Late Mr Stephen William Andrews
Estate of the Late Ms Olive Vera Ashcroft
Estate of the Late Ms Marie Isabel Bennett
Estate of the Late Mrs Mavis Aitken Bethke
Estate of the Late Elvia May Beves
Estate of the Late Joyce Gwendolyn Black
Estate of the Late Denise Irene Booth
Estate of the Late Mr Herbert Born
Estate of the Late Mrs Ida Joyce Bourke
Estate of the Late Mr William Malcolm Bradford
Estate of the Late Marie Howe Breckenridge
Estate of the Late Mrs Muriel May Broad
Estate of the Late Mr Kenneth Brown
Estate of the Late Mary Jane Burges
Estate of the Late Dorothy Helen Burne
Estate of the Late Grace Eugenie Cameron
Estate of the Late Mr Raymond Douglas Chant
Estate of the Late Shirley Alison Chapman
Estate of the Late Mr Robertson Chick
Estate of the Late Mrs Mary Louise Clugston
Estate of the Late Denise Cobcroft
Estate of the Late Ausilio Confalonieri
Estate of the Late Edward Cook
Estate of the Late Mr Robert Clarence Cumming
Estate of the Late Mary Josephine Curteis
Estate of the Late Mrs Jean Elizabeth Daley
Estate of the Late Dorothy May Davies
Estate of the Late Margaret Robina Dott
Estate of the Late Dorothy Eleanor Downey
Estate of the Late John H Dugdale
Estate of the Late Mrs Isabelle Iris Endersbee
Estate of the Late Mr Ralph Erickson

Estate of the Late Robert John Finlay
Estate of the Late Mr Warwick Jeffrey Flecknoe
Estate of the Late Mr George Edward Foster
Estate of the Late Mrs Margaret W Fraser
Estate of the Late Mr Charles Frederick Freeman
Estate of the Late Mr Brian Edwin French
Estate of the Late Helen Elizabeth Gadsden
Estate of the Late Mr George Gibson
Estate of the Late George Eliot Gilchrist
Estate of the Late Ms Coline Mary Gollan
Estate of the Late Mr Godfrey Barrington Goodere
Estate of the Late Ms Joyce Alison Gunnis
Estate of the Late Kathleen Anne Habla
Estate of the Late Mr Kenneth George Halls
Estate of the Late Mr Trygve Halvorsen
Estate of the Late Mrs Joyce Harrower
Estate of the Late Mr William Robert Arnold Henderson
Estate of the Late Ms Cecile Ellen Higgs
Estate of the Late Mr Jack Hinton
Estate of the Late Mr James Bruce Horsley
Estate of the Late Mr Daryl Giles Howard
Estate of the Late Ms Helen Margaret Hudson
Estate of the Late Ms Betty Madge Humphery
Estate of the Late Mr Russell William Hunter
Estate of the Late Mr Colin Ross Irvine
Estate of the Late Mr Alfred Richard James
Estate of the Late Alicia Goodhart Johnson
Estate of the Late Mrs Dulcie Therese Jones
Estate of the Late Mrs Glenys Ruth Kendall
Estate of the Late Frances Anne Lightley
Estate of the Late Alice Elizabeth Ruth Lowry
Estate of the Late Mr David Ronald Hamilton Macintyre

