

ANNUAL REPORT



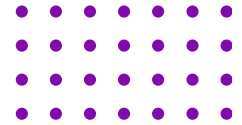
20

A YEAR OF
GROWTH & RESILIENCE

24

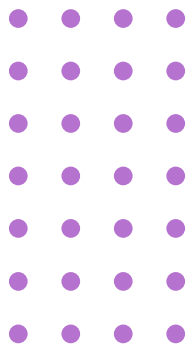


**Glaucoma
Australia**
Saving sight



Celebrating Change, Embracing the Future

Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to excellence throughout the year.



OUR IMPACT



2,767

new patients joined
SiGHTWiSE

2,200+

people completed
the Glaucoma
Australia Risk Quiz

387

people joined our
Facebook support groups



10%


increase in demand
for our services

34th

Quinlivan Research
Grant awarded



89%



of patients supported
by Glaucoma Australia
have informed their direct
relatives to get tested

94%

of our supporters stated they
were satisfied with the work
Glaucoma Australia does to
support people living with
vision loss



14

live Q&A events
hosted on our
YouTube channel

91%

of patients supported by Glaucoma
Australia attend their recommended
glaucoma appointments





Our Vision

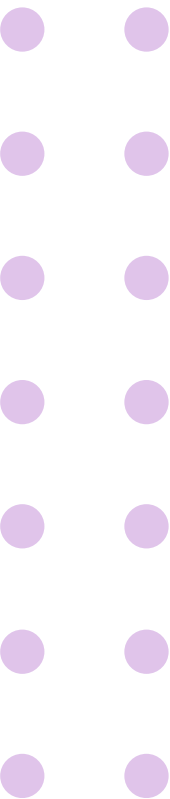
An Australia free from glaucoma blindness.

Our Mission

To prevent glaucoma blindness by increasing early detection and improving patient treatment outcomes.

Our Purpose

Our Purpose is to improve the lives of people with glaucoma and those at risk, by increasing early detection and positive treatment outcomes through education, advocacy, and research. We empower individuals to understand and take an active interest in their own eye health; we promote research, innovation and work collaboratively with health care professionals.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Friends & Supporters,

I am delighted to deliver the 2024 Annual Report for Glaucoma Australia Incorporated (Glaucoma Australia).

The Glaucoma Australia team, post Covid, has continued to adapt the ways in which we deliver our Mission by supporting glaucoma patients and their families. A hybrid working environment with staff in the office 2 – 3 days per week and continuing to work from home the remainder of the week has proved to be a successful and productive model. As always the health and wellbeing of our team, patients, friends and supporters are our priorities.

Our Patron, the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley announced the recipient of Glaucoma Australia's Quinlivan Research Grant for 2024 on World Sight Day, 12 October 2023. Professor David Mackey AO NHMRC Practitioner Fellow in Ophthalmology at the University of Western Australia will research the normal range of intraocular pressure (IOP) in children and young adults and if it can predict later glaucoma. We look forward to sharing his research progress and results with Glaucoma Australia.

The demand for education and support services continues to grow. In October, Glaucoma Australia proudly launched the SiGHTWiSE program, giving the Patient Support Program a meaningful and recognisable name in the eye health arena.

Launching SiGHTWiSE at the RANZCO Congress in Perth provided an opportunity for those present to gain more information about the support and services that Glaucoma Australia provides to glaucoma patients.

Advocacy support has continued to progress a funding request through the Federal Department of Health and Aging and the Office of the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care.

This is a significant change to Glaucoma Australia's funding strategy, which since its inception, has been funded exclusively by donations, bequests and corporate partnerships.



