



Making the journey with your help...

Annual Report 2016-2017



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Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Vision

To reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia

Strategic Pillars

Increase the number of people we help by building a strong and engaged brand

Maintain quality service delivery in meeting the needs of the macular disease community

Be recognised by our stakeholders as the leading authoritative voice of the macular disease community



Key Highlights of 2016-2017

Australian first
Low Vision Report
sent to 883 key stakeholders



92%

of clients reported being very or mostly satisfied
with **Foundation services**

6,500

people attended
115 education
sessions



4th round of research grants
attracts **21 applications**

8,380

calls to the Foundation's
national Helpline

98%

of attendees rate Foundation
education sessions as
excellent or **good**



40 submissions
to Government
advocating for
client needs

Community fundraisers support the Foundation and **help save sight!**

Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017
achieves outstanding results



Fundraising supports our research target of \$10m by 2021

Key Highlights of 2016-2017



9,300

information kits
packed by volunteers for
national distribution

Inaugural

Research Symposium

shines light on the future of macular research

2

Foundation articles

published in major peer
reviewed journals

Acknowledging

10 years of support

Profieid Foundation

Roth Gair Golf Day

**Foundation reaches out to
culturally and linguistically
diverse communities**

**Jean Kittson
Ambassador**

10 years of dedication
to saving sight



New website

launched in support
of macular disease
community

22 education
sessions undertaken
to **450** health
professionals

1,000
eye health professionals
receive weekly research
e-newsletter



**Foundation
progresses critical
aged care study**

Ita's intervention saved her uncle's sight

When Ita Buttrose learned her uncle, Gerald Buttrose, now a sprightly 94, was having issues with his vision, she was determined he wouldn't experience the same fate as her late father, who lost his vision to macular degeneration.

Gerald noticed changes in the vision of his left eye in 2008. Ita immediately arranged for him to visit a retina specialist, where he was promptly diagnosed with wet macular degeneration. Gerald began what was at that time the relatively new treatment of anti-VEGF injections. Ita's quick action saved her uncle's sight.

Ita and Gerald shared their story of the importance of early detection and timely treatment in the *Good Weekend Magazine* during Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017.

*Foundation Patron
Ita Buttrose and her
uncle, Gerald Buttrose*

Ita Buttrose AO OBE Patron, Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Ita Buttrose is one of Australia's most admired businesswomen and an accomplished communicator, advising corporate as well as community and welfare organisations. She has a wealth of experience across a broad range of industry sectors and combines many roles as social commentator, businesswoman, journalist and author.

As Patron of the Foundation since 2005, Ita has been instrumental to its success in raising awareness of macular degeneration. A powerful voice within Australia, she shares her personal experiences to convey key health messages of risk factors, prevention, detection, treatment and rehabilitation.

In 2013 Ita was named Australian of the Year. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her services to the community, particularly in the area of public health education. Ita is also the National Ambassador of Dementia Australia and Emeritus Director of Arthritis Australia.



Foundation State Patrons / Representatives

Macular Disease Foundation Australia is grateful to Governors of Australia who, as the Foundation's State Patrons and Representatives, support the Foundation's work in raising awareness of macular disease in Australia.



Victoria State Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC,
Governor of Victoria

"The Foundation undertakes important work to raise awareness of macular disease to save sight. It is critical, given the impact of vision loss and blindness, especially on our older Australians. I strongly support the work of the Foundation in preventing vision loss. I am honoured to be the State Patron and contribute to the awareness of the Foundation's work in Victoria."



Western Australia State Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC,
Governor of Western Australia

"I am very pleased to be the Western Australian State Patron for the Macular Disease Foundation Australia. Age is one of the major risk factors for macular degeneration. As a person over the age of 50, I understand the importance of undergoing regular eye tests, and encourage others to do the same. I commend the Foundation on its work to raise awareness in this area, which is vital to reducing the incidence of macular degeneration in Australia."



Tasmania State Patron

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC,
Governor of Tasmania

"Thanks to the Foundation's work Australians now know that early detection of macular disease and early intervention is critical to saving sight. I am delighted to be a State Patron and to help the Foundation continue its vital work in Tasmania to increase awareness of macular disease and to reduce vision loss."



