

Glaucoma Australia
Saving sight

40 YEARS
1986-2026

40 years of **protecting sight and changing lives**

ANNUAL REPORT 2026







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40 years of impact:

One Purpose

40 YEARS
1986-2026

For 40 years, Glaucoma Australia has turned knowledge, support and action into better outcomes for people affected by glaucoma. This year, that work continued to make a difference.

Supporting people

28%
increase in demand for our services

82%
treatment adherance rate

92%
compliance with clincial appointments

Building connection

12
Live Q&A events hosted

6000+
attendees

3225
Facebook community members

Advancing glaucoma care

$2+ MILLION
invested in glaucoma research

Building a sustainable future

$2.5 MILLION
in funds raised (includes bequests)

Every number tells a story - of a person supported, a connection made or a step towards a future where fewer Australians lose their sight unnecessarily.

40 YEARS BEHIND US.
A NEW CHAPTER AHEAD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is a privilege to present this year's Annual Report as we celebrate an extraordinary milestone - **40 years of Glaucoma Australia protecting sight and changing lives.**

For four decades, Glaucoma Australia has stood alongside Australians affected by glaucoma, providing trusted information, education and support, while advocating for earlier detection, better treatment and improved care. What began 40 years ago as a response to the challenges of glaucoma has grown into a national organisation supporting people living with the disease and helping shape the future of glaucoma care across Australia.

Our 40th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, while looking ahead to what is possible. Over the past year, we have strengthened our focus on the needs of the glaucoma community and further established our role as **Australia's national peak body for glaucoma.**

Meeting so many of you, both in person and online, has reminded us of the privilege of leading an organisation with such a strong sense of purpose. We are fortunate to work alongside a dedicated and talented team, as well as a wider community of patients, families, clinicians, researchers, volunteers, partners and supporters who contribute their expertise, experience and passion to our work.

As we enter our fifth decade, we are laying the foundations for an exciting new chapter. Together with our partners across the eye health sector, care providers, researchers, industry and government, we are working to transform the way glaucoma is understood, detected and managed across Australia.

At the heart of this work is our recently-launched **National Action Plan for Glaucoma** - a coordinated, evidence-based strategy to improve early detection, strengthen access to treatment and care, address inequities and ultimately reduce preventable sight loss from glaucoma.

Our goal is simple: better outcomes for every person affected by glaucoma.

We will work towards this by empowering people with glaucoma and those at risk, supporting health professionals, investing in research, advocating for change and bringing together the many people and organisations with a role to play in improving glaucoma care.

As we celebrate 40 years, we look back with deep gratitude for the many people who have shaped Glaucoma Australia and made its work possible. Your belief in our mission, generosity and commitment have helped build the organisation we are today. From patients and families to volunteers, clinicians, researchers, partners and supporters, every contribution has played a part in protecting sight and changing lives.

Our next chapter is about building on this proud legacy and turning what we have learned over the past 40 years into action for the future. Together, we can advance glaucoma care and help ensure that fewer Australians lose their sight unnecessarily.

With gratitude for the past 40 years, and optimism for the decades ahead,



William Peter Day
Chairman



Adam Check
Chief Executive Officer

40 YEARS
1986-2026

40 years of purpose. **One ambition.**

An Australia free of glaucoma



Glaucoma is one of Australia's leading causes of irreversible blindness, yet it can develop silently. An estimated 464,490 Australians live with glaucoma, and 58% are unaware*. By the time vision loss becomes apparent, permanent damage may already have occurred.

Family history is a significant risk factor, with **people who have a direct relative with glaucoma up to 10 times more likely to develop the disease.** Early detection and ongoing care are critical to protecting sight.

"...people who have a direct relative with glaucoma are up to 10 times more likely to develop the disease."

Our work focuses on four connected priorities:

DETECT
Find glaucoma earlier

SUPPORT
Help people understand and navigate glaucoma

TREAT
Ensure people stay engaged with treatment and ongoing care

PROTECT SIGHT
Drive advocacy, research and system change

** Australian Eye and Ear Health Survey (AEEHS), Prevalence of Glaucoma and undiagnosed glaucoma (aged over 50): findings from the Australian Eye and Ear Health Survey (data on file), Yang EIH et al., 2026. Estimates standardised to the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census.*

Built over 40 years.
Focused on what comes next.

Glaucoma Australia works across the glaucoma journey to help Australians understand their risk, find glaucoma earlier, access support, stay engaged with care and protect their sight.