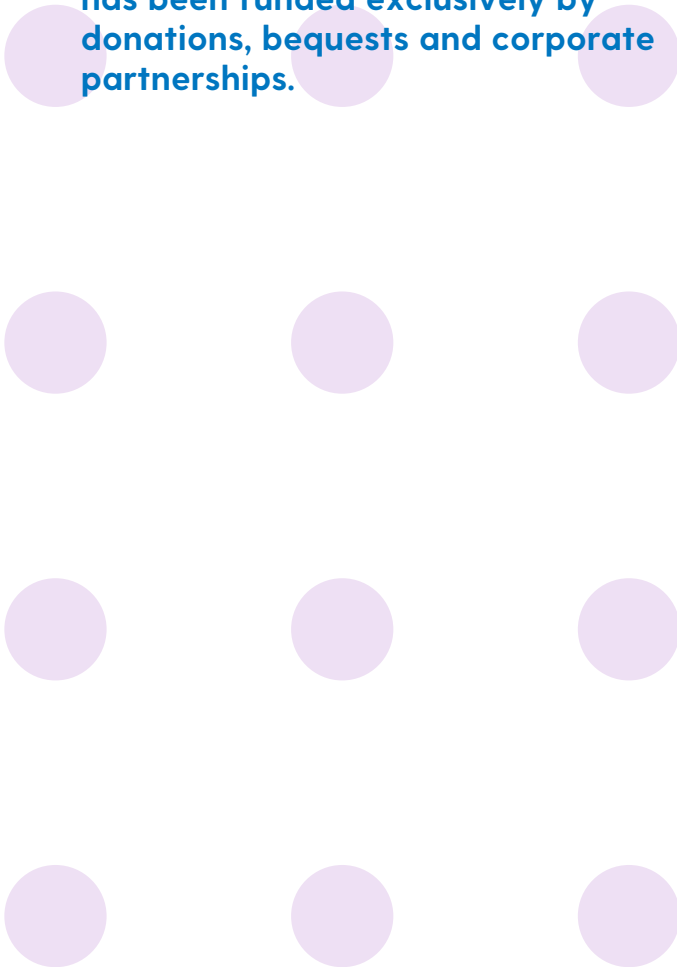
The Board has welcomed two new Directors, Khanh Nguyen and Tim Conroy who have brought additional skills to the governance of the organisation, including Clinical Pharmacy and Human Resources expertise. Peter Day was appointed as Hon Treasurer.

We farewelled two Directors, Kirsten McKerrell, Pharmacist and Clinical Advisory Panel – Pharmacy Committee member and Don Koch, Hon Treasurer. We thank them for their contributions and commitment during their tenure.

We also farewelled our CEO, Richard Wylie and wish him every success in his new career direction. An Interim CEO, Adam Check was appointed to provide a smooth transition while the Board undertakes recruitment of a new CEO.

Thank you to all the people who contribute to Glaucoma Australia's sustainability and ongoing impact for our patients. Special thanks to my fellow Board Directors, staff of Glaucoma Australia and Founder, Professor Ivan Goldberg AM.

Maree O'Brien



Our 'New Look' Patient Support Program



Say hello to

SiGHT WiSE

Extending your care beyond the consultation room.

With FREE education, guidance and support, Glaucoma Australia's SiGHTWiSE Program makes it even easier for you to keep your patients focused on treatment success.

- 84% of patients enrolled in SiGHTWiSE adhere to their treatment regimen
- 91% attend their recommended glaucoma appointments, and
- Supported patients feel less anxious about their glaucoma and more knowledgeable about how it is treated.

So, let's get your patients SiGHTWiSE.
Refer today at glaucoma.org.au/refer



**Glaucoma
Australia**
Saving sight

Glaucoma Australia provides free education, guidance, and support to help people impacted by glaucoma navigate their individual challenges.

Welcome to SiGHTWiSE

Glaucoma Australia's SiGHTWiSE Program provides free education, guidance and support for people living with glaucoma.

Our qualified clinical orthoptist educators and trained health counsellors are here to answer your questions and provide advice to help you throughout your glaucoma journey.

We understand how daunting a glaucoma diagnosis can be, but the great thing about being part of SiGHTWiSE is that we are here for you - as your trusted source of information, your safety net, and your rock whenever you need it.



Enjoy the benefits of being SiGHTWiSE:

- Free support line 1800 500 880
- Qualified Clinical Orthoptist Educators
- Trained Health Counsellors
- Comprehensive website
- Easy to understand information
- Available in 100+ languages
- Q&A webinars with expert speakers
- Facebook support groups
- Bi-monthly eNewsletter
- 12 month subscription to Glaucoma News
- Brochures and Fact Sheet

SiGHTWiSE information is available across a variety of platforms to suit your needs.



WWW



Phone



Email



Web Chat



SMS



Facebook Messenger

This financial year, we welcomed 2,767 new patients into our glaucoma community and SiGHTWiSE patient education and support program, a 10% increase in demand for our services. We now have a community of over 26,000 patients which is growing daily.

Our patient support program underwent a new brand identity and became known as “SiGHTWiSE” and we also expanded our SiGHTWiSE team, which is now cultivated by three (3) highly experienced Orthoptist Patient Educators and Health Counsellors.

Between them they bring a wealth of experience and expertise to Glaucoma Australia, spanning public health, orthoptic practice, disability, rehabilitation, education, patient care, low vision, clinical research, as well as shaping the next generation of eye-care practitioners.

Meet The Team



Natasha Sikman
Senior Orthoptist
Patient Educator



Valerie Tosswill
Senior Orthoptist
Patient Educator



Loreto Obias
Orthoptist Patient
Educator



**Glaucoma
Australia**
Saving sight


SiGHTWiSE



2000+
online support group members

As well as providing collaborative patient care with other health professionals, the SiGHTWiSE team supports the broader community, in our efforts to slow down vision loss and improve quality of life.

