

# Annual Report 2023-2024





Vision Australia recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we meet and work.

We acknowledge the importance of maintaining their cultures, countries and their spiritual connection to the lands and waters, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. Vision Australia acknowledges and respects the genuine diversity and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures throughout Australia.



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### A message from the Chair

Vision Australia's purpose and mission of supporting people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose remains unwavering.

But in recent years, with pressure from funding changes and inflation, we have also had to focus on sustainability.

Though a necessary goal, this can make it harder to acknowledge what has been achieved. While never an organisation to rest on our laurels, it's important we recognise the efforts to future-proof Vision Australia, particularly achievements from the past year.

For our core client services, the past year has been one of change and innovation. A restructuring of our client services team and improved intake process means our frontline staff are now able to spend more time with clients, while new clients are waiting less time to begin receiving services. Importantly, this allowed us to see more clients with an increase of nearly 2,500 to 39,958 total clients across the financial year.

We have also improved our service offering with our Know Your Vision clinics and Check in and Chat services now available across all of our locations. We have also expanded our Home Care Package Program into additional areas of Victoria, and into New South Wales for the first time. All of this has combined

to provide older Australians with increased access to our services.

For our younger clients, we've taken an exciting step with our Life Ready program with the launch of the Life Ready Hub. A new digital platform, the Hub allows clients and their families to access educational and skill-building resources at their convenience.

It has also been a strong year for our Seeing Eye Dogs team, highlighted by the opening of the donor-funded Dog Care Centre. With more than 200 puppies again born through the program, the centre gives our staff and dogs an industry-leading welfare facility. The past year was also the fourth straight year we have matched 40 or more Seeing Eye Dogs with handlers.

We also continue to see benefits from the many relationships we have nurtured.

Our commitment to our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has strengthened our services in both Alice Springs and Broome, translating into an increased client base in both regions. The RAP initiatives will guide us to better support First Nations people Australia wide.

Our commitment to our corporate partners has also been a point of strength. A strong collaborative approach with our Carols by Candlelight partners resulted in a Logie nomination for the 2023 production, as well as a fundraising total of more than \$1m.

The Petbarn Appeal, supported by the entire Petbarn network, trusted pet food supplier, Royal Canin, and veterinary pharmaceutical company, Zoetis, again set a record raising more than \$1.3m for Seeing Eye Dogs. The Petbarn Foundation has now funded 179 Seeing Eye Dogs.

As we reflect on recent achievements, many of which were years in the making, we must acknowledge the legacy of Ron Hooton, who departed the organisation after 11 ½ years of service as CEO. Ron's time as CEO was highlighted by a modernisation of Vision Australia's workforce, systems and culture and there is no doubt his tenure was vital in us meeting the needs of the blind and low vision community now, and well into the future.

Finally, on behalf of Vision
Australia we thank everyone
from our staff, volunteers, Board,
supporters and partners who have
made another year of providing vital
support to the blind and low
vision community possible.

W. MUDLEY

Bill Jolley, Vision Australia Chair



Bill Jolley, Vision Australia Chair

# Our 2023 - 2024 impact

Each year, we're fortunate to work in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to support them to live the life they choose.

Whether it's at home, in the workplace, at schools and universities, or in the wider community, our staff are there to provide the blind and low vision community with the support they deserve.

Here's just some of our many achievements from the past 12 months.

39,758

clients supported





241,886

hours of service delivery



1,945
children and young people supported



16,724
hours of orientation and mobility training



49,709
hours of recreation and community support



31,696
hours of assistive technology support



42,484
hours of children and young
people services



58,820 hours of occupational therapy



17,784 hours of Telelink

### \$46.7m

in gross fundraising revenue



### \$1m+

raised through Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight \$11.4m

in revenue from over 30,000 regular giving donors



5 months

Average waitlist time for a Seeing Eye Dog, down from seven months in FY23

40+

handlers matched with a Seeing Eye Dog for the fourth year in row 235

active Seeing Eye Dog handlers, the most ever across Australia 220+

Seeing Eye Dogs puppies born



56,833

spectacles and optical aids funded through the NSW Spectacles Program

185,000+

pages produced in alternative formats





2,500+

new titles added to Vision Australia Library



400,000

monthly listeners to
Vision Australia Radio



submissions made to governments on issues facing the blind and low vision community

### Financial summary

Vision Australia group's activities during the 2024 financial year returned a reported deficit of \$8,478,000 (2023: \$889,000), which after adjusting for non-recurring items, provided an adjusted recurring deficit of \$8,307,000 (2023: \$2,006,000).

The underlying deficit reflects higher costs due to rising inflation rates, partially offset by higher investment income, higher bequest and fundraising income, the gain from

sale of property, plant and equipment and vacancies.

The reported deficit of \$8,478,000 (2023: \$889,000) includes one-off operating items including \$229,000 which is net gain from sale of property, plant and equipment and \$400,000 property impairment expense. The prior year results included \$1,117,000 which was net gain from sale of property, plant and equipment.

Summary of the 2024 financial year deficit	FY2024 \$'000	FY2023 \$'000
Adjusted recurring deficit	(8,307)	(2,006)
- Impairment expense – property, plant and equipment	(400)	-
- Net gain on disposal of assets	229	1,117
Reported deficit for the year	(8,478)	(889)

	FY2024	FY2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	128,410	124,799
Purchase of materials, consumables and movement in		
inventories	(19,694)	(19,280)
Employee benefits expense	(80,188)	(70,957)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(3,317)	(4,791)
Right-of-use assets depreciation expense	(2,132)	(2,074)
Occupancy expense	(3,898)	(3,196)
Events and fundraising expense	(9,816)	(9,084)
Professional and management fees	(6,041)	(4,730)
Equipment and technology expense	(4,240)	(3,950)
Other expenses	(8,688)	(8,176)
Impairment expense – property, plant and equipment	(400)	-
Net gain on disposal of assets	229	1,117
Net realised gain/(loss) on disposal of non-equity investments .	438	(157)
Net change in fair value of non-equity investments measured at fair value through profit of loss	859	(410)
Deficit for the year	(8,478)	(889)

The reported deficit does not include growth or decline in equity assets. In the 2024 financial year, the net assets of Vision Australia Group increased by \$4,843,000 year on year, which comprise the current year deficit of \$8,478,000, net realised gain on disposal of equity investments of \$3,878,000 and increase in fair value of equity investments (or unrealised gain on equity investments) of \$9,443,000.

The cash position at the end of 30 June 2024 was \$20,635,000 (2023: \$19,137,000).

The following balance sheet has been extracted from the audited financial report.

	FY202 <del>4</del> \$'000	FY2023 \$'000
Total current assets	33,049	33,069
Total non-current assets	266,615	261,079
Total assets	299,664	294,148
Total current liabilities	18,432	18,627
Total non-current liabilities	7,288	6,420
Total liabilities	25,720	25,047
Net assets	273,944	269,101
Equity		
Retained surplus	242,374	246,974
Reserves	31,570	22,127
Total equity	273,944	269,101

# Connecting with our growing community

As always, our number one priority in the past year has been our mission – supporting Australia's blind and low vision community to live the life they choose.

With Australia's blind and low vision population growing and expected to reach 500,000 by 2030, we embarked on a number of projects this year to ensure we're connecting with the growing community and are in the position to provide the support they need.

In April, we were thrilled to launch The Pupil Project video series, which brought the stories of three Vision Australia clients, Andy, Braedan and Benji to life and shared them across Australia.

Funded by the Australian government's Vision Information Services (VIS) grant, The Pupil Project highlighted the challenges people who are blind or have low vision face and how Vision Australia, and the wider public can support them.

Not only did The Pupil Project feature real life stories of Vision Australia clients, it was also driven by new research highlighting two out of three Australians don't know how to support someone who is blind or has low vision.