Our work spans **five areas of impact,** creating change for individuals, families and the wider health system.

1. AWARENESS

We help Australians understand glaucoma, recognise their risk and know why regular eye examinations matter.

IMPACT **More people recognise their risk and take action.**

2. EARLY DETECTION

We encourage people at higher risk, particularly those with a family history, to have their eyes tested and support earlier detection.

IMPACT **More people are identified before significant, irreversible sight loss occurs.**

3. SUPPORT

Through SiGHTWiSE, we provide personalised information, education and support to help people understand their diagnosis and live well with glaucoma.

IMPACT **People feel informed, supported and empowered to manage their care.**

4. TREATMENT & CARE

We help people understand their treatment, stay connected with their healthcare professionals and overcome barriers to ongoing care.

IMPACT **People are better equipped to manage glaucoma throughout their lives.**

5. ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

We bring the glaucoma community together to influence policy, strengthen the health system to support research to improve prevention, detection and treatment.

IMPACT **Better evidence, stronger systems and new opportunities to protect sight.**

Together, these areas turn awareness into action - helping more Australians find glaucoma earlier, access the care they need and protect their sight.

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

A future where no Australian loses their sight to preventable glaucoma blindness.

40 years of turning awareness into action

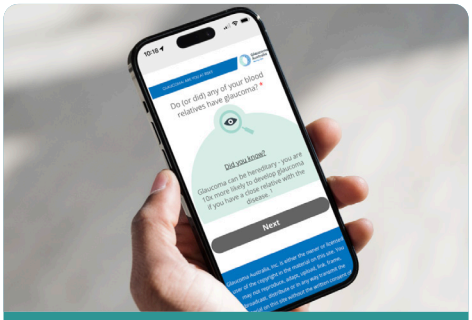
Glaucoma Australia works across the community and healthcare system to find glaucoma earlier - when there is more sight to protect. We help people understand their risk, encourage families to act, raise awareness and strengthen pathways to care.

Understanding risk

Our Risk Quiz helps people assess their potential risk based on factors including age, family history, ethnicity and other health conditions.

In 2023, more than **2,000 people completed the quiz**, with **83% identifying at least one known risk factor.** Among those who rarely or never had their eyes tested, **68% said the quiz changed their view of the importance of regular eye examinations.**

Family history is one of the strongest indicators of risk. People with a first-degree relative - parent, sibling or child - with glaucoma are around **10 times more likely to develop the disease**, with an almost **one-in-four lifetime chance**. We encourage people diagnosed with glaucoma to talk to their families about their increased risk and the importance of appropriate eye examinations. **One diagnosis can create an opportunity to protect the sight of an entire family.**



2000+
People have completed our Risk Quiz

83%
identified at least one known risk factor

68%
changed their view on eye exams

Reaching people and strengthening pathways

Because glaucoma can develop without noticeable symptoms, **awareness is critical.** Through World Glaucoma Week, digital and media campaigns, community education, social media and accessible resources, we reach people who may not recognise their risk.

Health professionals also play a vital role. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, GPs, pharmacists and others can identify people at risk and encourage appropriate assessment or referral. Glaucoma Australia works to strengthen these pathways to timely assessment, treatment and support.

Research is also opening new opportunities, including a national partnership exploring **polygenic risk scores alongside comprehensive eye examinations** to identify family members at particularly high risk, supported by recall and follow-up.

Taking glaucoma into the community

Not everyone at risk will visit an eye-care practice or recognise themselves in a traditional health campaign. We therefore take glaucoma education into community **groups, workplaces, multicultural communities, local events and partnerships** - meeting people where they live, work and connect.

Our goal is simple: reach more people at risk, give them a clear pathway to act and find glaucoma earlier. Every risk assessment, family conversation, community connection and professional referral creates an opportunity to **prevent avoidable sight loss.**

A national plan for the future

This year marked a major milestone in Glaucoma Australia's advocacy journey: the development of Australia's first National Action Plan (NAP) for glaucoma.

For too long, glaucoma has lacked a coordinated national response, despite being a leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australia and with many people remaining undiagnosed. The NAP provides a practical, **evidence-based framework to improve awareness, early detection, access to care and ongoing support.**

Glaucoma Australia brought together people living with glaucoma, clinicians, optometrists, ophthalmologists, government, industry and other health-sector stakeholders to develop this roadmap for change through extensive consultation and collaboration, with 3 national priorities:

The National Action Plan (NAP)

1 Catch glaucoma early

Increase awareness, identify people at risk and support targeted approaches to earlier detection and diagnosis.