Estate of the Late Mrs Margaret Marion Macrae

Estate of the Late Edith Norah McCall

Estate of the Late Mrs Margaret Ann McLennan

Estate of the Late Joan Louise McMahan

Estate of the Late Mrs Lorna Mead

Estate of the Late Ms Valerie Ethel Miller

Estate of the Late Mrs Irma Irene Miller

Estate of the Late Mr Peter James Morris

Estate of the Late Laura Violet Muller

Estate of the Late Mr Herbert Fitzgerald Nardin

Estate of the Late Ms Edith Elwyn Neilson

Estate of the Late Helen Nolan

Estate of the Late Mr Les O'Keefe

Estate of the Late Mr Colin Hetherington Oldham

Estate of the Late Mr William Frances O'Neill

Estate of the Late Lilian Pearl Orford

Estate of the Late Ms Valerie Heather Oswin

Estate of the Late Arthur David Percival

Estate of the Late Mr Peter Powell

Estate of the Late Ellie May Ribee

Estate of the Late Mrs Norma Lois Riley

Estate of the Late Mrs Dorothy May Rosenfeld

Estate of the Late Mr Graham Francis William Rule

Estate of the Late Barry Law Russell

Estate of the Late Anne Dallas Salvado

Estate of the Late Mrs Phyllis Betty Simpson

Estate of the Late Mrs June Vivienne Simpson

Estate of the Late Mr Bert Clifford Skinner

Estate of the Late Eric Charles Smith

Estate of the Late Leo Patrick Stakelum

Estate of the Late James Henry Stewart

Estate of the Late Kay Janet Fanny Stubbs

Estate of the Late Mr Henry Swankie

Estate of the Late Mr Harold Thomas Swanton

Estate of the Late Mr John Joseph Talbot

Estate of the Late Hydfryd Rae Thomas

Estate of the Late Mr Raymond John Threlfall

Estate of the Late Mr Kenneth Todd

Estate of the Late Ruby J K Tout

Estate of the Late Mrs Marcelle Olga Trenoweth

Estate of the Late Arthur Henry Tyrer

Estate of the Late E J Vaughan

Estate of the Late Mrs Kathleen Joyce Wade

Estate of the Late Alan Don Wienand

Estate of the Late Mrs Margaret Agnes Nevin Wills

Estate of the Late Mr Arthur Douglas Wilson

Estate of the Late Muriel Fraser Wittey

Estate of the Late Paul Wright

Trusts and Foundations

Allen & Cecilia Tye Fund
Amy Irene Christina Ostberg Estate
Arthur Leonard Raper Charitable Trust
Bell Charitable Fund
Bill & Jean Henson Charitable Trust
Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation
Clifford Abbott Davidson Charitable Trust
Collier Charitable Fund
Commonwealth Bank Staff
Community Fund
Danks Trust / Annie Danks Trust
David Allen Trust
Donovan-Johnston Memorial Trust
E C Blackwood Charitable Trust
Edith Jean Elizabeth Beggs
Charitable Trust
Edith McTaggart Charitable Trust
Eric Crawford Memorial Fund
Estate of the Late Frederick John Banbury
Estate of Amy Elizabeth Bayne
Estate of A M Bissett
Estate of the Late Ella Kate Boyd
Estate of the Late Georgena
Elizabeth Bradshaw
Estate of the Late Edna May Dacey
Estate of the Late William H Fernie
Estate of the Late Mona Isobel Paul
Estate of the Late Thomas James
Malcolmson & Winifred Gleeson
Estate of E W Vicars-Foote
Estate of the Late Jane Williamson
Estate of the Late John Frederick Wright
Family Frank Foundation
Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
Florance Hattersley Trust
Foundation of Graduates in Early
Childhood Studies
Frank & Sybil Richardson Charitable Trust
Frederick Shepherd Trust
Gregory Patrick & Marie Dolores
Farrell Foundation
Grosvenor Foundation
Gwenneth Elsie Miller Charitable Trust
Hardie Family Bequest
Henry James Francis Estate
Ian McLeod & Madge Duncan Perpetual
Charitable Trust
J O & J R Wicking Trust
Janet Calder MacKenzie Charitable Trust
John & Laurine Proud Family Estate Trust
Kel & Rosie Day Foundation
Lady Proud Foundation
Leslie Francis Gill Trust
Lily Maude Payne Charitable Trust
Lionel R V Spencer Fund
Lola Poynton Memorial Fund
Marjorie Scott Trust
Marrich Charitable Foundation
Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation
Oscar William Eschenhagen Edwards Trust
Philandron Foundation
Russell McKimmin Charitable Trust
Russell Vontom Charitable Trust
Scott Family Bequest - Trust
Skipper - Jacobs Charitable Trust
STAF - Judith De Garrood Donation
The Benjamin Slome Charitable Foundation
The Curavis Fund
The Edith Kemp Memorial Trust Fund
The Elliott Family Trust
The Granger Charitable Foundation
The Howard Glover Perpetual
Charitable Trust
The Kemvan Trust