Some of the ways in which we deliver better patient outcomes are by:

- ▶ Raising awareness and encouraging the community to get their eyes tested
- ▶ Ensuring patients comply with their treatment plan and are prepared for medical appointments
- ▶ Reducing the anxiety associated with a glaucoma diagnosis, managing uncertainty and providing mental health support
- ▶ Keeping our community informed with ongoing education, delivered on multiple channels
- ▶ Empowering patients to better understand their condition and treatment options.

With strong established relationships with low vision service providers, we also help patients access additional services, low vision aids, and financial entitlements.

With research underpinning advancements in glaucoma diagnosis and treatment, our team is also proud to be involved in national ethics-approved studies that will shape the future approach to glaucoma patient care.



Patient Impact Measurement Survey Results

Our annual Patient Impact Survey (2023) once again clearly demonstrated that people with glaucoma have better patient outcomes when supported by Glaucoma Australia.

Now in its 5th year, the survey highlighted the sight-saving difference we are making. Put simply, supported patients do far better when it comes to their knowledge on glaucoma, anxiety levels, and treatment/appointment adherence.

- 92% of patients stated they attend their recommended glaucoma appointments
- 82% of patients supported by Glaucoma Australia stated they adhere to their treatment regimen, compared to 50% of unsupported patients 6 months post diagnosis and 37% of unsupported patients 3 years post-diagnosis*
- 89% of people had informed their direct relatives to get tested for glaucoma.
- 53% of patients rated their knowledge of glaucoma and how it is treated as 'Excellent' or 'Above Average' after receiving support from Glaucoma Australia compared to 37% of patients who were assessed by an orthoptist educator when first joining the program
- 20% of patients reported that they 'Always' or 'Frequently' felt anxious in relation to their glaucoma compared to 36% of patients who were assessed by an orthoptist educator when first joining the program

References:

*Bansal R., Tsai J. Compliance/Adherence to Glaucoma Medications—A Challenge. *J. Curr. Glaucoma Pract.* 2007;1:22–25. doi: 10.5005/jp-journals-10008-1052

Clinical Student and Volunteer Update

Glaucoma Australia supports student education by offering practical experience in patient education for Master of Orthoptics University of Technology (UTS), Sydney students.

We were delighted to be recognised by UTS as the 'Non-Government Organisation offering the most clinical sessions to UTS orthoptic students in 2023'.





The placement program provides students with a unique and valuable opportunity to put their clinical skills into practice, with students trained and guided by our qualified clinical orthoptists.

Volunteers are students or qualified health professionals with an eye health or medical background. Additionally, qualified Specsavers optometrists volunteered to work with Glaucoma Australia through their “Early Career Optometrist” (ECO) program, who gained firsthand experience from the Patient Educator perspective.



Ms Maree O'Brien (President, Glaucoma Australia), Dr Noor Ali (Ophthalmologist), Mr Vamsi Somanchi (Optometrist Director, Specsavers) educating students on glaucoma at COTA Hughes Community Centre, ACT.



Loreto Obias (Orthoptist and Patient Educator, Glaucoma Australia, pictured in the centre) presenting at Orthoptics Australia (OA) conference about her role as a Patient Educator. Also pictured are Dr Amanda French (Head of Discipline - Orthoptics) and Dr Felicia Adinanto (Vice President, Orthoptics Australia)

Students and volunteers expressed that the program ‘has deepened their understanding of Glaucoma Australia’s goals and the positive impact made on the community’.



Marvina Moul, Annie Nguyen (UTS Orthoptics Students) providing education and promoting Glaucoma Australia at Sydney Eye Hospital.

OUT & ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Glaucoma Australia would like to express its appreciation to our volunteer community who have given their time over the past year to deliver face-to-face glaucoma education.

This included attendance at Sydney Eye and Westmead Hospitals, event co-ordination at Perth Eye Hospital and Lions Eye Institute and presentations at Probus group meetings. Educational sessions were also given by leading Ophthalmologists and our Orthoptist Patient Educators at industry conferences. Of note, Glaucoma Australia was awarded Best Poster 2023 at the national college of ophthalmology (RANZCO) conference in Perth.



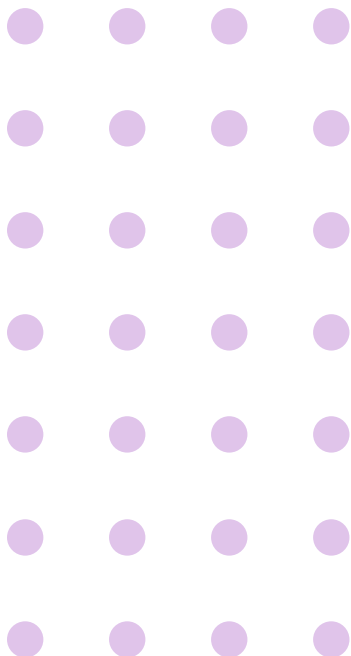
We would like to make a special mention for wonderful long-term volunteer of 12 years, Gaela Hilditch, who hosted another successful Perth glaucoma support group event with Dr Jason Lim, who brought non-penetrating glaucoma surgery to Western Australia.