2 Enable people to live well with glaucoma

Strengthen education, support and treatment adherence, while improving continuity of care throughout the glaucoma journey.

3 Deliver a joined-up system

Better connect patients, optometrists, ophthalmologists and other health services so people receive the right care at the right time.

SiGHTWiSE

The NAP builds on the strong foundations Glaucoma Australia has established through **SiGHTWiSE**, extending our role from supporting individuals to driving collaboration and change across the broader health system. It positions Glaucoma Australia to help coordinate the patient journey, strengthen family screening, ensure patient voices inform care, monitor outcomes and connect services that can too often operate in isolation.

The National Action Plan is an important mark in glaucoma in this country. We know what to do, and the National Action Plan is a statement of exactly how we will go about this for the benefit of those living with glaucoma, their families and their carers.

Glaucoma Australia is leading the call for action, working with governments and health-sector partners to turn these priorities into measurable improvements for people affected by glaucoma. Partnerships with RANZCO, Optometry Australia, the First Nations Eye Health Alliance, Vision 2020, clinical leaders, industry, philanthropic partners and people living with glaucoma are helping drive this work forward.

Modelling indicates that implementing the NAP could reduce the burden on the public purse by **$455 million*** **over the next decade**, while supporting a more coordinated and sustainable approach to glaucoma care.

Glaucoma Australia will continue to **advocate, collaborate and lead** to turn the NAP into action and help more Australians find glaucoma earlier, access the care they need and protect their sight.

** Source: Updated economic modelling based on Dirani et al. (2011), Economic impact of primary open-angle glaucoma in Australia; 2025 dollar values, projected 2026–2045.*

40 YEARS
1986-2026

40 years of **supporting people**

SiGHTWiSE



No-one faces glaucoma alone

A glaucoma diagnosis can be life changing, bringing uncertainty and questions about the future. Understanding a new diagnosis, starting treatment and living with a lifelong condition can be challenging.

SiGHTWiSE is Glaucoma Australia's free national patient education and support program, helping people navigate glaucoma with greater knowledge, confidence and support - from diagnosis through to ongoing management.

SiGHTWiSE connects people with Orthoptist Patient Educators and Health Counsellors who provide personalised information and support by phone and online. They take the time to understand each person's concerns, answer questions and provide guidance to help people navigate their diagnosis and care.

Managing glaucoma requires ongoing treatment and regular clinical care. SiGHTWiSE helps people understand their treatment and the importance of taking medications as prescribed and attending follow-up appointments.

Through education, practical guidance and ongoing support, the program helps people overcome barriers to care and feel more confident communicating with their eye health professionals.

> ***"Speaking with an educator gave me clarity and reassurance. Clear advice and ongoing support made managing the condition feel more manageable."***
>
> JAMES

> ***"Through Glaucoma Australia, I've gained a support network, and the information and resources I need to manage my condition long into the future... It's truly life-changing."***
>
> LEAH

> ***"Glaucoma Australia played a huge role in helping me along the road to acceptance. They treated me as a whole person – not just as a patient with glaucoma."***
>
> SHANNON

Support doesn't stop at diagnosis. SiGHTWiSE remains available as people navigate the long-term realities of glaucoma, with resources, online communities and Live Q&A sessions helping people stay informed, connected and engaged.

SiGHTWiSE **complements the care provided by ophthalmologists and optometrists,** helping people better understand their condition and take an active role in managing it.

By providing the right information, support and connection at the right time, SiGHTWiSE helps turn uncertainty into understanding and confidence - so no-one has to navigate glaucoma alone.

The difference support can make.

We have been monitoring the impact of our SiGHTWiSE patient education and support program for six years. Glaucoma Australia's Patient Impact Survey (2024) tracks and measure's five key areas: treatment adherence, appointment adherence, family testing, knowledge and anxiety.

92%

Attend recommended appointments

Patients reported attending their recommended glaucoma appointments.

82%

Adhere to prescribed treatment

Among supported patients, compared with 50% of unsupported patients six months after diagnosis and 37% three years after diagnosis.

53%

Report strong glaucoma knowledge

Rated their knowledge of glaucoma and its treatment as "Excellent" or "Above Average", up from 37% when first assessed.