The authenticity of The Pupil Project resonated with Australians, with the five-part video series being viewed more than 2 million times and driving 65,000 people to our website.

Of particular interest was The Pupil Project's focus on challenges that are seemingly small but have a significant impact, such as how living with low vision makes it difficult to access vital everyday information such as menus, use by dates, street signs and more.

While The Pupil Project focused on the accounts of people with lived experience, we also recognised the importance of connecting with the families and support networks of Australia's blind and low vision population.

In May, we took the exciting step of launching our first ever campaign to connect with carers of people who are blind or have low vision.

Also funded through the VIS grant, the campaign focussed on the questions and concerns that naturally occur for people when a loved one receives a diagnosis of vision loss.

Central to the campaign was a Carer's Resource Guide and information hub on the Vision Australia website. These resources provide carers with information on how Vision Australia can support them and the person they care for, as well as information about other services and supports available to them.

Importantly, the resources acknowledge that carers face challenges too and provide practical

steps to address those challenges as they begin their new role.

The resources have quickly filled an information gap, with the Carer's Resource Guide being downloaded more than 1,000 times.



Braedan, centre, was excited to lend his story to The Pupil Project to help change attitudes about people who are blind or have low vision and help other people like him understand they aren't alone in facing challenges.

"If there are three things that I'd like to come out of this campaign, it's for people not to assume my abilities or my limitations, it's also for more businesses, employers and policymakers to create a more accessible and inclusive environment for people with a disability. Also, to encourage someone to just ask if they're unsure how to help," Braedan said.

"There's been times when I've asked for assistance to find a product at the supermarket because I can't read the small print, or I've needed to ask for directions because I can't see the street signs, and the other person will look at me strangely because I don't appear to have a disability."



Supporting older Australians who are blind or have low vision to remain safe and independent in their own home has been a priority of ours in the past 12 months.

A key part of that has been the expansion of the Vision Australia Home Care Package service. The expansion means our Home Care Packages are now available in additional locations across Victoria, as well as being available in the Sydney and Illawarra regions of New South Wales for the first time.

Unlike other providers, Vision Australia's Home Care Packages are tailored to meet the needs of people who are blind or have low vision.

As Home Care Package client Glory puts it, the specialist support is what sets Vision Australia apart from other providers.

"When I first became legally blind Vision Australia was like a light at the end of the tunnel. There were avenues I never knew existed," Glory said.

"As you get older in so many situations you begin to feel either invisible or like a number. With Vision Australia and with my Home Care Package I am an individual."

### More good days for older Australians

After successful pilot periods, we have made two innovative services for older Australians permanent.

Our Know Your Vision program is now offered at all of our locations as the perfect introduction to Vision Australia for older people as their vision changes. Each Know Your Vision appointment is an in-depth consultation that helps people understand their vision and be referred to the right Vision Australia services to help them keep doing the things they enjoy.

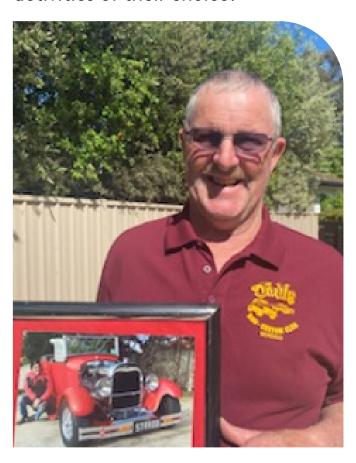
A key referral pathway from Know Your Vision is to our Check in and Chat program, which provides clients with six 45-minute telehealth sessions to address the mental health and emotional impacts that can come with a vision loss diagnosis.

With more than 210 clients going through Check in and Chat last year, our wellbeing officers have completed more than 1,200 calls, helping them with vital coping strategies.

"The program is all about helping our clients have more good days," Simran Kaur, Vision Australia senior wellbeing officer, said.

"These conversations help us to together find ways and strategies to

support them to reconnect with the activities of their choice."



An enthusiast for all things cars, Alan was hit hard by a diagnosis of macular dystrophy, which meant he had to give up driving.

With the support of Vision Australia, Alan's in a much better place.

"It was gradual at first, but signs became harder to read and my judgement of distance was a bit off," he said.

"I love what Vision Australia has done for me. The staff are great people, always happy to help in any way they can."



Helping people who are blind or have low vision to establish themselves with a career has again been among our most important work over the past year.

One of the many ways we did that was through the Career Visions program run out of the Coorparoo office, which gave six participants the opportunity to undertake a 22-week work skills program funded by the Queensland government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Along with developing job skills, each participant undertook work placements at external organisations and also finished Career Visions with a Certificate I in Workplace Skills via TAFE Queensland.

Pictured above are Career Visions participants Serena, Brandon, Michael, Sarah, Samson and Carl, with former Vision Australia CEO Ron Hooton.

### Life Ready goes digital

After the successful launch of the Life Ready program for children and young people in FY23, we took a significant step in strengthening the service in the last year with the launch of the Life Ready Hub.

The Hub is an online learning portal for children and young people who are blind or have low vision and their families.

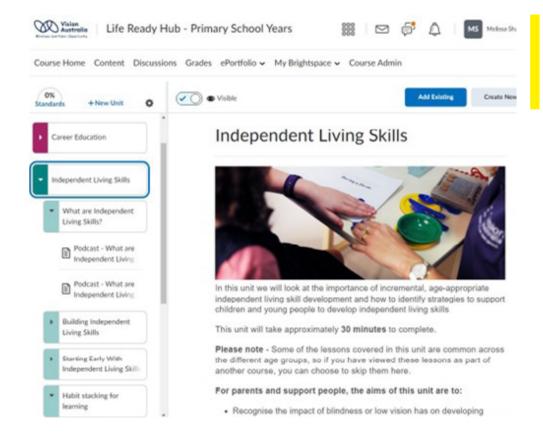
The Hub complements our Life Ready program - which focusses on developing those all-important lifeskills children and young people learn in their different life stages – through engaging resources such as videos, games and activity sheets.

The Hub is a significant step for Vision Australia, as it's the first time

we've provided clients with a digital platform of this kind, which allows families to work through resources at their convenience.

"The Hub provides outstanding learning resources to build a child's life-skills in a fun and interactive way. It also enables families to do it at a time that suits them. We all know how busy life gets," Lara Anderson, Vision Australia children and young people clinical development lead, said.

In its first year, the Life Ready Hub already contains more than 150 resources and learning supports, while more than 280 clients and their families have taken advantage of what the platform has to offer.



The Life Ready
Hub is the first
digital platform
we have launched
for our clients,
allowing them
to engage with
resources at their
own pace.

# LEAP takes the next steps in preparing future generations

Our LEAP (Learn, Engage, Act, Perform) program remains one of the key pillars of our Life Ready program, with an emphasis on supporting clients aged 14-18 build their self-confidence, as well as other practical skills to further their career aspirations.

This year, we were excited to hold our first LEAP Camp as part of the program, with nine participants taking part in the three-day event across our Kooyong and Kensington offices.

Campers were given the opportunity to try out work experience across different departments of Vision Australia, learn about workplace technology and modifications, understand the importance of work life balance, socialise with each other and more!

Participant Cassie got to spend one day of the camp as CEO of Vision Australia and said the experience helped her understand what it takes be a leader in a large organisation.

"Every so often I'd kind of think to myself, I wonder what the top person of a company does. I've actually met Ron (Ron Hooton, former Vision Australia CEO), and I thought it would be cool to see what his job actually is rather than just looking at it from the outside. It was great when I was able to watch on and see how everything works," Cassie said.

"I learned a lot about how you make decisions and what you need to look for when making them. I learned that there's more to it than you would think."

Given the success of the first LEAP Camp, it's now a permanent fixture on our calendar.