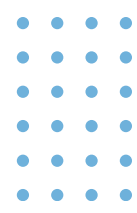


AWARENESS ENGAGEMENT

Since 2017, Glaucoma Australia's Risk Quiz has been raising awareness, identifying people at risk of developing glaucoma and prompting the community to get tested. The quiz is a quick and convenient way to assess one's potential risk of developing glaucoma based on age, ethnicity, family history of glaucoma and other health issues such as diabetes and myopia.

In this financial year, the Risk Quiz was completed by over 2200 people, with 35% of participants subscribing to Glaucoma Australia's bi-monthly e-Newsletter and joining our community for ongoing education and support.





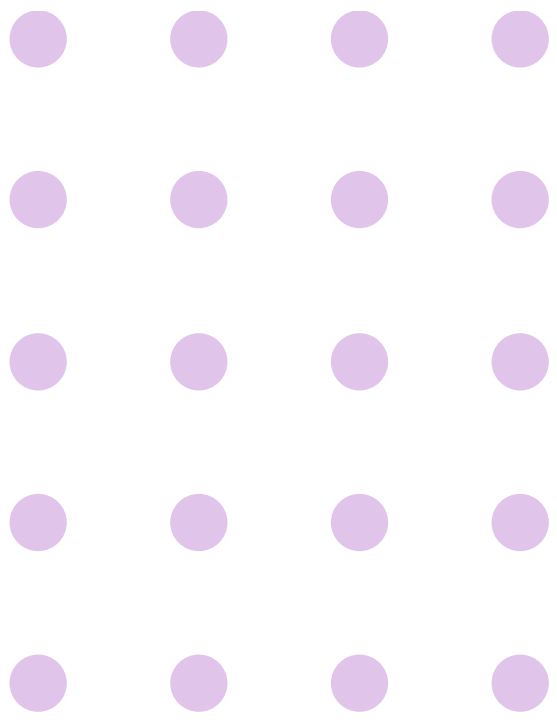
Risk Quiz Key Statistics

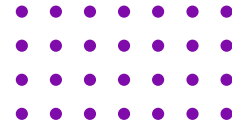
- Over 80% of people who completed the Risk Quiz stated they had one or more known risk factors for developing glaucoma
- 34% of people who completed the quiz have a family history of glaucoma
- 62% of people stated they have regular eye tests every 1 – 2 years. Of those who stated they get their eyes tested every 5 years, rarely or never, 68% said this quiz changed their opinion regarding regular eye exams

Live Q&A Event Series

Our live Q&A event series, hosted on our YouTube ‘Glaucoma TV’ channel is a popular way for our community to stay up to date on all things glaucoma. For the period July 2023 - June 2024, we hosted 14 Live Q&A Events and received over 11,000 views. Topics ranged from the normal range of IOP in children, managing side effects, complimentary therapies and the patient experience.

We would like to extend our gratitude for the continued support of our sponsor Glaukos and wonderful guest speakers who volunteered their time and expertise.





FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUPS

Glaucoma Australia has two very active Facebook support groups, the main 'Glaucoma Support Group' and the 'Congenital Glaucoma Support Group', which grew by 387 members this financial year. In order to retain the integrity of these groups and protect the community from misleading and offensive content, 117 member requests were declined.

Posts and comments are also moderated daily by Glaucoma Australia's Orthoptist Patient Educators who contribute to online conversations as appropriate. The support groups are a valuable and safe space for the community to connect, increase their knowledge of glaucoma and support each other through their lived experience with glaucoma.



New Members

387



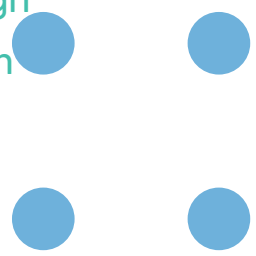
Denied Requests

177



Total Members

2,535





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.

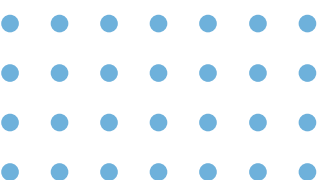
ReciteMe Online Inclusivity



OUR SUPPORTER SURVEY

Our regular supporter surveys are an excellent opportunity to monitor our community's expectations and experiences and gain valuable insights to further improve the delivery of our services. With a completion rate of 96%, supporters were keen to provide their feedback – here are some key highlights.