89%

Inform relatives about glaucoma testing

Patients reported telling their direct relatives to get tested for glaucoma.

20%

Frequently or always feel anxious

Down from 36% when patients were first assessed by an orthoptist educator.

"Having access to information and guidance over the phone helped me manage the anxiety of receiving a glaucoma diagnosis."

DEBRA

"By speaking out, I can reassure people that there is hope. I've been through it, and hopefully others can come through it as well."

MIKE

"We found the Glaucoma Australia support line. We were in this really dark place of not knowing and we relied on them a lot during our most difficult moments."

KAYLA

Andrea's Journey

From shock to confidence



Andrea had never fully understood how serious glaucoma could be. That changed when an unexpected change in her vision led to the discovery that she was facing a medical emergency.

After returning from an overseas trip to meet her son's girlfriend and her family, Andrea noticed that something wasn't right.

"The flight back was painful, and I felt like there was something wrong with the compression in my eyes," she recalls.

"I wasn't feeling myself and I wasn't seeing clearly. When I started seeing black spots, my instinct told me I needed to get my eyes checked as soon as possible."

That decision may have saved her sight. "They said to me, 'That's a medical emergency. Get to the ophthalmologist straight away.'"

Andrea's glaucoma diagnosis came as a shock. She knew very little about the disease or what it would mean for her future. "I really didn't understand what glaucoma was," she says. "And I didn't know what I needed to do to deal with it."

The diagnosis was particularly frightening because Andrea had always been legally blind in her left eye. She wanted someone to explain what her test results meant, what her treatment involved and what she could expect in the future. Instead, she felt overwhelmed by medical terminology and a lack of information.

"I just wanted someone to explain what my eye results meant and to break everything down into language I could understand, including the many acronyms!"

Andrea was told to use eye drops twice a day and that she might need surgery one day. But she felt she had been left to understand and manage much of her diagnosis on her own.

Above: Andrea's quick action saved her sight, and she now manages glaucoma more confidently.





Finding Glaucoma Australia

The turning point came when Andrea contacted Glaucoma Australia and spoke with Natasha, one of its Orthoptist Patient Educators.

Natasha had the clinical knowledge to answer Andrea's questions, but she also took the time to listen to her fears and concerns. She explained Andrea's treatment options, helped her understand how to manage her glaucoma and gave her greater confidence in taking control of her care.

"I'll never forget the day I spoke to Natasha. She was so kind and patient, with incredible knowledge about eye health. She explained everything to me simply and clearly."

For Andrea, having someone who could explain glaucoma in a way she understood made a significant difference. "She took the time to hear my concerns, and she made me feel like no question was silly or off limits."

Natasha also checked in with Andrea regularly to see how she was coping and whether she needed further support. "With glaucoma, if you know what you're doing, you can look after your eye health and also better advocate for yourself at appointments. Knowledge is power, and that's exactly what Natasha gave me."

With a better understanding of her condition and ongoing support, Andrea is managing her glaucoma and continuing to live an active life. She is passionate about theatre and music and enjoys travelling with her husband and spending time with her close-knit family.

The couple recently took a five-week trip together. "We figured the time was now, while I can still see the beautiful oceans and landscapes."

Andrea knows that glaucoma will continue to require care and that she may need to make further adjustments in the years ahead. But she also knows where she can turn to for trusted information and guidance as her needs change.

For Andrea, staying informed is an important part of protecting her vision and maintaining the life she loves. 'With Glaucoma Australia, I always know I have an expert in my corner. Someone who will help me navigate my glaucoma journey, whatever it throws at me."

For Andrea, her glaucoma journey has been one of moving from **shock and uncertainty to knowledge, confidence and a clearer understanding of how to live well with glaucoma.**

40 years of connection and community

Glaucoma can be isolating. Connection helps people feel less alone.



A glaucoma diagnosis can bring uncertainty and difficult questions about the future. Glaucoma Australia helps people find trusted information, reassurance and connection throughout their glaucoma journey.

Through online communities, live Q&A events, Glaucoma TV, community education and information in more than 100 languages, we create opportunities for people to learn, connect with others who understand and stay engaged with their care.

Our community at a glance:

3,225 members

Facebook support communities

Peer connection, questions, shared experiences and practical support

12 events

6000 attendees

Q&A events

Opportunities to ask glaucoma-related questions directly to experts

3,170 subscribers

Glaucoma TV

Accessible educational videos, expert discussions and lived-experience stories

Tens of thousands reached

Community education

Talks, presentations and resources that build glaucoma awareness and understanding

100+ languages

Multilingual information

Glaucoma information that helps people access knowledge in their preferred language







Above: Raising glaucoma awareness across the country, one community at a time.