Cassie, front left, and former Vision Australia CEO Ron Hooton, front right, spoke to Sam Colley for Vision Australia Radio about the LEAP Camp.

# A simpler approach for supporting clients

Making it easier for our clients to receive the vital services we provide has been a key priority over the past year.

A streamlined intake process has made it easier than ever before for individuals to be on-boarded as a Vision Australia client. New clients now only need to provide their details and story to us once and then move promptly through to an initial appointment with our expert staff. Making better use of our digital systems through this process means we're now providing new clients with tailored information on funding, services, and products from their first contact with us.

A new approach to initial appointments has also been positively received. Clients now begin with an appointment with one of our allied health staff, if necessary they then move on to a low-vision assessment, before a consultation with staff from our Vision Store. We're also able to conduct these appointments via telehealth for our clients in remote locations and have tailored approaches for different client cohorts, such as children or those with complex needs.

These changes have initiated positive responses for both our clients and workforce.

We've significantly reduced the time before a client receives their first appointment, and we're now able to provide each new client with a comprehensive schedule of support summarising their goals and detailing the intervention plan and services they will receive.

The changes mean our service providers can spend more time directly supporting clients, which is highlighted by the organisation reaching it's 12-month rolling billable target.

The changes to the intake and planning process have also meant the organisation has been able to reduce associated costs by nearly \$2m, which has been redirected into additional supports for clients.

### A strong and diverse workforce

We recognise that our committed and talented workforce remains one of Vision Australia's best assets, and we have placed a significant emphasis this year on continuing to strengthen and diversify it.

For the second year, we have provided the McKinsey A2E Lead program, supporting 87 staff to develop their leadership skills. This continuation means more than a quarter of our workforce will have completed the program, with the resulting leadership capabilities benefiting teams and departments across every area of Vision Australia.

Our first cohort of senior service providers have also spent the last year embedding themselves in their new roles. Not only do these providers play a key role in supporting our clients with complex needs, the introduction of this position has provided our allied health staff with an opportunity to receive valuable mentoring and has established a new career progression pathway.

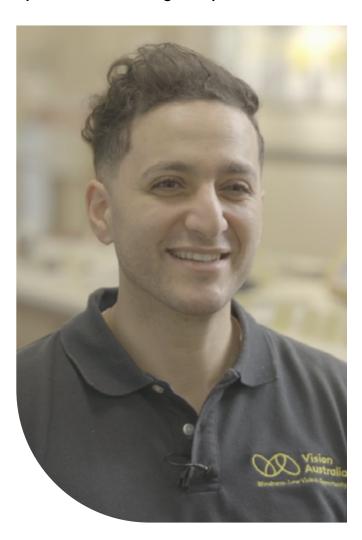
With demand for our services growing, we have also devoted significant resources this year to increasing the number of service providers we have on staff. Taking a new approach to recruitment through digital channels and sharing the stories of current work force members has proved successful, driving a 45% yearon-year increase in the number of service providers recruited.

We've also taken a proactive approach to training more specialists with the launch of the Orientation and Mobility Postgraduate Pathway Program. The program allows existing Vision Australia service providers to earn a Graduate Diploma in Orientation and Mobility at the University of NSW over a 12-month period. During this time, they also maintain their current role with Vision Australia. Excitingly, our first cohort of four participants are on track to graduate in late 2024, after which they will go on to join the ranks of our orientation and mobility specialists.

Listening to the diverse voices we have in our workforce has also been elevated, with the establishment of two new employee reference groups: one for blind and low vision individuals and another for the LGBTQIA+ community. These groups have already provided valuable insights direct to our People and Culture team on how to drive positive change around inclusion.

This work has also been supported by the establishment of our First Nations Australians project, which encompasses all of our work relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Through the project, we are building a comprehensive approach toward reconciliation, sustainable service delivery and support for First Nation eye health through key streams of work including community engagement, creating a culturally safe workplace, developing a service delivery model that best supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and knowledge sharing with other eye health organisations.



Using the experiences of staff members like Bish Elyas, occupational therapist, proved to be effective in attracting more allied health professionals to join Vision Australia.

Vision Australia is committed to providing our workforce with flexibility and professional development, and hearing that straight from team members like Bish was a powerful tool.

"Whichever way you want to work, Vision Australia will find a way for you to do it," Bish said.

"I work with highly skilled and qualified allied health professionals such as optometrists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, orientation and mobility specialists and more. Together we deliver exceptional holistic client care."

#### Farewell to Ron Hooton

After 11½ years dedicated service to Vision Australia as CEO, we farewelled Ron Hooton in mid-2024.

Ron's time as CEO modernised our operations to ensure we continue to meet the needs of the blind and low vision community.

Ron was key to significant investment into our digital systems and workplace technologies, as well as refreshing the organisations culture.

In announcing his departure, Ron said it left him with a heavy heart, but the organisation is on the right path.

"It has been a remarkable 11½ years that have provided me with many career highlights, and enduring friendships for which I am very grateful. I know though, that it is now time for me to take a break," Ron said.

Bill Jolley, Vision Australia Chair, paid tribute Ron's contribution to the entire blind and low vision community.

"Ron's achievements are many
– including the expansion of our
services and advocacy for the
blind and low vision community,
in particular, the development of
our Life Ready Program and the
establishment of Know Your Vision
clinics. His leadership enabled
the creation of our Reconciliation

Action Plan and the extension of our services into Alice Springs and Broome," Bill said.

"Ron was crucial in leading the organisation through COVID with a focus on keeping clients and staff safe, supported and connected, and rebuilding a sense of optimism in the post-COVID period," he said.

"By cultivating our culture through investments in leadership development and workforce wellbeing, Ron helped create a positive culture, which is vital for our success."



Ron's passion for Vision Australia was always evident, but like everyone he had a soft spot for our Seeing Eye Dog puppies.



The 2023 Vision Australia AGM was a significant one, with Andrew Moffat completing his eight-year tenure as Chair.

Andrew was presented with a Vision Australia Award to acknowledge his service to the organisation, and said his time as Chair was made easier by the organisation's dedication to mission.

"Vision Australia is always going to go through challenging periods because of how ambitious an organisation it is, so I don't think my tenure has been uniquely blighted by that. If we want to keep moving forward as an organisation, there are going to be challenges, regardless of the external environment.

"The key thing that I think is Vision Australia's strength is that we've always known what we're there for. The mission that I was told on my first day on the Board of supporting people who are blind or have low vision to live the life they choose is still the same mission today. If you know what your purpose is, it's much easier to make the decisions you need to."

# Advocacy victory improves road safety for all

Since 2018, Vision Australia has led the push for electric and other quiet vehicles to be required by law to emit a safety sound when travelling at low speeds.

That effort was rewarded in April when it was announced that from November 2025 all electric, hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles must be fitted with an acoustic vehicle alerting system (AVAS) that functions when travelling up to 20km/h.

The announcement of the new requirement was made by Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Carol Brown and Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill Shorten at our Seeing Eye Dogs training facility in Melbourne, in acknowledgement of the key role we played in having the legislation introduced.

"It's been a long road, but through persistence and putting the safety of Australia's blind and low vision community in front of the government, we've achieved the result we wanted. We also recognise the proactive step the government has taken in expanding the requirement to include electric trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles," Chris Edwards, Vision

Australia director of government relations, advocacy and NDIS, said.



Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill Shorten (left) and Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Carol Brown (middle) joined Vision Australia's Chris Edwards and some special friends from Seeing Eye Dogs to announce the AVAS requirement for quiet vehicles.

Not only will the new legislation help people who are blind or have low vision navigate their surroundings with increased confidence, it's expected to prevent 68 fatalities, 2,675 serious injuries and 2,962 minor injuries by 2060 and is estimated it will save the Australian community \$208 million.