- 94% stated they were satisfied with the work Glaucoma Australia does to support people living with vision loss
- The top 3 ways supporters described us was professional, trustworthy and caring
- 71% of respondents told us that research is the area they are most passionate about, followed by early prevention and detection, then support services
- There were very high awareness and trust levels amongst health professionals



RESEARCH UPDATE



Glaucoma Australia Quinlivan Research Grant



Since 2006, we have been investing in cutting edge glaucoma research and some of the most brilliant minds in Australia, through Glaucoma Australia's Quinlivan Research Grant Program.

We have proudly funded 34 grants to date and made significant contributions to medical and social research initiatives. This has led to better ways to detect and treat this chronic eye disease and is getting us one step closer to finding a cure.

On World Sight Day each year, grants are awarded following rigorous evaluation, based largely on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) process, along with peer review, to ensure that the successful applicants meet the highest standards.

Submissions are reviewed by Glaucoma Australia's Independent Research Panel consisting of internationally recognized experts in glaucoma research including the fields of Ophthalmology, Optometry and Pharmacy.



2023 Independent Research Panel



Professor Bill Morgan
PhD, MBBS, FRANZCO



Professor Allison
McKendrick - Chair
MScOptom, PhD
Clinical Associate



Professor Andrew
White BMEDSC(HONS),
MBBS, PHD, FRANZCO



Dr George Kong MBBS
(Melb) BMedSci PhD
(Melb) FRANZCO



Professor Robert
Casson MB, BS(Hons),
M. Biostats, DPhil,
FRANZCO



Dr Jennifer Fan
Gaskin MBChB MD
FRANZCO



Associate Professor
Bang Bui B.Optom,
M.Optom, PhD, PGCOT



Associate Professor
Mitchell Lawler BMed
MMed(OphthSci)
FRANZCO PhD



2023 QUINLIVAN RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT

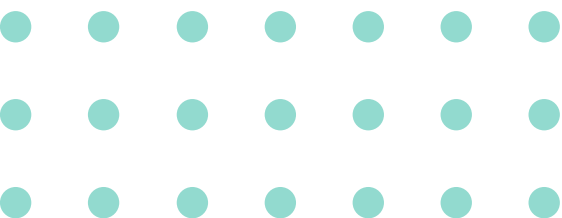


Professor David Mackey AO

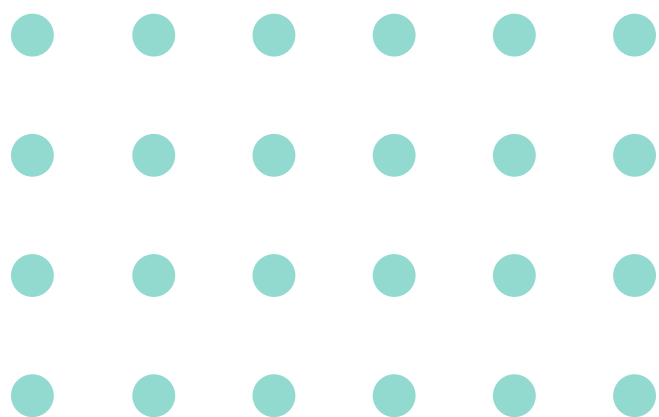
Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences,
The University of Western Australia

Glaucoma Australia and its Patron, the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley, were very pleased to announce the 2023 recipient of the Glaucoma Australia 'Quinlivan' Research Grant.

Professor David Mackey AO is an internationally respected researcher in the genetics of eye disease and one of the most published authors in glaucoma genetics globally and we are proud to provide critical funds to Professor Mackey and his research team.



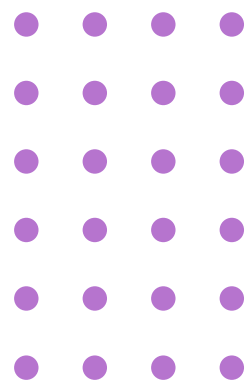
Establishing the normal range of IOP in children and young adults



The project will focus on filling a critical knowledge gap around how glaucoma progresses in children and young people, and we are excited by the potential of his research to protect children and young people from the debilitating impacts of glaucoma later in life.



Understanding the normal range of intraocular pressure (IOP) in children will improve our ability to monitor children and young adults at high risk of developing glaucoma. That, in turn, will allow more timely interventions and give us the best possible chance of decreasing glaucoma blindness.



