

# Your support in action

Glaucoma Australia Impact Report



# Strength in numbers

**SiGHTWiSE patients are way ahead in managing their glaucoma – again.**

Every July, our Patient Impact Measurement Survey is sent to our patient community to assess the effectiveness of the SiGHTWiSE patient support program.

Our most recent survey (2023) revealed that:

- 91% of patients surveyed stated they attended their recommended glaucoma appointments
- 84% of patients adhere to their prescribed treatments
- The number of patients surveyed who rated their knowledge of glaucoma and how it is treated as above average or excellent **increased by 14%** from 37% to 51% after receiving education and support through the SiGHTWiSE Program

Overall, Glaucoma Australia's patient support program consistently demonstrates that with guidance and support from our Orthoptist Educators and health counsellors, patients are less complacent with treatment and appointment adherence.

Patients are also significantly more knowledgeable about their condition and more confident managing it which leads to better treatment and eye health outcomes. 🧐



% of patients who adhere to their prescribed glaucoma treatments:

50% Non-participants

**84%**  
**SiGHTWiSE**  
**Participants**

**91%**

of SiGHTWiSE patients  
attend their recommended  
glaucoma appointments

SiGHTWiSE patients rating of  
their glaucoma knowledge as  
'Above Average or Excellent':

37% Pre-program participation

**51%**  
**Post-program**  
**participation**

## Your support in action.

**Welcome to Glaucoma Australia's Impact Report.**

Our way of thanking our donors and supporters for their invaluable contributions, this new and informative publication shares and celebrates the wonderful achievements that, together, we've been able to deliver for the glaucoma community. 🧐





# Access all areas

Breaking visual and language barriers down online.

In May 2023, Glaucoma Australia added the Recite Me assistive technology to our website, enabling visitors to access online content in a way that best suits their needs.

As part of our strategy to be the authoritative source of glaucoma education in Australia, a wide range of accessibility and language support tools are now available to visitors at the Glaucoma Australia site, enabling them to customise their digital experience.

*“The implementation of Recite Me’s innovative assistive technology has not only improved our accessibility tools, but also added over 100 foreign languages to our website allowing us to provide glaucoma information and education to even more Australians”.*

- Richard Wylie, Glaucoma Australia CEO

The Recite Me assistive toolbar includes screen reading functionality, multiple reading aids, customisable styling options and an on-demand live translation feature that boasts over 100 languages, including 65 text to speech.

Being able to offer an inclusive online experience is essential to support the 4.4 million Australians who have a disability and therefore may encounter barriers online, as well as those who speak English as a second language.



# Getting SiGHTWiSE

Glaucoma Australia’s highly successful patient support program has a new name – and look!

In 2023, Glaucoma Australia re-badged our highly successful patient support program as SiGHTWiSE. Partnered with a warm and inviting look, this new name signals a brighter future for people diagnosed with glaucoma and their families.

*“SiGHTWiSE helps eye health professionals extend their care beyond the consultation room”.*

- Richard Wylie, Glaucoma Australia CEO

Through one-on-one emotional and practical support delivered by qualified Orthoptist Educators and Health Councillors the SiGHTWiSE Program helps patients manage the anxiety of receiving a glaucoma diagnosis and supports them with their ongoing challenges by arming them with the knowledge to confidently face a future living with glaucoma.

Says Glaucoma Australia CEO Richard Wylie, “An average of 2,700 new patients join the program each year, SiGHTWiSE helps eye health professionals extend their care beyond the consultation room by assisting glaucoma patients to embark and stay on the optimal treatment course”.

Patient education has been shown to improve treatment and appointment adherence and better adherence has been linked to a better prognosis in glaucoma. The aim of SiGHTWiSE is to give the glaucoma community their best chance of achieving long-term glaucoma treatment success.



The new name signals a brighter future for people diagnosed with glaucoma and their families.





# Early warning

**Can adult glaucoma be predicted when we are young? 2023’s Quinlivan Glaucoma Research Grant recipient is on a mission to find out.**

With a commitment to continually drive improvements in eye health and glaucoma treatments, Glaucoma Australia has, to date, committed \$1.6 million in funding to the Quinlivan Research Grant Program across several integral glaucoma research projects.

As part of World Sight Day, Glaucoma Australia and its Patron, the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley, were pleased to announce the 2023 glaucoma research grant recipient, Professor David Mackey AO, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, The University of Western Australia.

A global pioneer in glaucoma genetics research, Professor Mackey and his team are now working on establishing what the normal

range of intraocular pressure (IOP) in children and young adults is, and whether it predicts later glaucoma.

*“There is surprisingly little information on eye pressure in young adults and children.”*

Although we know that middle-aged and older adults with high eye pressure are more likely to develop glaucoma, across both those with a high genetic risk of glaucoma and the general population, there is surprisingly little information on eye pressure in young adults and children, a position Lead Investigator Professor Mackey and his team are keen to rectify. ●

# The eyes have it

## Informing glaucoma policy in Canberra

As part of our mission to eliminate glaucoma blindness and provide the best possible care for people impacted by glaucoma, Glaucoma Australia is laser focused on ensuring that your voices, and the voices of health professionals, are heard by those who develop and approve health policy.

To this end, we have significantly increased our government advocacy efforts over the last 18 months with the objective to ‘influence the influencers’, maintaining a regular presence in Canberra to raise awareness and keep the needs of patients living with glaucoma top of mind.

Well supported patients not only preserve more sight, but they also reduce their reliance on the health system.

It is envisaged that this ongoing presence and increased advocacy could manifest in such vital outcomes as faster availability of new medications, access to more affordable treatments and support, and increased funding for research to influence future health spending priorities.

To date the response from all sides of politics has been very positive and we will continue to keep waving the flag for glaucoma to increase funding and improve eye health outcomes. ●



Waving the flag for glaucoma in Canberra to increase funding and improve eye health outcomes, ensuring that your voices, and the voices of health professionals, are heard by those who develop and approve health policy.



Glaucoma Australia relies on the generosity of people like yourself to continue to raise awareness about glaucoma, fund glaucoma research and provide ongoing education and support services.

We couldn't do it without the kind support we receive - thank you!



**Glaucoma  
Australia**  
Saving sight

[glaucoma.org.au](http://glaucoma.org.au)  
Free support line:  
1800 500 880