

# Patient Information Sheet

Low Vision Services and Referral



## What is MDFA?

**Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) is the national peak body for the macular disease community in Australia.**

MDFA is committed to reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease, including age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of legal blindness in Australia.

MDFA provides up-to-date information, guidance and support for all macular diseases including AMD, diabetic eye disease, retinal vein occlusion and macular dystrophies.

**MDFA represents the macular disease community by:**

- Increasing awareness of macular disease
- Providing accurate, specific, current and ongoing information
- Providing and facilitating access to relevant support services
- Supporting and pursuing research.

## What services does MDFA provide?

**MDFA can assist people living with macular disease, their families and carers with:**

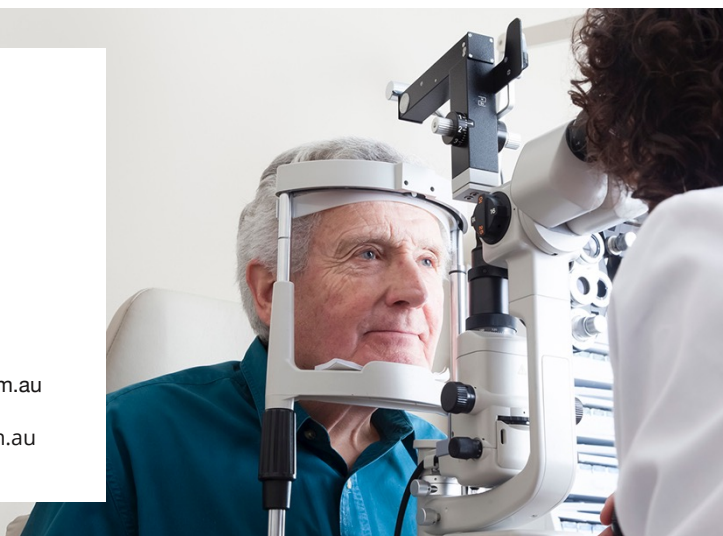
- Disease information
- Diet and lifestyle advice tailored to where the patient is in their disease journey
- Advice on accessing low vision services
- Help navigating government supports and subsidies
- Assistance in connecting people with support services in their local communities
- Information and assistance in locating local transport options
- Free education sessions to community groups and online – to register, visit [www.mdfoundation.com.au/education-sessions](http://www.mdfoundation.com.au/education-sessions)

**MDFA offers a range of peer support programs, including over the phone, digital and face-to-face peer support groups. Call MDFA's National Helpline on 1800 111 709 for more info.**



## MDFA Contact Details

- ☎ Phone: 1800 111 709
- 🌐 Website: [www.mdfoundation.com.au](http://www.mdfoundation.com.au)
- ✉ Email: [info@mdfoundation.com.au](mailto:info@mdfoundation.com.au)



## What is Glaucoma Australia?

**Glaucoma Australia (GA)** is the peak eye health charity and primary referral source for people with glaucoma, people at risk of glaucoma, eye health care professionals, the ophthalmic industry and community.

Our vision is for Australians to be free of glaucoma blindness and our primary focus is to save sight by increasing early detection and improving treatment adherence.

Our patient support journey is aligned to a collaborative care model and is the key to saving sight for the 300,000 Australians impacted by glaucoma. All service provision and research is framed around finding the 50% of people who are currently undiagnosed and supporting those already diagnosed.

## What services does Glaucoma Australia provide?

### To increase glaucoma DETECTION

GA promote ongoing awareness campaigns designed to drive 'at risk' testing by an optometrist every 2 years from age 50 or 40 for those with a family history of glaucoma. The primary aim is to find and diagnose people with glaucoma before preventable but irreversible sight life has occurred.