The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust
The Muffin Foundation
The Orloff Family Charitable Trust
The Profield Foundation
The Sally Sinisoff Trust Fund
The William Mansel Higgins & Dorothy Higgins Charitable Trust
Urquhart Charitable Fund
William Andrew Bon Charitable Trust

Individuals

Mrs L Barnett
Mrs J Barton
Mrs P Brown
Mr D & Mrs A Craig
Mr D & Mrs I Dalrymple
Mr K Edwards
Mr A Eger
Mr A Excell
Miss J Farrell
Ms D Graff & Mr F Wyss
Dr B Mezo
Miss A Miller
Mrs J Overbeek
Mr G Painton
Estate of the Late Mr Andrew Ian Paul
Mr J Robbins
Mrs M Roberts
Mr P & Mrs S Rosen
Mr B J Royle
Ms L, Mr P & Mr A Savage
Mr M Schroder
Mrs A Shaw
Miss J Sheridan
Mrs J Smith

Mr D & Mrs V Solomon
Mr R Sweaney
Mr K & Mrs A Thornton
Mrs R Yabsley

Registered clubs

Canada Bay Club

Businesses

Archibald's Leak Detection Services
J & J Holdings
Jetstar Airways Petbarn Pty Ltd
T Rainsford Pty Ltd
U3A Kooyong Inc

Corporate partners

Eastland
Royal Canin Australia
Woolworths Limited

Fundraising and Friends of Vision Australia Committees

Boort Friends of Vision Australia
Cohuna Friends of Vision Australia
Coleraine Friends of Vision Australia
Cooma Friends of Vision Australia
Coorparoo Friends of Vision Australia
Cressy Friends of Vision Australia
Dubbo Black & White Committee of
Vision Australia
Euroa Friends of Vision Australia
Gisborne Friends of Vision Australia
Glenthompson Friends of Vision Australia
Griffith Friends of Vision Australia
International Committee of
Vision Australia
Kaniva Friends of Vision Australia
Kerang Friends of Vision Australia
Kiama and District Friends of
Vision Australia
Kyneton Friends of Vision Australia
Leongatha Rose Show Committee
Maitland Black & White Committee
of Vision Australia
Mentone/Mordialloc Friends of
Vision Australia
Mudgee Black & White Committee
of Vision Australia
Sea Lake Friends of Vision Australia
Skipton Friends of Vision Australia
Swan Hill Friends of Vision Australia
Taree and District Friends of Vision Australia
The Black & White Committee of
Vision Australia
Wangaratta Friends of Vision Australia

Whoorel Friends of Vision Australia
Willaura Friends of Vision Australia
Yarrowonga Friends of Vision Australia
Yass Friends of Vision Australia

"I've had a lifetime involvement with Vision Australia. They've supported me to gain independence in my everyday life, by providing adaptive technology and visual aids for home.

They've also helped me achieve a successful pathway with my education, from primary school through to tertiary education, by helping my teachers understand my visual needs.

"With Vision Australia, I have learnt to read braille through distance education and have been involved in various Telelink groups. I'm now a proud member of Vision Australia's Client Reference Group youth portfolio. I'm really enjoying helping Vision Australia work on the services they will offer to the future generation of the blindness and low vision community."

Jane Britt, Indooroopilly,
Queensland



Financial performance

To support the blindness and low vision community across Australia do the things they want to do in life, we're building an economically sustainable and secure organisation now, and for the future.

Managing and investing your money wisely enables us to do this job well.

An operational surplus has been achieved through the focused planning and execution of our corporate strategy, targeted fundraising efforts and responsible control of our investment portfolio. The surplus will be reinvested back into our organisation so we can continue to support the people we do now as well as reach out to a greater number of people in the blindness and low vision community.