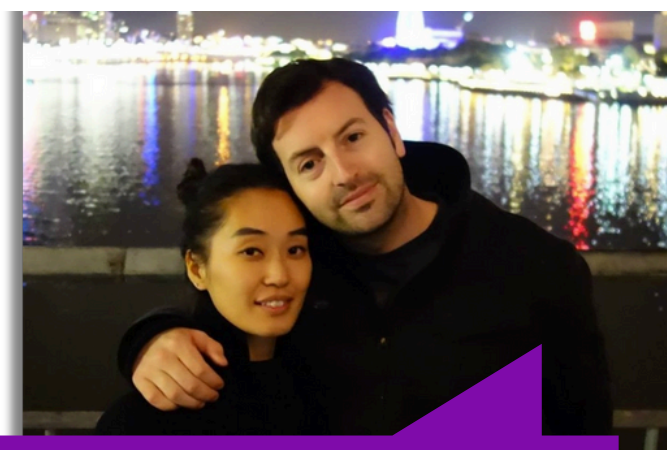
FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Tax Appeal

In this year's annual End of Financial Year (Tax) appeal, Mark was diagnosed with open angle glaucoma at 44. He shares his personal experience with glaucoma and how the support he received through Glaucoma Australia and the Facebook support group community helped to 'lift him out of the darkness'.

With patient demand for our services increasing, supporters were encouraged to give a tax-deductible gift before June 30 to give more Australians access to these critical services, which have been proven to improve their health, including mental health.

Despite a significant decline in giving in the charity sector due to the cost-of-living crisis,



"The support of Glaucoma Australia is really invaluable. It's been a real life saver and life changer."

this year's appeal was our most successful fundraising initiatives to date, raising over \$100,000 which was invested in our SiGHTWiSE program.

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by our wonderful community of supporters who dug deep to help each other through the challenges that glaucoma may bring.



\$946,753
RAISED



DURING
FY23/24



Quinlivan Research Appeal

As part of the Glaucoma Australia 'Quinlivan' Research Grants Program, up to \$200,000 is awarded each year to an Australian based researcher to improve the lives of people living with glaucoma by improving detection and treatment methods.

We were proud to announce the 2023 research grant recipient as Professor David Mackey AO and his research team at the University of Western Australia's Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.



“In a perfect world,” Martyn says, “you’d cure glaucoma, and you’d reverse any vision loss, and then it would just be removed from your life. You wouldn’t need to think about it anymore. That would be the ideal for me.”

His project is a powerful example of the game-changing glaucoma research our community continues to enable through their gifts to the Quinlivan Research Fund. 100 percent of funds raised will be allocated to future research projects.

Martyn King, who was diagnosed with glaucoma at 53, also shared his hopes for a future free of glaucoma and why it is so important that we continue to invest in the research that could very well one day not just find a cure but reverse the ‘irreversible’ damage it causes.

The fact is, the cure for glaucoma can only be found through research and with each new breakthrough, we learn more about better ways to treat it, to stabilise vision loss, and one day find a cure.

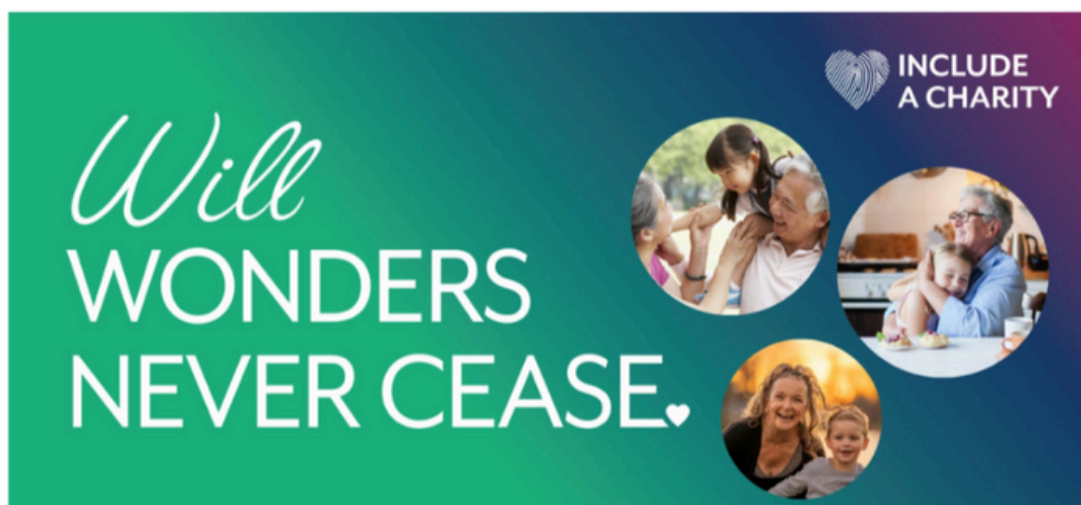
Include a Charity Initiative

Glaucoma Australia is proud to be a part of 'Include a Charity', an ongoing social change movement that promotes legacy giving to create a better world for generations to come.

