

Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs Impact Report 2022-23



Vision Australia
Seeing Eye Dogs

What another year of your support made possible

Thanks to your support, Seeing Eye Dogs has continued to change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision across Australia.

In the last financial year, the generosity of people like you has helped another 44 people to be matched with a Seeing Eye Dog, while more than 200 puppies born in that time entered the Seeing Eye Dogs program.

Each Seeing Eye Dog represents a huge investment of time, money and effort. It takes around two years and \$50,000 to develop and train a Seeing Eye Dog before they are ready to change the lives of their handler.

Your support also means we're able to continue to improve the Seeing Eye Dogs program, now and into the future. In the last year, your support has helped us expand our puppy caring and training program into New South Wales, while we also piloted a bushwalking program for Seeing Eye Dog handlers. We've also launched a new animal welfare strategy and continued the refurbishment of our kennels at Seeing Eye Dogs HQ in Melbourne to ensure all our dogs are happy and healthy.

This wouldn't be possible without supporters like you. Thank you!

How you helped Seeing Eye Dogs in 2022-23

Handler and Seeing Eye Dog partnerships

200+

handlers and their
Seeing Eye Dogs were
supported.

Seven months

average wait time for a
Seeing Eye Dog.

44

new Seeing Eye Dogs
matched and graduated
with handlers.



Breeding and care

- 🐾 More than 220 puppies entered the Seeing Eye Dogs program.
- 🐾 Achieved Seeing Eye Dog's highest average litter size and lowest neonatal mortality on record - key indicators of a sustainable breeding program.
- 🐾 Covered all veterinary and food costs while puppies are with volunteer carers.
- 🐾 Continued our kennels refurbishment to ensure our facility remains world-class.

Our training and expertise

- 🐾 Piloted a bush walking program to support Seeing Eye Dog handlers to participate in a common pastime.
- 🐾 Expanded our caring and training programs to NSW, to better support existing clients and more people to access life changing Seeing Eye Dogs.
- 🐾 Seeing Eye Dogs were active participants at the 2023 International Guide Dog Federation Conference (IGDF) to learn from and educate other IGDF schools.
- 🐾 Launched the new Seeing Eye Dogs Animal Welfare Strategy.

After being matched together in February 2023, Michelle and Seeing Eye Dog Mirla have become "inseparable."

A long-time cane user, Michelle said she noticed a deterioration in her vision that prompted her to apply for a Seeing Eye Dog and she and Mirla haven't taken a backward step.

"Mirla just brings a lot of joy to my life. She's like she's my child and all the grandkids love her as well and she definitely brings some companionship," Michelle said.

"Most importantly she's enriched my life. I've developed so much more confidence to get out and about in the community and she gives me a whole lot more independence in that respect."

Developing and training Seeing Eye Dogs like Mirla is a big job, and one that couldn't be done without the support of people like you!

Thank you for helping us provide Seeing Eye Dogs like Mirla to people who are blind or have low vision across Australia!



Michelle and Seeing Eye Dog Mirla.