South Australia Custodian of Vision

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC,
Governor of South Australia

The Governor is a Custodian of Vision and supports the work of Macular Disease Foundation Australia in reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease in South Australia.

Report from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

For the year ended 30 June 2017

The support of so many people in 2017 once again enabled us to undertake a range of highly successful activities in support of our vision to reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia.

Our education and awareness programs reached out to thousands of Australians conveying our key health messages in order to save sight. Our national helpline provided information, guidance and understanding to those in need and our extensive range of publications and resources supported our clients.

Our advocacy efforts were heightened in order to influence key decision makers in order to enhance the wellbeing of the macular disease community and to acknowledge this chronic disease as a national health priority. Our highly acclaimed research grants program opened for a fourth time, calling for applications from our world class Australian researchers to find answers to why Australians are still losing sight from macular disease and how to change this. To date we have committed \$3m to the program, due to the generosity of our donor community and major sponsor Blackmores, for important research projects.

Meeting the needs of the macular disease community to provide expert information, guidance and support serviced by caring and understanding people, is our highest priority. Our community includes those at risk, with disease and those with vision loss, along with family and carers. In meeting the needs of our community this year we helped 8,380 people on the national Helpline, 9,300 information kits were distributed, 6,500 people attended education sessions and public seminars across the country and a new website enabled thousands of people to connect with the Foundation for information and guidance.



Robert Kaye SC, Chairman



Julie Heraghty, Chief Executive Officer

The number of people with some evidence of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is estimated at 1.25m in 2017, with a huge number undergoing treatment and many with vision loss and blindness.

Given that macular disease is the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia, the key questions which are always paramount for the Foundation are how can we help more people? How can we better reach those who could benefit from our services in prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation? How can we further engage with those in need to provide them with the information, guidance and support services offered by the Foundation?

Research undertaken in early 2017 confirmed that our services are highly valued by eye care professionals along with those living with macular disease, their families and carers. The research also guided us in the re-design of our engagement strategy to enhance the referral pathway with our eye care professional colleagues. Our strategic priority now centres on materially increasing the number of people that we help, and maintaining a quality service to meet the needs of the macular disease community.

To increase the delivery of quality services requires financial sustainability and during the year the Foundation's financial position strengthened. This enables us to continue to meet existing programs, plan for our intended growth in demand for our services and increase our support of research. For the year ended June 2017 the Foundation generated a net surplus of \$0.70m (2016: \$0.98m). Donations and bequests continue to support our financial position, reflecting the generosity of giving within our community, which is greatly appreciated.

Three long standing directors retired – Ms Elizabeth Carr, Mr John McCarroll and Mr Ashley Chapman, each having served a term of 12 years contributing their skills, expertise and passion. On behalf of the Foundation we thank them sincerely for their

outstanding contribution. The Foundation welcomed two new Directors - Mr Neil Wykes OAM and Ms Lisa Lusthaus, who bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills in support of our work.

Thank you to our Patron, Ita Buttrose AO OBE and our Ambassador Jean Kittson for their ongoing commitment and dedication. Sincere thanks are also due to State Governors who support our Foundation.

Our partners, donors, funders and volunteers are the highly valued lifeline of our Foundation supporting our dedicated Board Directors and staff in achieving our vision, and we are indebted to them for their generous contributions.

Ultimately, our common goal is the desire to create a world where no one will lose sight from macular disease. In the interim, we continue to do everything possible to prevent blindness and to support those living with macular disease, and their families and carers.



Robert Kaye SC
Chairman
LLM, LLB, AICD



Julie Heraghty
Chief Executive Officer
BA DipEd, MAPS

GOVERNANCE

Board Directors

Macular Disease Foundation Australia has a strong, experienced Board to guide the overall strategic direction and corporate governance to meet the vision of the organisation.