### Vision Australia Library celebrates the old and new

The past year marked a significant milestone for the Vision Australia Library, with the Feelix Library service celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The Feelix Library was the world's first sensory library and over the past two decades has played a vital role in supporting countless children who are blind or have low vision to develop vital literacy skills.

"Our Feelix kits have had an incredible impact on the learning journeys of so many young people, and we look forward to another 20 years of bridging the knowledge gap between children with print disabilities and their peers," Vision Australia's Vildana Praljak said.

The 20th anniversary was celebrated at a special event at the State Library of NSW, attended by past and present Feelix users, Vision Australia donors and many more. A particular highlight was to have three generations of the family of Helen Smith, who founded the Feelix Library in attendance.

The past year also saw the publication of Dressed for Success, the third instalment of Big Visions children's book series, proudly supported by The Elliott Family Trust.

Fourteen-year-old Mackenzie was a special guest speaker at the Feelix Library 20th anniversary event and gave a speech that left a lasting impression on everyone in the room.

She shared her journey with the Feelix Library from childhood, and the impact our Library has had on her literacy and braille skills.

"The Feelix Library has helped me to become independent with my talking, reading and writing in braille. I can now fully read in braille, and I love being able to read and write in braille," Mackenzie said.



Dressed for Success shares the story of Nikki Hind, Australia's first blind fashion designer, whose journey is detailed in the book in hopes of inspiring other young people who are blind or have low vision to dream big, while educating their parents, teachers and peers about what people who are blind or have low vision can achieve.

"After suffering permanent vision loss due to a stroke, I was left shocked and wondering what to do," Nikki said.

"Many doors that had previously been open for me were slammed shut, and I was advised by medical professionals and others that pursuing a career in fashion design was not achievable for me.

"However, I thought back to how fashion made me feel when I was growing up; it transported me to a creative and happy place, while giving me a sense of purpose. That's a feeling that I wanted to reclaim, so I decided to pursue it despite what other people told me."



Following the launch of Dressed for Success, there's now three Big Visions books on shelves in libraries, classrooms and homes across Australia, helping children and their families understand what people who are blind or have low vision can achieve.

# Digital Access expands industry-leading training

Long respected as industry leaders, our Digital Access team are now reaching more people thanks to a revamp of their training offering.

After a surge in demand for their inperson accessibility training, the team marked Global Accessibility Awareness Day in May by unveiling brand new on-demand training courses.

Delivered via a fully accessible e-learning platform, the courses allow designers, creatives and other professionals to access the training whenever and from wherever they want.

So far, the team have launched four paid course options covering alt-text and colour accessibility, as well as a free introduction to digital accessibility course.

The on-demand offering has had a strong reception, with more than 800 individuals enrolling in the course offerings, a number that is expected to grow as more courses are rolled out in the coming months.



The more than 39,000 people like Daphne we have supported in the past year is our biggest achievement.

Daphne lives with both macular degeneration and Charles Bonnet syndrome, but isn't letting that hold her back, even at age 86.

Daphne is Quality Living Group and Telelink participant, which have helped her build her social and support networks.

Working with our service providers, Daphne's also made the most of tactile markers, talking clocks and other aids to keep her independent at home.

Making the biggest difference for Daphne has been receiving electric magnifiers and training in how to use them to help her read and access information at home and in the community.

"I have one [a magnifier] right beside me on the table, it's great! I have a smaller one as well on the other side of me. I have a little one I can take with me in my purse. The bigger one is especially useful, I can't read without them."

# Carols by Candlelight makes history

We've always known that Carols by Candlelight is the best show on Christmas Eve, but that's now been proven with the 2023 production nominated for its first ever Logie in the Best Entertainment Program category.

This nomination wouldn't have been possible without the dedication, passion, and talent that every single producer, performer, and staff member from Channel 9, Arts Centre Melbourne and all our partners brought to the production.

Last year's production again featured many of the performers that our Carols faithful know and love, but we were also excited to have Australian music legend Paul Kelly and up-and-coming star G Flip take to the stage in front of another sell-out crowd. Households across Australia also enjoyed all the production had to offer, with it being the highest rated free-to-air broadcast in December.

Perhaps most importantly though was that Carols achieved its goal of raising vital funds for Vision Australia.

Thanks to the generosity of 8,224 donors, Carols raised more than \$1m in 2023 that goes directly to supporting thousands of children and young people across Australia receive specialist blindness and low vision services.



The Sidney Myer Music Bowl was again the hottest ticket in town on Christmas Eve, as a jam-packed crowd took in the Christmas tradition that is Carols by Candlelight.

Along with all the magic on stage, the support of our presenting partner AAMI helped spread the Christmas cheer for those in attendance thanks to their Roadside Cheer Assist team and other activations through the night.

### Seeing Eye Dogs takes canine care to new levels

Our Seeing Eye Dogs operation has taken another step as an industry leader, with significant improvements to our Kensington HQ.

Following an extended period of research and construction, our new Dog Care Centre opened in April.

The project was initiated by Dr Nicola Cotton, veterinary and reproduction manager, and Kat Kakafikas, dog wellbeing and adoption services manager.

"The refurbished area includes significant improvements to enhance the day-to-day lives of our Seeing Eye Dogs in training - including climate control, increased natural light and easy to clean surfaces," Dr Cotton said.

"Each of the 14 kennels are equipped with its own self-drainage system, inside and outside areas, eight have open façade's and six have part private façade to cater for the dogs' individual preference, automated dog-toileting doors and designed for ease of use, for staff and dogs alike."

Making the Dog Care Centre even more exciting is that the design and construction was completely funded through the generosity of our dedicated supporters.

More than \$700,000 was donated by our major donors to fund the

project and we were thrilled to invite those generous individuals and our corporate supporters to the grand opening on the eve of International Guide Dog Day.



Long-time supporters such as the Archibald family, were among the VIPs at the official opening of the Seeing Eye Dogs Dog Care Centre.

The industry-leading facility would not have been possible without the generosity of donors like the Archibald's, whose contributions funded the design and construction of the facility. The team at Seeing Eye Dogs have also had another successful year when it comes to their core mission of breeding, training and matching Seeing Eye Dogs with people who are blind or have low vision.

Over the past year, there were 235 active Seeing Eye Dog handlers across Australia, the highest number of working pairs we've ever had at one time. The waitlist time for a Seeing Eye Dog also decreased to just five months, and with 42 dogs matched, FY24 was the fourth year in a row we've matched more than 40 dogs with their handlers.

One of those new handlers is Thayana, from Perth, who was matched with Seeing Eye Dog Shayla in October.

Thayana lost most of her vision in her late teens, but as she had been in Australia on a student visa, she believed she wasn't eligible for a Seeing Eye Dog.

After returning to Perth from a trip to South Africa, Thayana decided to explore what support was available, and with the help of our team was deemed eligible to receive a Seeing Eye Dog.

With Shayla by her side, Thayana is more confident than ever.

"Coming back to Perth in March 2022 I knew that I didn't want to come back the same person that I was when I was once here. I used to depend on friends to go everywhere and anywhere, I couldn't go anywhere without a friend," Thayana said.

"Shayla's had a huge impact. The biggest impact she's had is that she's given me my independence back, I'm able to leave my house and go somewhere I want to now. I get a lot of interaction with people. She brings out that side of me, being able to talk to and interact with strangers."

The pipeline of future Seeing Eye Dogs is also strong, with more than 200 puppies born through the Seeing Eye Dogs program in the past year.



### Specialist equipment in the hands of those who need it

Despite challenging economic conditions, Vision Australia's retail operations have again performed strongly and ensured people who are blind or have low vision are able to access the specialist technology, living aids and other equipment they need.