Finding connection online

Glaucoma Australia's Facebook support groups provide a space for people with glaucoma, and parents and families navigating childhood or congenital glaucoma, to ask questions, share experiences and learn from one another.

Members discuss everything from diagnosis and eye drops to treatment, appointments and the emotional impact of living with glaucoma. Connection turns an individual experience into a shared journey.

Bringing people and experts together

Our Q&A events connect people affected by glaucoma with ophthalmologists, optometrists, researchers and other experts. Whether attending online or watching afterwards, participants can ask questions, explore issues that may not arise during a clinical appointment and turn complex information into practical knowledge.

Glaucoma TV provides an accessible library of educational videos, expert interviews, Q&A sessions and stories from people living with glaucoma. People can learn at their own pace and return to reliable information whenever questions arise.

Taking education into the community

Through community education and presentations, we bring glaucoma information directly to the communities where people live, work and connect. These conversations help people understand glaucoma and its risk factors, recognise the importance of regular eye examinations and know where to seek further support.

Information for a diverse Australia

Our multilingual resources, available in more than 100 languages, help make essential glaucoma information accessible to culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Information in a preferred language can help people understand their diagnosis, involve family members and make informed decisions about their care.

Across every channel, our goal is to ensure people affected by glaucoma can find trusted information, meaningful connection and a community that understands.

40 years built together
People and partnerships

Glaucoma Australia's impact is made possible by people and organisations who share our commitment to preventing sight loss. From volunteers and students to clinicians, corporate partners and philanthropic supporters, our work is strengthened through collaboration across the community and health system.

Volunteers

Extending patient support

Volunteers are at the heart of Glaucoma Australia, supporting patient services, community education, events and awareness activities.

Our volunteer community continues to grow, with over 180 active volunteers. Clinical volunteers make follow-up calls to people referred to Glaucoma Australia, helping them understand their diagnosis and navigate what comes next. Their lived experience and compassion show how a simple conversation can help someone feel more informed and supported.

Student placements

Building future capability

Our student placement program is a valuable exchange. Students gain practical experience and a deeper understanding of glaucoma, while Glaucoma Australia benefits from their knowledge and contribution.

Through partnerships with UTS and La Trobe University, students contribute to patient education, data management and community support while developing communication and patient-centred skills that will shape their future practice.

Clinical partners

Extending support beyond the consulting room

Glaucoma Australia works alongside ophthalmologists, optometrists and other health professionals to strengthen support for people living with glaucoma.

Through clinical relationships and referrals into SiGHTWiSE, patients can access personalised education and support after their appointment - giving them additional time to ask questions, understand their condition and build confidence in managing their care.

Corporate and philanthropic partners

Making programs and innovation possible

Glaucoma Australia receives no government funding and relies on corporate partners, trusts, foundations, donors and supporters to deliver its work.

Their funding, expertise and networks support patient services, education, research, awareness, professional engagement and advocacy. Long-term partnerships help us build sustainable programs, reach more people and drive lasting change.

The strength of Glaucoma Australia is reflected in the network around us - the volunteer who makes a call, the student who learns from a patient, the clinician who connects someone to support and the partner who helps make our work possible.

Our Sponsors

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Together, these partnerships help Glaucoma Australia reach more people, strengthen support for patients and families, build capability across the eye-health sector and turn knowledge into action.

Every contribution adds another link to the chain of sight-saving impact.

40 years of stewardship

Governance

Glaucoma Australia is supported by a dedicated **Board, committees and members** who bring expertise, experience and a strong commitment to our purpose. Together, they provide governance, strategic guidance and specialist knowledge to help keep our work informed, accountable and focused on people affected by glaucoma.