**Mr Robert Kaye SC, Chairman – LLM, LLB, AICD
(appointed Chairman 7 September 2016)**

Robert Kaye is a practising barrister and mediator and is also on the board of a number of ASX listed companies. He is chairman of Collins Foods Limited and Spicers Limited, a non-executive director of Magontec Limited and a former non-executive director of UGL Limited. In 1978, Robert was admitted to legal practice and prior to this, was employed as a solicitor at Allen Allen & Hemsley. Thereafter, he pursued his legal career at the NSW Bar and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003, practising in commercial law. He has been extensively involved in an array of commercial matters both advisory and litigious in nature and served on a number of NSW Bar Association committees including the Professional Conduct Committee.

Robert Kaye is the Chairman of the Board and is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Chairman of the Board Nomination and Evaluation Committee.



Brigadier John Fenwick – BA, MBA, GAICD, AFAIM

John is a brigadier and defence professional with over 27 years experience in the Army. His career spans being a helicopter pilot to leading and managing at numerous levels in the Defence Force in a variety of command and staff positions. John is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College at Duntroon. He holds an MBA specialising in Accounting and Finance from Deakin University and a BA in Economics and Information Systems from UNSW. John is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Fellow with the Australian Institute of Management.

Brigadier John Fenwick is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Board Nomination and Evaluation Committee.



Mr Richard Grills

Richard Grills is the previous Managing Director of Designs For Vision, a company which supplies ophthalmic and optometric products throughout Australasia. Prior to founding Designs For Vision in 1978, Richard was a clinical & dispensing optician specialising in visual handicap. He conducted low vision clinics throughout NSW at hospitals and ophthalmic practices. Since 1974 he has been a lecturer in ophthalmic optics at Sydney University and also teaches at UTS (orthoptics) and Notre Dame University (ophthalmic nurses). Richard is a director of the Optical Distributors & Manufacturers Association (ODMA) and the Genetic Eye Foundation, and is the Chair of the Essilor Vision Foundation. He is a member of the visiting advisory board at both UNSW Optometry School and UTS Orthoptic School.

Richard Grills is a member of the Client Services Committee.



Ms Imelda Lynch – RN, BN, MHSN, GAICD

Imelda Lynch is Interim CEO of the Heart Foundation South Australia. She has a nursing background with extensive executive and health administration experience having spent 25 years in leadership positions in both the public and private health sectors. She was founding CEO of Bellberry Limited, the first provider of independent human research ethics committees in Australia, and now holds a non-executive director role.

Imelda Lynch is member of the Client Services Committee and Research Committee.



Mr Paul Rogan – BBus, CPA, AICD

Paul Rogan is a seasoned executive with more than thirty years' experience in the financial services sector both in Australia and the United Kingdom. He is the founder of a fintech start up, Retirement Essentials. Prior to that he held a number of senior executive roles at Challenger Limited including six years as Chief Executive, Distribution, Marketing and Research. Paul was a director of various Challenger subsidiaries. He has also served as an Executive Director on subsidiary boards of the National Australia Bank and MLC group, including as CEO of the Wealth Management operations in the UK and MLC Building Society.

Paul Rogan is the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee.



Mrs Suellen Tapsall – BA, MA, FAIM

Suellen Tapsall is Director Custom Education at University of Melbourne. In this role she leads a team who work with the University's academics to develop and deliver open-enrolment and tailored programs in Australia and overseas. Suellen previously led a joint venture in Executive Education on behalf of the University of Western Australia and the Australian Institute of Management WA. Suellen has extensive experience managing complex multi-stakeholder projects. Her career has been built around communications and stakeholder engagement, working as an academic leader and formerly in journalism and corporate communications. She is a past national president of the Journalism Education Association and has co-authored several books and major reports. Her current research is in consumer perceptions of value, with particular relevance to the cruise ship travel sector.

Suellen Tapsall is Chairman of the Client Services Committee and a member of the Research Committee.



Associate Professor Nitin Verma AM – FRANZCO, MD.MMed, Dip NBE

Associate Professor Nitin Verma is a leading ophthalmologist with a special interest in retinal diseases and has published and presented more than 100 papers. He is Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Medicine, University of Tasmania and University of Sydney, and is in private practice at Hobart Eye Surgeons. He is a Board Member and Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO), and Board Member of RANZCO Eye Foundation and the national Hospitalier for St John Ambulance Australia. Assoc. Professor Verma is also the Honorary Consul in Tasmania for Timor Leste. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2010 for his service to ophthalmology.