Over the past 12 months, our Vision Store has supplied more than 121,000 assistive technologies, daily living aids, and recreational products to people across Australia, while our Vision Store coordinators provided expert advice to more than 36,400 customers.

This increased focus on personalised service has meant our clients and customers are achieving better outcomes when sourcing equipment solutions from the Vision Store. Our partnership with Blind Low Vision NZ to provide New Zealanders with access to our extensive Vision Store range is also gaining strength. In the past year, we had over 1,700 customers in New Zealand, who purchased nearly 6,500 pieces of equipment.

Our Quantum RLV sub-division also performed strongly throughout the year, particularly in their dealings with government. Multiple federal departments placed large-scale orders for assistive software, which is not only a great revenue stream, but also means more public-sector workplaces are becoming accessible for people who are blind or have low vision.

Vision Store staff, such as Toni Oldfield, right, are playing an increasingly important role in ensuring our clients and customers are supplied with the equipment that suits their needs. Portable magnifiers, like the one Toni is demonstrating here, are just some of the many thousands of pieces of equipment that Toni and her colleagues have recommended in the past year.



### Next steps in supporting First Nations Australians

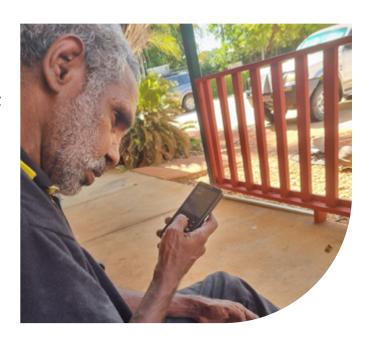
Over the past 12 months, Vision Australia has taken a number of significant steps as we strive to better connect with and support First Nations peoples across Australia.

With much of the work we are doing in this space guided by our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), it was pleasing that our Innovate RAP was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia in October.

With the RAP serving as a reference point for our entire ogranisation, our teams across Australia have been energised in their work to meet the needs of First Nations clients and also create a culturally safe and respectful organisation for our workforce, suppliers, supporters, and other partners.

On the ground, we recently marked one year in Broome through our partnership with Lions Outback Vision. Our work in Broome has replicated the relationship building approach we first took in Alice Springs, ensuring we develop trust and respect with the local community before moving onto service delivery.

This approach has resulted in the establishment of a strong client base in Broome and surrounding region with referrals increasing monthly.



Mark is one of the many people we've supported since establishing a permanent presence in Broome.

Vision Australia vision rehabilitation consultant Renee Rich has worked directly with Mark to help him learn a number of important skills.

"Mark is one of my First Nations clients who is completely blind. He has come a long way with a new phone, a BlindShell 2, and he has been receiving training in using his mobility cane," Renee said.

"With his phone he is able to call family and friends and it also gives him some independence by being able to call a taxi and other services like support workers.

"Witnessing the transformation in individuals like Mark is a testament to the immensely rewarding nature of our work in Broome." Pleasingly, our client footprint continues to grow in central Australia, particularly as we continue to form stronger bonds with communities outside of Alice Springs. One highlight was a visit to Ampilatwatja, a community approximately 350km north of Alice Springs, where our team was able co-facilitate a cooking session at the local school, and participate in a combined occupational therapy and dietitian session.

We have also undertaken extensive work to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the NSW Spectacles Program. The program participated in the development of an advocacy plan by Aboriginal Eye Health for NSW and also attended eye health meetings in western NSW.

This work helped the program provide 9,214 optical aids to Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people in NSW, a significant increase on the 6,308 supplied in the previous year.



A key part of our broader First Nations Australians project is to create a culturally safe workplace, through better connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations and education for our workforce.

Important to that is acknowledging and participating in events such as National Reconciliation Week (NRW). For NRW in June, we were thrilled to be joined at Kooyong by a number of special guests including Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Julieanne Axford, Kiernan Ironfield of the Dharug People, First Nations woman Nartarsha Bamblett and Yorta Yorta woman Holly McLennan-Brown.

Holly is pictured here at Kooyong alongside the "Working Together (Yapaneyepuk)" artwork she designed to support our RAP, which we have further integrated into our uniforms and other materials over the past year.

# New approach to reducing refusals

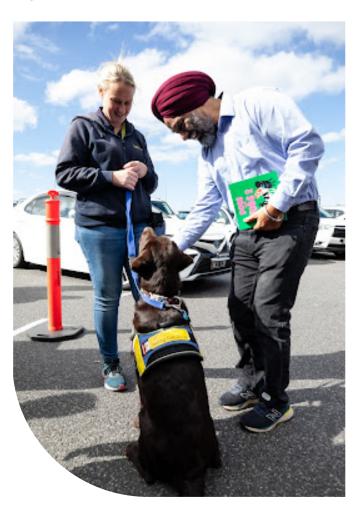
The issue of Seeing Eye Dogs and other dog guides being refused from taxi and rideshare vehicles hasn't been solved in the past year, but a new approach is showing positive signs.

An increasingly collaborative approach between Vision Australia and other key bodies in the point-to-point transport sector has resulted in drivers becoming better educated about the legal requirements to accept assistance animals into their vehicles.

In Victoria, Vision Australia's Chris Edwards and fellow Seeing Eye Dog handlers Britnee and Vicki, starred in a campaign produced by Safe Transport Victoria (STV) for the state's taxi and rideshare drivers that clearly outlines the rights of Seeing Eye Dogs to enter those vehicles.

We also again joined STV for a special event at Melbourne Airport, where taxi and rideshare drivers had the opportunity to speak with Seeing Eye Dog handlers and staff to learn about the training our dogs undergo and why it's vital to not refuse a Seeing Eye Dog and their handler.

We were also excited to partner with Uber on a new training video for their drivers, which features Chris Edwards and Seeing Eye Dog handler Kristen. All Uber drivers, new and existing, are required to view the video and complete a training module about Seeing Eye Dog Access rights to be able to accept Uber fares.



Thanks to our ongoing work with Safe Transport Victoria, taxi and rideshare drivers at Melbourne Airport had the chance to meet two and four-legged members of the Seeing Eye Dogs team to help address any concerns and confusions they may have about the rights of Seeing Eye Dogs to travel in their vehicles.



Once again, our Seeing Eye Dog puppies proved to be an effective tool for opening doors with even the biggest decision makers.

Here, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese holds a Seeing Eye Dogs puppy with Minister for the NDIS Bill Shorten and Vision Australia's Chris Edwards at our annual Pups in Parliament event at Parliament House in Canberra.

As always, the event was the talk of Parliament and was well attended by Members of Parliament from all parties, allowing us to raise a number of key issues on behalf of the blind and low vision community.

# Bringing information to life for our community

Whether it's braille, audio or large print, the past year has been another mammoth effort by many of our teams to ensure people who are blind or have low vision can connect with and access information like the wider community.

Over the 12 months, our Print Access team has turned an amazing 185,000 pages of information into alternate formats, allowing our clients equal access to information for recreation, education, health and wellbeing.

On the education front, the team worked with more than 25 universities, schools and educational assessment agencies who requested braille, tactile, e-text and large print materials for their students. This translated into more than 5,400 pages of educational materials being produced to ensure blind and low vision students can learn and study independently.

The team have also collaborated with other businesses, government bodies, and cultural and educational institutions, such as Australia Post, Microsoft, The Art Gallery of NSW, NSW Department of Education, the Sydney Opera House and National Museum of Australia to support them to make their materials, products and exhibitions accessible.

As always, the Vision Australia Library has again played a vital role for the blind and low vision community across Australia with nearly 550,000 books, newspapers and magazines downloaded by members in the past 12 months.

Library members also benefited from an expanded catalogue, with more than 2,500 new titles being added in the past year. These new titles spanned formats and age groups, with 150 embossed braille books, 2,000 audio books and 39 Feelix Library books among those added to the catalogue.