Spearheaded by the Fundraising Institute of Australia, the campaign is aligned with international legacy weeks worldwide and encourages people to leave a gift in their Will to their chosen charities.

The theme for 2023 was 'Will Wonders Never Cease', underscoring the notion that drafting a Will and including a gift reinforces our hopes of leaving an enduring legacy and impression on the world and our loved ones, whilst bringing about remarkable change.

This year's campaign significantly generated awareness, 18 new bequest enquiries and 3 confirmed Gifts in Will for Glaucoma Australia. These special legacy gifts allow us to plan ahead .



Gifts In Wills

We gratefully received several charitable bequests from supporters who wanted to leave a special legacy and help future generations impacted by glaucoma.

We all want a future free of glaucoma, and a Gift in Will ensures Glaucoma Australia can continue its important work well into the future. This includes funding ground-breaking research and supporting Australians as they navigate life with glaucoma.

We respect the memory of
and extend our gratitude to
the following Bequestors
and their families:

The Estate of the Late Ida Molly Daly

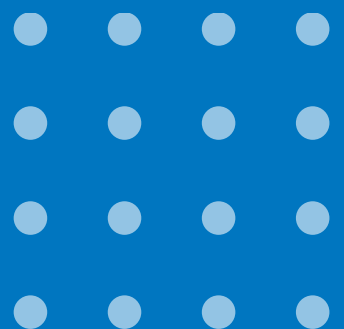
The Estate of the Late Stella Hilda Hutton

The Estate of the Late Margaret Dawson

The Estate of the Late Marija Senca

The Frances of the Late Frances Anich

The Estate of the Late Vilma Johnston

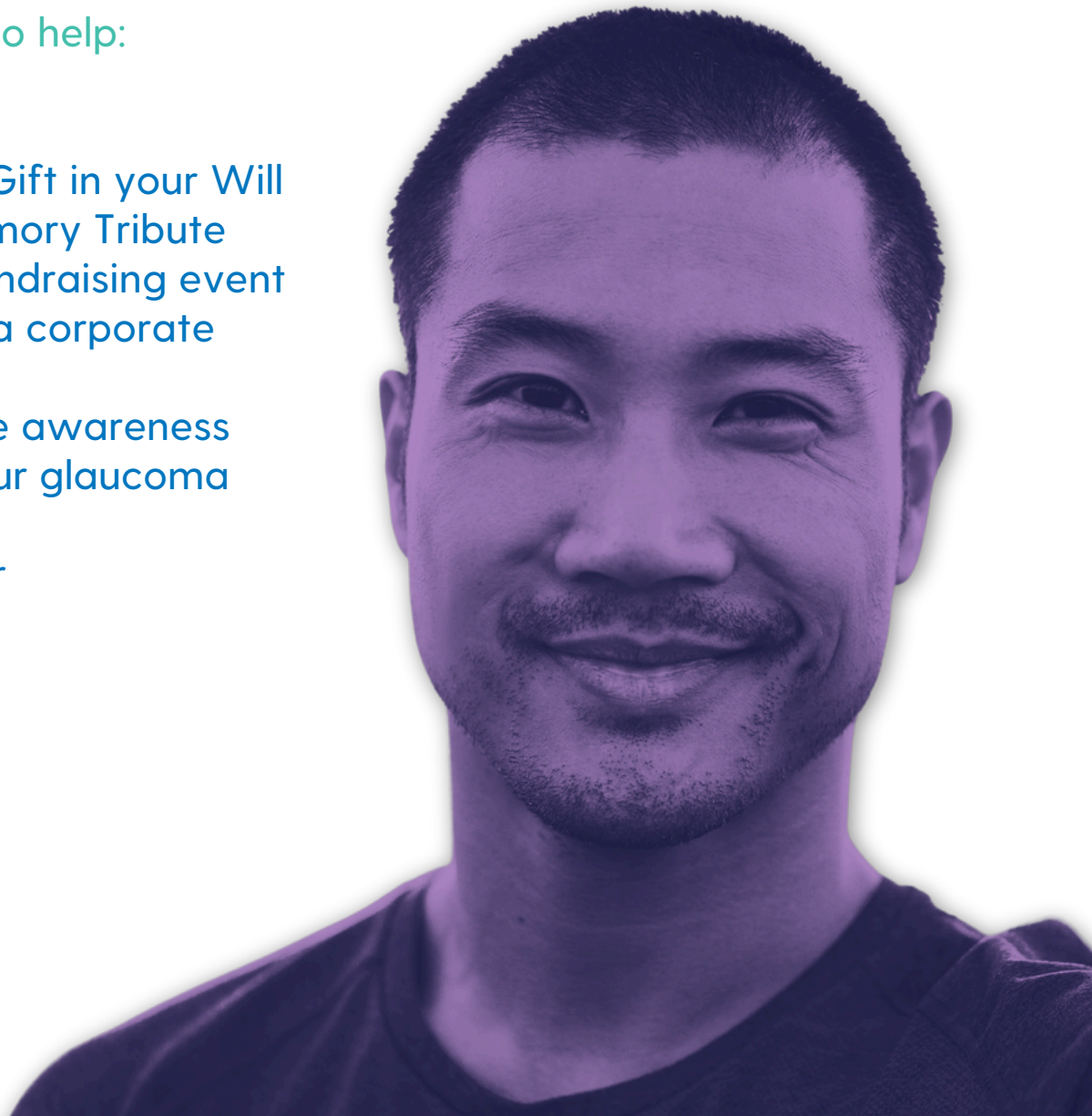
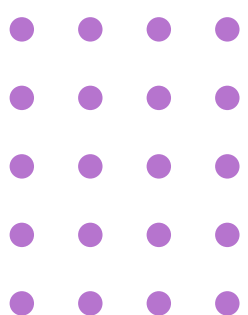
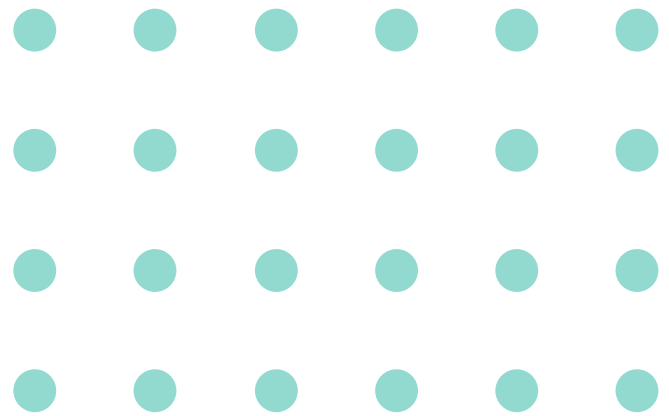