Assoc. Professor Verma is the Chairman of the Research Committee and a member of the Medical Committee.

New Board Directors 2016-2017



Ms Lisa Lusthaus – BSc App. Psych (Hons) (appointed 1 April 2017)

Lisa Lusthaus is Council Secretariat at the Centre for Social Impact, University of New South Wales, Sydney. She has worked there for 10 years since its inception. Early in her career, Lisa was a clinical researcher at the Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay. She co-authored several articles in the field of neurosurgery. Subsequently, Lisa was employed as Research Psychologist at the Child Safety Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown. In addition to publishing numerous articles on childhood accidents, she worked with the David and the Helping Hand child safety program and served on the board of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation. For more than a decade Lisa was the publisher of MicroPress, Australia's Newspaper for Children, a unique national news bulletin for primary school children to encourage them to read about current affairs.



Mr Neil Wykes OAM – BCom, FCA, AGIA, ACIS (appointed 13 March 2017)

Neil Wykes is a senior executive with more than fifty years' experience in the finance and accounting services sector and is currently the General Manager, Audit & Risk for Ramsay Health Care (part time). He retired as a partner from Ernst & Young in 2010 after 43 years, 28 as a partner, having been responsible for the audit of major companies globally and also many not-for-profit organisations. Neil has been involved with the support of the Foundation via his role at Ernst & Young since its beginnings in 2001. Neil makes significant contributions to the support of the not-for-profit sector including roles with National Trust of Australia (NSW) and Variety - the Children's Charity. Neil received an OAM in 2007 for service to the community. Neil Wykes is a member of the Audit & Risk Committee.

National Research Advisor



Professor Paul Mitchell – MBBS, MD, PhD, FRANZCO, FRACS, FRCOphth, FAFPHM

Professor Paul Mitchell is a world renowned medical retinal specialist and director of the Centre for Vision Research, Westmead Millennium Institute. He is also a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Sydney and director of Ophthalmology at Westmead Hospital.

Professor Mitchell's clinical work focuses on the management of age-related macular degeneration, diabetic and other vascular retinopathies and on systemic diseases and their effects on the eye. His research has targeted the epidemiology of eye disease and clinical aspects of retinal diseases.

Professor Mitchell has made significant contributions in the fields of public health and ophthalmic epidemiology via the landmark Blue Mountains Eye Study, the first, large Australian population-based study of age-related eye disease, yielding almost 400 international publications.

As National Research Advisor, Professor Mitchell provides the Foundation with expertise, support and guidance on the analysis of medical and research matters.

Committees

The following committees operate as part of good governance. Members comprise past and present board directors and those with specialised expertise from within the macular disease community. The Foundation thanks all committee members for their support.

Audit and Risk Committee

Assists the Board in the effective discharge of its responsibilities for financial and regulatory reporting, internal controls, compliance and risk management.

Paul Rogan (Chairman), Elizabeth Carr, Ashley Chapman, John Fenwick, Robert Kaye, John McCarroll, Neil Wykes

Client Services Committee

Provides input, guidance and support on client service related areas of the Foundation's work.

Suellen Tapsall (Chairman), Elizabeth Carr, Ashley Chapman, Richard Grills, Imelda Lynch

Board Nomination and Evaluation Committee

Advises on Board appointments and performance, induction programs, continuing development, and committee membership.

Robert Kaye (Chairman), Elizabeth Carr, Ashley Chapman, John Fenwick, John McCarroll

Medical Committee

Provides expert advice to ensure that, in all matters of a medical nature relating to macular disease, information is accurate, relevant, up to date and consistent with current evidence.

Associate Professor Alex Hunyor (Chairman), Elizabeth Carr, Dr Amanda Greaves, Dr Alex Harper, Associate Professor Wilson Heriot, Dr David Hilford, Associate Professor Anthony Kwan, Dr Tharmalingam Mahendrarajah, Professor Paul Mitchell, Associate Professor Nitin Verma, Dr Jim Runciman, Dr Peter van Wijngaarden, Associate Professor Dimitri Yellachich.