We sincerely thank our **Board, committee members and broader membership** for their time, expertise and ongoing commitment to preventing avoidable sight loss and protecting the vision of Australians. **Together, they help turn our purpose into progress.**

Board Members



William Peter Day

LLb. (Hons), MBA, FCA, FAICD

President, Honorary Treasurer, Chair Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, Member Governance, Nominations & Compensation Committee



Lynette Klein

B.Bus. AAICD

Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Chair Governance, Nominations & Compensation Committee, Member Finance, Audit & Committee



Satish Chandar

MBA

Director, Senior Business Executive, Consultant & Advisor
Media & Digital Technology Board Advisor



Dr. David Wechsler

MB, BS, FRANZCO

Director, Ophthalmologist and Glaucoma Specialist, Chair of the Clinical Advisory Panel



Khanh Nguyen

B.Pharm, UQ

Director, Pharmacist, Co-Chair Governance, Nominations & Compensations Committee, Member of the Clinical Advisory Panel



Inez Hsing

BAppScOptom(Hons), GradCertOcTher, OACAP-G

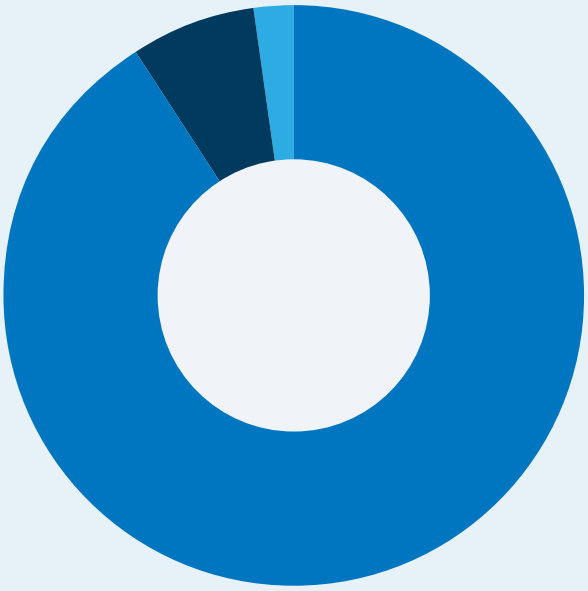
Director, Optometrist, Co-Chair of the Clinical Advisory Panel, Co-Chair Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

40 years of turning support into impact

Investing in sight-saving impact

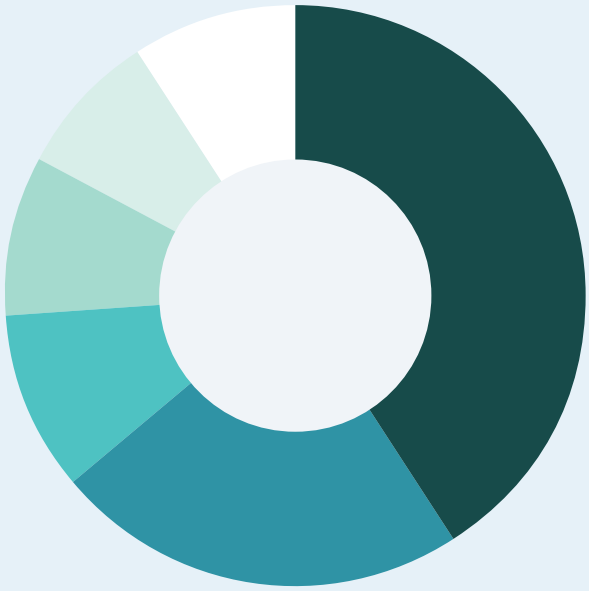
Our financials tell the story of how generous support is transformed into sight-saving impact. From fundraising and partnerships to patient support, awareness, advocacy and research, every dollar helps us work towards a future where fewer Australians lose sight from glaucoma.

Income



Fundraising	91%
Online Store	7%
Investment	2%
Government	0%

Expenditure



Patient Support Program	41%
Advocacy Program	23%
Online Store	10%
General	9%
Fundraising	8%
Quinlivan Research Fund	9%

→The full financial statement for FY2026 is available from January 2026 at **https://www.acnc.gov.au/**

40 YEARS
1986-2026

The next 40 years **starts now**

Help protect sight

Glaucoma Australia receives **no government funding**. We rely on the generosity of our donors, supporters, corporate partners and volunteers to continue providing vital education, early detection, patient support and advocacy for Australians living with or at risk of glaucoma.

You can help us continue our important work:

- Donate
- Leave a gift in your Will or In-Memory Tribute
- Become a corporate partner
- Fundraise
- Volunteer
- Raise awareness
- Share your glaucoma story

Every action matters. Every conversation can lead to earlier detection. Every person supported can be better equipped to protect their sight.

Find out how you can help:

Tel. 1800 500 880
Email. glaucoma@glaucoma.org.au

glaucoma.org.au