



# Eye care at your doorstep

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Information Pack  
2009

# Our aim

Recognising the growing need for accessible eye care in the community, we seek to provide a fully equipped mobile optometric clinic that will come to your door step.

## Our aim is to:

- Offer quality eye examinations to the community
- Educate the communities about the importance of eye care
- Contribute to the prevention of common causes of blindness like uncorrected refractive error (short-sightedness/long sightedness), macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma.

# Who will benefit

- Patrons/visitors/staff of organisations visited by the Vision Assist Community Initiative
- Members of the community who will otherwise be unlikely to visit an optometrist

In particular we recognize that not every part of Sydney has the same level of social awareness about eye health. Hence we give priority to the more remote regions, where the communities are less likely to see an optometrist regularly and where hospital waiting periods for eye surgery are the longest.

# What about costs

Thanks to the Medicare Scheme, all eye examinations offered by Vision Assist Community Initiative are **bulk-billed through Medicare**. So the procedures cost absolutely nothing to the patients.

# Our team

The team consists of two dedicated optometrists and support staff who saw the need to service the greater community in suburban Sydney and beyond. We believe that anyone should have access to quality eye care.

# What's involved

During the examination the following will be performed:

- Automated refraction (detection of glasses prescription)
- Refinement of the refraction if the patient requires glasses
- Eye pressure test (part of glaucoma screening)
- Cornea / cataract evaluation
- Dilated fundus examination (looking behind the eye)
- Retinal photography

Following the examination each patient will be given an information booklet about eye health and a copy of his/her prescription.

During the waiting period before the examination patients will be able to watch short presentations about eye health on the specially set up screens.

# Why is vision testing imperative

**According to the 2004-05 National Health Survey (NHS):**

- Eye problems are one of the most common health problems experienced by the Australian population.
- Just over 10 million Australians reported a long-term eye problem. This represents about half of the Australian population.
- Other commonly reported conditions cataract (350,000), glaucoma (200,000) and macular degeneration (100,000). These are easily detected on a routine eye examination.
- Approximately 9.4 million people wear glasses or contact lenses in order to correct sight.
- Eye problems account for about 1 in 30 hospitalisations in Australia.
- At over 160,000 per year, cataract procedures are the most common eye procedures performed in hospitals.
- The median waiting time for ophthalmology surgery is the longest of any surgical speciality. Early detection by the optometrists can ensure that the patient can have a timely treatment intervention.

# Where we've been



Mission Australia

**Mission Australia Centre, Surry Hills**



**Salvation Army Community Centre, Waterloo**

**Kentlyn Gardens Nursing Home**

**We have also conducted eye testing days at: Matraville RSL, Maroubra RSL, Malabar RSL, Botany RSL, Russian Veteran's Club, Russian Redfern Community Club.**