Research Committee

Provides expertise and guidance related to the Foundation's research activities, especially in relation to the Foundation's Research Grants Program.

Associate Professor Nitin Verma (Chairman), Elizabeth Carr, Associate Professor Anthony Kwan, Imelda Lynch, Dr Jim Runciman, Suellen Tapsall, Dr Peter van Wijngaarden.

State Chairs

Dr Amanda Greaves (QLD), Associate Professor Wilson Heriot (VIC), Associate Professor Nitin Verma (TAS), Ms Imelda Lynch (SA), Mrs Suellen Tapsall (WA), Associate Professor Alex Hunyor (NSW)

Chief Executive Officer



Ms Julie Heraghty – BA, DipEd, Assoc MAPS

Julie Heraghty joined Macular Disease Foundation Australia as Chief Executive Officer in 2004. Under Julie's leadership the Foundation has evolved into a robust organisation serving the needs of the macular disease community. The activities of the Foundation over this time have resulted in Australia becoming a world leader in awareness of macular degeneration. Prior to joining the Foundation, Julie spent over seven years as a Policy Advisor to NSW State Ministers, and also served as a director and manager in major government departments. She has served in local government as Deputy Mayor and worked voluntarily for many charitable causes. Julie's career began as a secondary school teacher and she is also a registered psychologist. In 2013 Julie was awarded the Harvard Club of Australia Nonprofit Fellowship to attend the course *Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management* at the Harvard Business School. The prestigious fellowship was a personal honour for Julie and supported the continued growth and development of the Foundation.

Retired Board Directors 2016-2017

A principle of good governance is upholding a maximum term for directors. This ensures renewal and underpins diversity. The Board renewal has continued in 2016-2017 with the retirement of Ms Elizabeth Carr (Chairman), Mr Ashley Chapman (Deputy Chairman), and Mr John McCarroll. On behalf of the macular disease community we thank them sincerely for their contribution to the Foundation.

Ms Elizabeth Carr AM, Chairman – BA (Hons), MPA, FAICD

Director 2001 – 2003, Chairman 2006 – 2016, Retired: 7 September 2016

Elizabeth retired in 2016 having made a significant contribution to the Foundation over 12 years. She was an inaugural director from 2001 to 2003 and returned to the Foundation as Chairman from 2006. Elizabeth was committed to the Foundation, encouraging and supporting everyone to achieve the best possible results for the macular disease community. Further to her role as Chairman, Elizabeth was a member of all Committees up until her retirement.

Mr Ashley Chapman, Deputy Chairman – CPA, MACS

Director 2004 – 2016, Deputy Chairman 2006 – 2016, Retired: 6 December 2016

Ashley retired from the Board in 2016 after 12 years of steadfast commitment. He was appointed the inaugural Deputy Chairman in 2006, a position he held until his retirement. Ashley brought to the Board a commitment to good governance and a strong focus on the welfare of those living with vision loss. He was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Client Services Committee, and the Board Nomination and Evaluation Committee. Post his retirement from the Board he continues as a member of the Audit & Risk Committee and Client Services Committee.

Mr John McCarroll – BEc

Director 2004 – 2016, Retired: 6 December 2016

During his 12 years as director John McCarroll drew on his wide-ranging expertise to support the Foundation's growth and sustainability. John brought 30 years of business and financial acumen to the Board, plus a strong empathy for those the Foundation supported. John was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board Nomination and Evaluation Committee up until his retirement.

Retiring Board Directors were recognised for their outstanding service to the Foundation at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.



John McCarroll and Ashley Chapman



Elizabeth Carr with Chairman Robert Kaye



Jean's Story

I remember the day my mother Elaine told the family she was losing her sight. She was in her early forties and had been to an ophthalmologist because she was having trouble with her vision. In particular the white lines on the road had become wavy. She wasn't told what her vision problem was, only that she would go blind one day and there was nothing she could do about it. Then she was sent home.

Without an understanding of her eye condition it was impossible to know how we could help or prepare for the future.

Nearly fifty years later mum is legally blind and many of the pleasures of her life have been greatly restricted; seeing movies, reading books, watching television. She now relies on her remaining senses. It is sad that mum can no longer read, drive or

go to the movies – things she loved doing. She does have talking books, and a really big TV screen.