Expanding the Library's offering has been a collaborative effort across the organisation, with both our Print Access and Audio Production teams producing many of the new titles.



Not only has the Library expanded its catalogue, the team have also worked hard to connect with members through a range of different events over the past year.

A particular highlight has been a number of events that support children and young people to take part alongside their family members.

Pictured above are clients and their families listening intently to palaeontologist Adele Pentland at an intergenerational storytime event in Kooyong-one of many held at Vision Australia locations throughout the year.

This year the team also ventured away from our facilities, holding special events at locations such as The Art Gallery of NSW and Sydney Zoo, where clients and their families took part in special tours, tactile activities and more!

### Pups make corporate pals

The past year was another one of strengthening relationships with our many Seeing Eye Dogs aligned corporate partners.

It was another record-breaking year for the Seeing Eye Dogs Petbarn Appeal, with the annual fundraising drive totalling \$1,359,755 – the second straight year the fundraising record has been exceeded.

Now in its 11th year, the Appeal has collectively funded the equivalent of nearly 180 Seeing Eye Dogs. As always, we can't thank the Petbarn team enough for their efforts to support our Seeing Eye Dogs operations. Not only do in-store Petbarn staff drive the bulk of donations through their enthusiasm and passion, this year Petbarn

also held a donation-doubling day during the appeal where the Petbarn Foundation matched up to \$100,000 worth of donations.

While the appeal is held mid-year, it's always a priority for us, with our Corporate Partnerships and Seeing Eye Dogs teams working with their Petbarn Foundation counterparts year-round to make it a success.

This year the appeal was also supported by our other valued partners in Royal Canin and Zoetis, who contributed \$50,000 and \$20,000 respectively.

Pleasingly, we have also extended our partnerships with both Royal Canin and Zoetis, meaning the two will continue to support the health and welfare of our Seeing Eye Dogs.



Thanks to a partnership that grows stronger each year, the Petbarn Foundation Seeing Eye Dogs appeal raised a record breaking \$1,359,755 in 2024 – meaning smiles all-round at the cheque presentation at Petbarn's Sydney headquarters!

#### Our supporters

#### Another year of generosity

The past 12 months have again highlighted the unwavering commitment to Vision Australia by supporters across Australia.

Over the past year, our collective fundraising efforts totalled gross revenue of \$46.7 million. Of that total, \$11.4 million came from more than 30,000 regular givers, while \$18.8 million was left in bequests. As always, we owe sincere thanks to those who generously commit to a monthly donation, and to those who choose to leave Vision Australia a gift in their will.

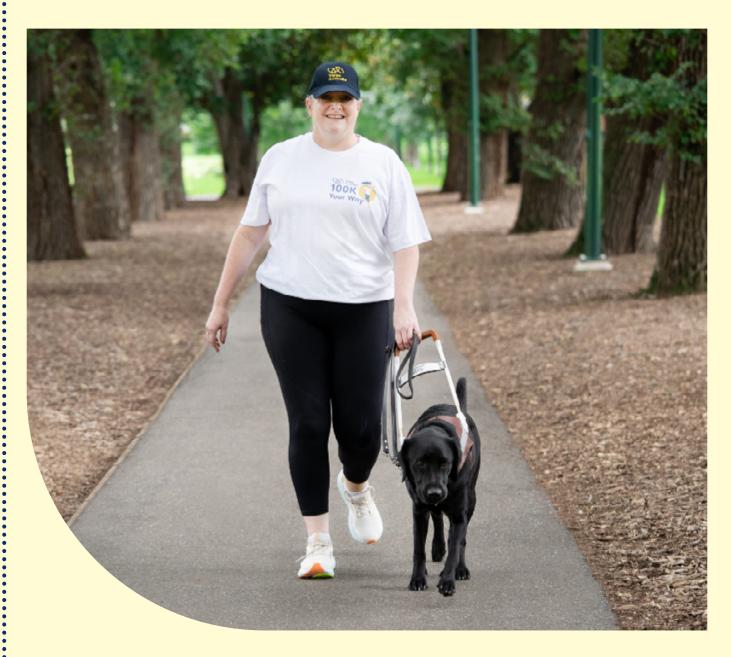
While our longstanding fundraising practices remain sound, we

embarked on a number of new philanthropic initiatives over the year that proved to be successful.

As part of the lead up to Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve, we launched our inaugural Santa Fun Run in Melbourne in November. Supported by our partners at Brooks Running, AAMI, Sole Motive, and Nine Network the event was a success with hundreds of Santacostumed runners taking over The Tan Track in Melbourne. With the first Santa Fun Run raising more than \$40,000 and proving popular, we're now planning to hold the event in both Melbourne and Sydney.



Our first ever Santa Fun Run proved a hit with runners of all ages and abilities and was the perfect way to kickstart the festive season and buzz around Carols by Candlelight.



The 100k Your Way fundraising drive returned with a bang in April, as people across Australia walked, ran, swam, rolled or cycled in support of Vision Australia.

This year, 982 people like Sophie, pictured here with Seeing Eye Dog Winnie and racked up more than 55,000km.

With that many people involved and that many kilometres under their belt, it was no surprise that the fundraising total over the month was more than \$120,000 – much higher than our target!

"The support I've received from Vision Australia and Seeing Eye Dogs has changed my life. From when I received my first visibility cane, to going through training with my second Seeing Eye Dog, I have felt so welcomed, heard and valued," Sophie said.

"I have always been independent, which can be challenging when you live with limited sight. For me, it feels horrible having to ask for assistance, but at Seeing Eye Dogs I have never felt uncomfortable doing so."

#### Fundraising goes international!

Vision Australia's philanthropy had an international flavour to it this year, with a group of intrepid fundraisers taking on New Zealand's Queen Charlotte track for our first ever Trek For Vision NZ.

A group of 16 trekkers, including Vision Australia staff, clients and corporate supporters (and one Seeing Eye Dog) tackled the 60km trek over five days and raised an impressive \$75,000 in support of Vision Australia Radio and our Quality Living Group service.

Following the success of the first trek, planning is well underway for the 2025 trek that will again head to New Zealand, this time taking on the Abel Tasman Track.



The Trek for Vision team, made up of Vision Australia staff, clients and supporters not only raised much needed funds for Vision Australia, they also got to experience some of New Zealand's best scenery along the Queen Charlotte track.



Staying connected with our donors is a vital part of the work of our philanthropy team, and our Iris Circle events are always key dates on the calendar.

Over the last year we used events in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to highlight to our donors the work we have done through our Life Ready, Older Australians and Seeing Eye Dogs programs.

In the past year, more than 250 supporters joined our Iris Circle events.

Not only do these events allow our donors to learn more about the work their support makes possible, but they also let us say thank you, as Gifts in Wills Manager Nigel Mapes, left, is doing here with Iris Circle member Rusty.

# Dedication and commitment from our volunteers

Each and every Vision Australia volunteer plays a vital role in how we're able to support people who are blind or have low vision across Australia.

In the last 12 months, we were fortunate to be supported by more than 1,600 volunteers across all areas of Vision Australia!

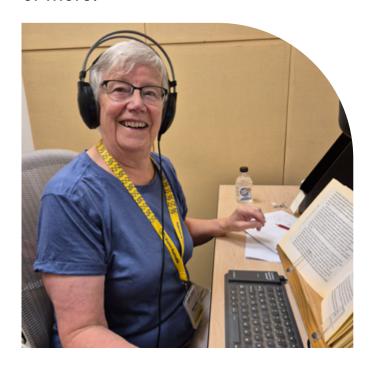
Over the past year, our volunteers have given an amazing amount of their time to Vision Australia, including more than:

- 28,000 hours of back-office support
- 23,000 hours of support for our client services teams
- 3,000 hours supporting our fundraising efforts
- 36,000 hours producing, presenting and more with Vision Australia Radio.