### To DEFEAT glaucoma blindness

**GA provide a free patient education and support service which is tailored to specific stages.**

**Stage 1 - Suspected diagnosis**

**Stage 2 – Confirmed Initial diagnosis**

**Stage 3 – First 12 months post diagnosis**

**Stage 4 – Living with Glaucoma**

### GA work to 'save sight' by providing best practice Glaucoma disease information, education, support and research on:

- Appointment and Treatment
  - options
  - requirements
  - adherence
- Peer support
  - phone
  - email
  - social media
  - face-to-face
- Monthly news
- Update to date website
- Diet and lifestyle advice
- Health professional advice
- Ongoing research





**Glaucoma Australia**  
Contact Details

☎ National Helpline: 1800 500 880

🌐 Website: [www.glaucoma.org.au](http://www.glaucoma.org.au)

✉ Email: [glaucoma@glaucoma.org.au](mailto:glaucoma@glaucoma.org.au)

📘 [www.facebook.com/glaucoma.australia/](https://www.facebook.com/glaucoma.australia/)

## What is Vision Australia?

Vision Australia is the largest national provider of blindness and low vision services with approximately 28 sites across Australia. We help people of all ages, from new born's through to retirement age, develop new skills to live the lives they choose. We do this through our suite of specialised services. We adapt to a client's changing needs throughout their journey with us using appropriate aids, equipment and by teaching new skills.

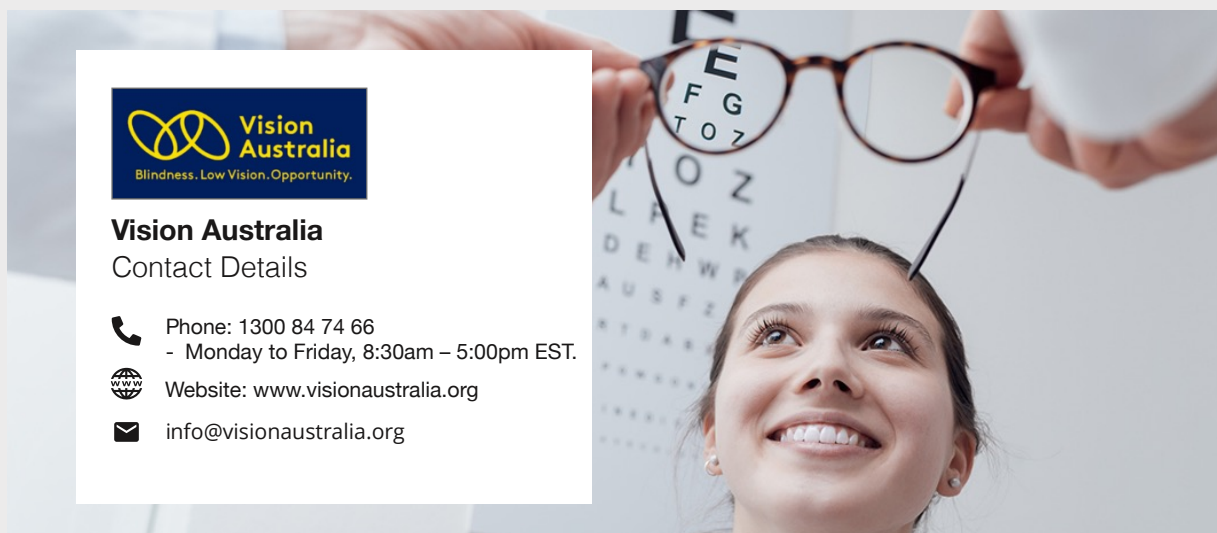
### Our main focus for our clients revolves around:


- Independence
- employment
- education
- social inclusion.

We will also help clients access government funding such as My Aged Care or NDIS for which they are eligible. This funding can then be used for services, aids and equipment.

## What services does Vision Australia provide?

- Emotional Support and groups for social inclusion
- Occupational Therapy for independence
- Mobility specialists to stay safe and get around
- Orthoptists to assess functional vision and make recommendations
- Education and employment support to achieve aspirations
- Aids and equipment from our retail shop to improve daily living
- Technology and training to stay connected
- Early intervention, children's and adolescents specialised services
- Seeing Eye Dogs for independence
- Audio books and on line library for leisure and learning
- Helpful information and advice
- My Aged Care and NDIS expertise to maximise funding





**Vision Australia**  
Contact Details

☎ Phone: 1300 84 74 66  
- Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm EST.

🌐 Website: [www.visionaustralia.org](http://www.visionaustralia.org)

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