I have an uncle who also has macular degeneration so I am keenly aware that along with age, genetics puts you at risk. I care deeply about the eye health of my family and the possibility of my children getting the disease. I hope that one day, with enough support for research, we will have a cure for this disease.

At the moment, early diagnosis is imperative for treatment so my key message for everyone is get your macula checked, and if you have someone in your family with macular degeneration, contact the Foundation. They are warm, friendly and give invaluable information and great support. They make a huge difference.

Ambassador Jean Kittson

Jean Kittson is a performer, writer and proud Ambassador of Macular Disease Foundation Australia. Jean is an engaging speaker and willingly shares her personal insight into the impact of macular degeneration on her family. Macular Disease Foundation Australia is very grateful to Jean for her ambassadorial work over the last 10 years and for dedication in promoting the Foundation's important messages.

EDUCATION

Educating with accurate, specific, current and ongoing information

The Foundation delivers education seminars across Australia to the public, providing an opportunity to learn about macular degeneration.

Some sessions include the important role of low vision services and aids available to help maintain independence and quality of life.

Furthermore, the Foundation provides education on macular diseases to health care professionals, delivering presentations at professional development meetings and conferences.

Recognising the important role that aged care workers play in the support of those with macular disease, most particularly age-related macular degeneration, the Foundation provides ongoing education and support to this sector.



84,500 people have attended education sessions nationally over the past 11 years.

98%
OF ATTENDEES
RATED
FOUNDATION
EDUCATION
SESSIONS AS
EXCELLENT
OR **GOOD**

6,500 PEOPLE
ATTENDED
115 PUBLIC
AND COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
SESSIONS
ACROSS AUSTRALIA

22 EDUCATION
SESSIONS
UNDERTAKEN TO
450 HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS



Education of the Public

The Foundation delivered education sessions on macular degeneration to members of the public and community groups. These sessions included disease symptoms, risk factors, treatment options and the importance of nutrition and lifestyle. Sessions also covered low vision services, as well as aids and technologies available to help people with vision loss maintain independence and quality of life.

In 2016-2017 the Foundation conducted 115 education sessions attended by 6,500 people including the general public, members of the Foundation's client base, and community-based organisations including seniors' groups, social groups, service clubs, vision-impaired groups, and groups for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Attendees received comprehensive information kits and were asked to complete an evaluation form, which was used to inform further educational programs.

Public Education

1,900 people attended 23 public education sessions held by the Foundation in metropolitan and regional locations across the country.

These sessions were promoted by invitations sent to people on the Foundation's mailing list, as well as invitations and posters sent to local ophthalmologists, optometrists, general practitioners, pharmacies, health and community centres, retirement villages and local clubs and groups. Advertising was placed in local newspapers.

Ophthalmology Presentations

The Foundation arranged for ophthalmologists to speak at selected public education sessions around Australia. Presentations were delivered by: Associate Professor Nitin Verma (TAS), Associate Professor Dimitri Yellachich (WA) and Dr David Hilford (QLD).

Community Education

In response to requests from community groups, the Foundation spoke to 4,600 people at 92 community education sessions.

Participating community groups included Probus clubs, seniors groups, service clubs such as Rotary, community centres, retirement villages and aged care facilities, and other health related support groups.

The Foundation reached out to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities including Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese communities, providing education sessions with the aid of an interpreter.

Seniors Expos

Foundation educators engaged with over 1,200 people at presentations and exhibition stands at annual expos in Sydney and Perth.

Attendees received the Foundation's free self-monitoring Amsler grid as well as information on macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, nutrition and low vision aids and services.

“An extremely informative lecture. My wife has had wet macular degeneration for approximately two years but we were not aware of much of the information given today.” Alan



Educating Health Professionals

The Foundation delivered 22 education sessions and distributed free resources to 450 health professionals including hospital staff, aged care facilities staff, clinicians, nurses and students.

Australia's ageing population continues to present increasing challenges for the health and aged care sector. 15 tailored education sessions on macular disease and aged care were undertaken supporting the work of this sector.