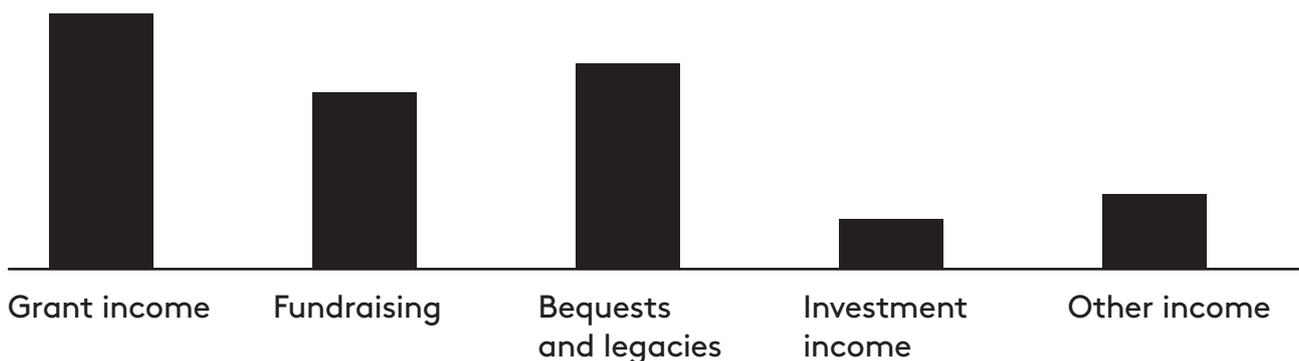
The funds we receive have been directed to provide services and supports to our clients by focusing on two key financial priorities: growing revenue opportunities and actively managing our costs.

We achieved an overall growth of 10.6% in income from significant one-off bequests and legacies and have successfully managed the transition from block grants to NDIS funding. The financial impact of this transition has not been significant this year and is not expected to be substantial in the 2017 financial year. Our net assets remained steady at \$210M due to positive returns on investments and income growth.

Where our income comes from

Delivering much-needed services and support to the blindness and low vision community would not be possible without the generosity of individuals, corporate

partners, businesses, organisations and government. We thank you for your financial support.



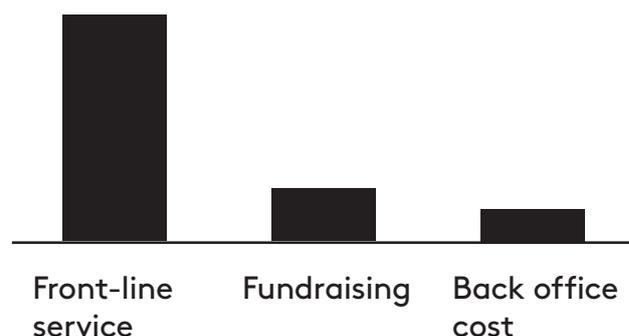
Where your money goes

The majority of our income is invested in providing services and supports to help our clients live the life they choose. We continue to carefully manage our expenses and investments and look for new ways to be economically responsible.

We couldn't have achieved the strong results we did without the strategic guidance and governance of our Board and the committees that support the Board.

Many of the members of our Board and committees are blind or have low vision. Their first-hand insights and extensive commercial experience continues to guide how we support our community's needs and reach the goals set out in our strategic plan.

Our full financial statements are available in standard print text, large print text, braille, audio and DAISY formats, and accessible digital formats. Contact us on **1300 84 74 66** to order a copy in your preferred format or visit our website **www.visionaustralia.org**



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Vision Australia Radio

Tune into our radio stations on these frequencies. Vision Australia Radio is also broadcast over digital stations in Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide or via the Vision Australia Connect app.

New South Wales

Albury/Wodonga 101.7FM

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Bendigo88.7FM

Geelong99.5FM

Melbourne1179AM

Mildura107.5FM

Shepparton100.1FM

Warragul93.5FM

Warrnambool94.5FM

South Australia

Adelaide.....1197AM

WA

Perth990AM

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visionaustralia.org



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