Every week, our volunteers have a direct positive impact in the lives of our clients, as shown by the 17,484 hours of Telelink sessions they facilitated or the 49,709 hours of recreation and community activities they supported in the past year.

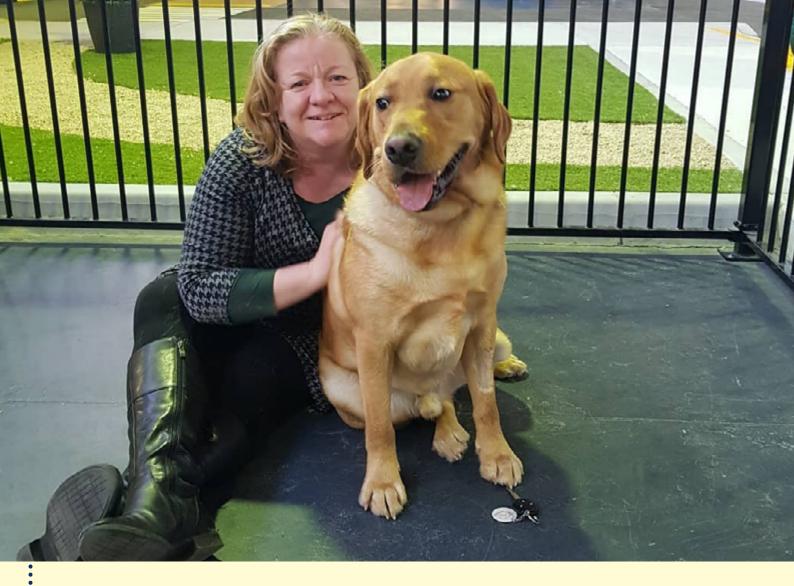
While we're grateful for every one of our volunteers, we owe a special thanks to our long-serving volunteers. We have 318 volunteers

who have been volunteering with us for 10 or more years, 22 of whom have been volunteering for 30 years. or more.



Along with their dedication, one of the things we love about our volunteers is how they always come with a smile on their faces!

Pictured here is Morag, who recently marked 20 years as a Vision Australia volunteer. Volunteer narrators like Morag make it possible for our clients to access a wide range of written information, whether that be books, magazines, newspapers and much more!



With more than 200 puppies born each year through our Seeing Eye Dogs program, there's always a pressing need for puppy carers.

Each year, more than 600 people join our caring program across Australia on a short and long-term basis and play a vital role in the training and development of Seeing Eye Dogs.

Every year we welcome many new carers to our ranks, but some of our most dedicated volunteers are repeat puppy carers, like Emma (pictured above with Seeing Eye Dog Apollo who she cared for).

This year, Emma marked a decade of being a puppy carer in which she's cared for 10 pups.

While that means Emma's had to say goodbye to 10 pups, she said it's all worth it.

"Every puppy is different. They all have their own personalities and challenges. They all develop in different ways. I love to see them learn." she said.

"I see the start of the process with the foolish, silly puppies doing zoomies and bouncing around like ping pong balls and then suddenly, they're a serious working dog. It's amazing also seeing the connection when you see a working team.

"It is really rewarding, fantastic to be even a small part of the program. The puppies are funny, so joyful and entertaining."

# Bringing the voice of Vision Australia to air!

Reaching 400,000 listeners each month, Vision Australia Radio wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the volunteer teams across our studios.

Whether in front of the microphone or behind the scenes, more than 36,000 volunteer hours have been contributed to producing and presenting Vision Australia Radio programming over the past year.

Excitingly, many of those hours were dedicated to bringing a range of new programs to air.

On the sporting front, AFL fans welcomed 'Reading The Play' each week, which not only covered the AFL premiership, but also delved into the AFLW and other inclusive forms of the sport that have been established in recent years.

From our Perth studio came 'In Plain Sight', a podcast series from volunteer Simon Chong, who bought his lived experience to a series of interviews highlighting individuals and issues relating to the blind and low vision community.

In Melbourne, our team partnered with students from the Swinburne University of Technology for a 10part youth focused program that was broadcast across the Vision Australia Radio network.

We also had an exciting milestone with our existing program, with children's show Happy Pants marking 50 episodes on air!



The Radio team have also broadened their out-of-studio programming, with three live event broadcasts. Pictured here are Vision Australia Radio's Tess Herbert and Sam Colley broadcasting live from the Midsumma Festival in Melbourne, while the team also broadcast live from the Australian Open and Adelaide Christmas pageant.

#### Supporter recognition

Meet our corporate partners and fundraising committees, as well as the many wonderful individuals, trusts, foundations and businesses who have each supported us by donating more than \$10,000 this year. We also thank all the generous donors who choose to remain anonymous.

#### Gifts in Wills from the estate of

Beatrice Abrahams Mary Douglas

Vera Clarice Adams Neville Ellis

William Angus Kathleen Fairweather

Helen Bentley Barry Finigan

Edna Bird Gwenda Fitzgerald

Denis Bradley Peter Fox

Marguerite Brose Una Fraser

Robert Campbell Nadina Frybor

Linda Campbell Marilena Grieci

Peter Carroll-Held Patricia Hain

Antoinette Caspersz Mandy Hennessy

Monica Connolly Barbara Hopkins

Terence Cooper Margaret Horniman

Rosemary Cork Connie Johnson

Patrizia Coulter John Kennedy

Kenneth Coxon Jannine Lacy

Michael Cross Audrey Lawson

Valda Currell Brigita Lazdins

Thelma Davidson Perri Letford

Moira Decleva Ross Lindsay

Yvonne Doig Beverley Loades

Derek Lowe Brian Stewart

Margaret Lundie William Stewart

Caroline Lyons Keith Sullivan

Brenda Macdougall Phyllis Sullivan

Barbara Merylin Manton James Sunter

Annette Marskell Maurice Swift

Samuel Miller Anne Tamvakis

Sally Mitchell Norma Thomas

Alexander Moran Tess Tilburn

Thomas Morgan Phyllis Toy

Timothy Morgan Esther Tully

Frank Mortola Pamela Walker

Harold Muir Phillipa Walsh

Elizabeth Anne Murray Naomi Walton

Alan Neaves Jennifer Weight

Margaret Oliver Florence White

Fiona Payget Peter Whiting

Stanley Pendall Marjorie Wilks

Victor Perrin Annie Williams

Carole Perrin Graeme Wood

Dorothy Rintel Beryl Woodrow

Harry Robertson Stanley Wyatt

Maxwell Rowland

Allan Rowling

Mary Russell

Francis Ryan

Peter Siminton

Robert Simpson

Bryan Spencer

#### **Trusts and Foundations**

Allen & Cecilia Tye Fund

Amy Irene Christina Ostberg Estate

Arthur Leonard Raper Charitable

Trust

**Bagot Gjergja Foundation** 

Bill & Jean Henson Charitable Trust

**Borrodel Bequest** 

Cameron Williams Endowment

Chasam Foundation

Clifford Abbott Davidson

Charitable Trust

David Allen Trust

Dick and Pip Smith Foundation

Donald Fraser Family Fund

**E C Blackwood Charitable Trust** 

Edith Jean Elizabeth Beggs

Charitable Trust

Edith McTaggart Charitable Trust

Eleanor Weir Vicars-Foote Estate

Eric Crawford Memorial Fund

Estate of the Late John Frederick

Wright

Estate of the Late Walter Snelling

Estate of the Late William Fernie

**Ethel Firth Trust** 

Family Frank Foundation

Flannery Foundation

Florance Hattersley Trust

Frank & Sybil Richardson Charitable

Trust

Frederick Shepherd Trust

**G&O Mulcahy Barnett Family** 

Foundation

**Gandel Foundation** 

**Gaudry Foundation** 

**Gregory Patrick & Marie Dolores** 

Farrell Foundation

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Henry James Francis Charitable