How you can support our important work

Glaucoma Australia does not receive any government funding and relies on the generosity of our corporate partners and donors to continue to deliver its sight-saving services.

Some ways to help:

- Donate
- Leave a Gift in your Will or In-Memory Tribute
- Host a fundraising event
- Become a corporate partner
- Help raise awareness
- Share your glaucoma story
- Volunteer



THANK YOU!

It is only through the kind support of individuals, corporations, foundations and organisations that Glaucoma Australia can continue to deliver its patient education and support services; and fund the ground-breaking glaucoma research that takes us a step closer to a cure.

Corporate and Allied Health Partners

Specsavers
Glaukos
OPSM
Laubman and Pank
Aspen
Alcon
Addisons
Designs for Vision
ASE IT
Beamers
Healthdirect
Perth Eye Hospital
Lions Eye Institute
Centre for Eye Research Australia
Centre for Eye Health (UNSW)
Brien Holden Vision Institute
Orthoptics Australia
Medadvisor
Oculo
Optometry Australia
Perth Eye Hospital
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
RANZCO
Vision 2020
Vision Australia

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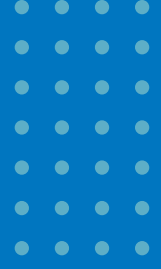
Trusts and Foundations

The Quinlivan Family Trust Foundation
Evolhope Family Trust
The Angles Family Foundation
The Carr Family Trust
Holmes Family Foundation
Naylor-Stewart Foundation
Roger Allen and Maggie Gray Foundation

Community

Rotary Club Perth
Harold Hawthorne Community Centre
COTA Hughes Community Centre
Our Donors
Our Bequestors

Governance



Our Board



Maree O'Brien
BA, Dip Teaching, Grad
Certificate – Change Mgt,
GAICD
President



Dr Katherine Masselos
MB, BS(Hons), B.Optom,
MPH, GAICD, FRANZCO
Chair of the Clinical
Advisory Panel



Dr Benjamin Ashby
B.Optom (Hons) PhD
GradCertOcTher GAICD
Vice President



Satish Chandar
MBA (Executive)
Chair of the Media &
Digital Technology
Committee



William Peter Day
LLb. (Hons), MBA, FCA,
FAICD
Honorary Treasurer and
Chair of the Audit & Risk
Committee



Khanh Nguyen
B.Pharm, UQ



Lynette Klein
B.Bus, AAICD
Honorary Secretary and
Chair of the Sustainability
Committee



Tim Conroy
BA, BBus, GAICD

Our thanks and appreciation to retiring Board Members Don Koch & Kirsten McKerrill.



**Glaucoma
Australia**
Saving sight