Trust

Ian McLeod & Madge Duncan

Perpetual Charitable Trust

James N. Kirby Foundation

Jane Williamson Charitable Trust

Janet Calder MacKenzie Charitable

Trust

Kevin and Elizabeth Gorman

King Family Foundation

Kingfam Foundation

**Knappick Foundation** 

Leo and Ellen Magree Donation

Leslie Francis Gill Trust

Lily Maude Payne Charitable Trust

Marjorie Scott Trust

Marrich Charitable Foundation

Olive Woods Trust

Oscar William Eschenhagen Edwards Trust

Perpetual Foundation

Perpetual Foundation - Sibley Endowment

Philandron Foundation

S.T.A.F. - Lockwood Murray Hogben Bequest

S.T.A.F. - Frederick John Banbury

S.T.A.F. - John & Sylvia Lindsay Donation

S.T.A.F. - Judith De Garrood Donation

S.T.A.F. - Thomas James Malcolmson & Winifred Gleeson

Serp Hills Foundation

TG & JM Matthews Foundation

The Benjamin Slome Charitable Foundation

The Curavis Fund

The Edith Kemp Memorial Trust Fund

The Elliott Family Trust

The Giuseppe Divola and Rosaria Divola Bequest

The Hanna-Fisher Family Trust

The Hardie Family Bequest

The Hargrove Foundation

The Honda Foundation

The Howard Glover Perpetual Charitable Trust

The J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust

The John and Elizabeth Woodrow Memorial Fund

The JOPA Charitable Trust

The Kemvan Trust

The Lady (Mary) Fairfax Charitable
Trust

The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation

The Mudford Fund for Young People

The Muffin Foundation

The Orloff Family Foundation

The Russell Vontom Charitable Trust

The Sally Sinisoff Trust Fund

The Vernon Sinclair Fund

The William Mansel Higgins & Dorothy Higgins Charitable Trust

The Woodend Foundation

Urquhart Charitable Fund

William Andrew Bon Charitable Trust

#### Registered clubs

Club Parramatta

DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club

Holman Barnes Group

Illawarra Master Builders Club

#### **Individuals**

Lorna Allingham

Mr L & Mrs A Browne

Mr B & Mrs N Callaghan

Mr D & Mrs A Craig

Mr N & Mrs J Craven

Darren & Renee Fittler

Mr Steven Horne

Mr R Kaiser

Mr John Macleod

Mr P & Mrs J Mannix

In memory of Anne Marie

Mrs R Mckeown

Winsome McPherson

Ann Miller AM

Mr D & Mrs J Milston

Mr Bill Mudford

Mr P Okkerse

Clare & Richard Opie

Mr G Painton

Lynette Pilmer

Mrs N Quinlivan

Mrs Sharon Roberts

Mr B & Mrs J Royle

Mr M Schroder

Ms Jane Sheridan

Ms Valma Steward

Mr R Talbot

P Taylor

Mr R Trestrail

#### **Organisations**

Focus Eye Care Studio

Local: Residential

Specsavers Pty Ltd

Vivienne Court Trading Pty Ltd

# Community fundraisers who raised more than \$5,000

**GTB Engineering** 

Sachdev Family

Sara Watts

Lauren Peroni

Charlie Hughes

Caroline Waldron

Juliet Middleton

Vaughan Roles

Karen Pritchard

Kate Leaversuch

Henry Macphillamy

**Amy Wang** 

### Carols by Candlelight corporate partners

Presenting partner

**AAMI** 

**Broadcast partner** 

**Channel Nine** 

Venue partner

Arts Centre Melbourne

Season partner

**IGA** 

Christmas partner

Migration

**Accommodation partner** 

Marriott International

Media partners

Herald Sun

3AW

Smooth FM

**QMS** 

Vision Australia Radio

Supporting partners

**Squealing Pig** 

**TEG Entertainment Store** 

**NAB** 

St John Ambulance

Hamper World

**Evan Evans** 

**Brooks** 

Citywide

## Seeing Eye Dogs corporate partners

Petbarn

Petbarn Foundation

**Greencross Vets** 

Royal Canin

City Farmers

**Zoetis** 

## Community fundraising partners

Australian Online Giving Foundation

**Brooks** 

Kay and Burton Foundation

made by Fressko

Lions Club International Australia

#### **Committees**

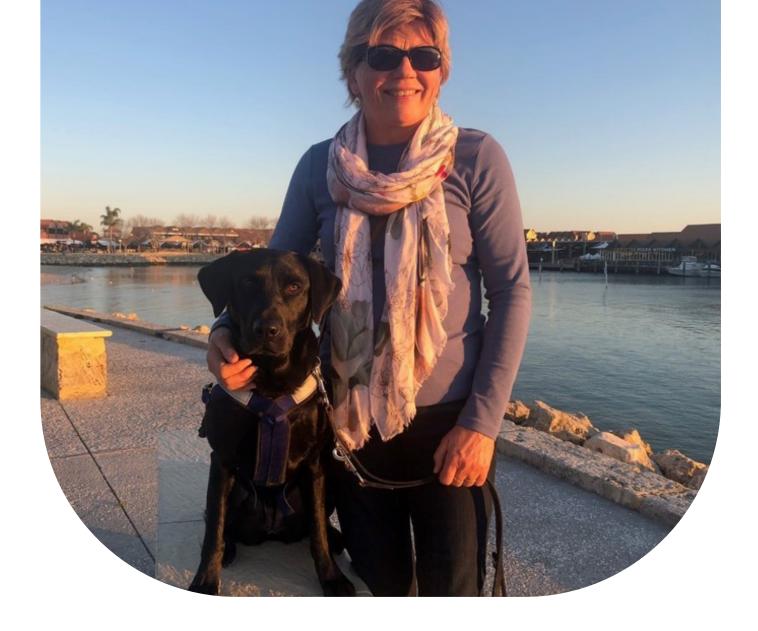
Black & White Committee of Vision Australia

Coorparoo Friends of Vision Australia

Kyneton Friends of Vision Australia

Maitland Black & White Committee

Skipton Friends of Vision Australia



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- any loss or damage suffered by any person, directly or indirectly, through use of the report, including reliance upon the information contained in the report, and any donation decisions made on the basis of its content.

#### ABN 67 108 391 831

#### Connect with us

- Commit to a regular gift
- Enter into a corporate partnership
- Volunteer with us
- Leave a bequest
- Donate now

Vision Australia 1300 84 74 66

www.visionaustralia.org info@visionaustralia.org



<u>VisionAustralia</u>



visionaustralia



@visionaustralia
O visionaustralia





in <u>vision-australia</u>

**Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs** 1800 03 77 73

www.sed.visionaustralia.org info@seda.orq.au



<u>seeingeyedogs</u>



<u>seeingeyedogsaustralia</u>



Seeing Eye Dogs

#### **Vision Australia Radio**

Tune into our radio stations on the frequencies listed below. Vision Australia Radio is also broadcast over digital stations in Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide.

New South Wales	Warragul 93.5 FM
Albury/Wodonga101.7 FM	Warrnambool 882 AM
Victoria	South Australia
Bendigo 88.7 FM	Adelaide 1197 AM/VA Radio DAB+
Geelong 99.5 FM	Western Australia
Melbourne 1179 AM/VA Radio DAB+	Perth 990AM/VA Radio DAB+
Mildura 107.5 FM	Northern Territory
Shepparton100.1 FM	DarwinVA Radio DAB+



The Vision Australia Radio Network acknowledges the advocacy and support of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, the ongoing collaborative

partnership with RPH Australia, and the Australian Government's financial support for this vital service via the Community Broadcasting Foundation.



Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.