Presentations were made to orthoptics students at the University of Technology Sydney and the University of NSW.

RANZCO

The annual Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) Congress is a valuable opportunity for the Foundation to strengthen relationships with ophthalmologists and allied health professionals.

At the 2016 RANZCO Congress in Melbourne, the Foundation exhibited and the Chief Executive Officer presented three sessions to 250 ophthalmic related health professionals, including orthoptists, practice managers and ophthalmic nurses.

e-CPD Program

The Foundation continued to support general practitioners and other allied health professionals by providing resources on macular disease. Throughout 2016-2017 an e-CPD program reached 900 GPs and other health professionals, providing comprehensive information on macular degeneration including best practice referral pathways to ensure early detection and appropriate intervention.

Where did we go?

Community and Public Education

<p>NSW</p> <p>Ashfield Balgowlah Balmain Bankstown Batemans Bay Bega Belmont Belrose Budgewoi Burwood Campbelltown Caringbah Carlingford Chatswood Coffs Harbour Coogee Cronulla Crows Nest Earlwood Engadine Fairfield Galston Glenhaven Gordon</p>	<p>Guildford Gymea Heathcote Hornsby Killara Kingsford Kingsgrove Lane Cove Malabar Menai Mollymook Mosman Muirfield North Sydney North Turramurra Panania Pemulwuy Port Macquarie Prairiewood Revesby Sans Souci St Ives Strathfield Surry Hills Sydney</p>	<p>Tamworth Turramurra Tweed Heads South Wagga Wagga Warrawee Warriewood West Pennant Hills West Pymble Woolooware Woonona Woy Woy</p> <p>ACT</p> <p>Canberra</p> <p>QLD</p> <p>Bundaberg Gold Coast Hervey Bay Hope Island Maryborough</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>Victor Harbor</p> <p>TAS</p> <p>Sandy Bay</p> <p>VIC</p> <p>Garfield Dromana Valley Pakenham East Essendon Melbourne</p> <p>WA</p> <p>Claremont Gosnells Innaloo Mandurah Mosman Noranda Perth</p>
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Health Care Professionals

Delivered 22 health care education sessions across Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.



Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups

Delivered 7 sessions to Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese communities across Western Australia and New South Wales.

“This talk has made me more aware of the care I should take with my eyes. I have just booked my next optometrist appointment.” Helen

Achieving our Goals

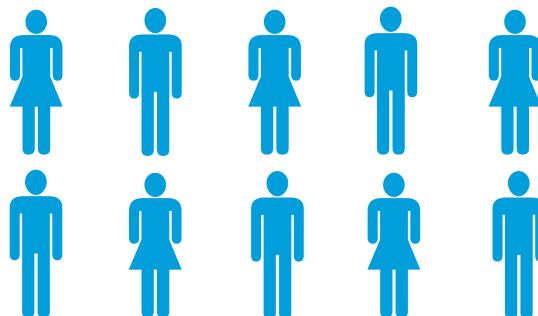
Education Sessions

GOAL Satisfaction Rating



RESULT
98% of attendees rated the education sessions as “excellent” or “good”

GOAL Target Age Group



RESULT
97% of attendees were in the at-risk age group (aged 50 plus)

GOAL Target Audience



of attendees had macular degeneration, or were family or friends of a person with macular degeneration

GOAL Knowledge



of attendees indicated that they knew “a reasonable amount” or “a great deal” more about macular degeneration after the education session

“Very informative, feeling of confidence for the future with all the help available.” Robert

AWARENESS

Increasing awareness of macular disease

Australia leads the world in awareness of macular degeneration thanks to the efforts of the Foundation.

Through campaigns including Macular Degeneration Awareness Week and the mEYE World Photographic Competition, we are working to create healthier communities and save the sight of Australians at risk of macular disease.

A powerful way to raise awareness is to share personal stories of those living, or caring for loved ones, with macular disease.

Patron Ita Buttrose, Ambassador Jean Kittson and many others from the macular disease community generously allow us to share their stories through media and advocacy activities to help achieve our goals.



Independent research undertaken since 2007 indicates that 89% of Australians in the at risk population (over 50) are now aware of macular degeneration, up from 58% in 2007.

**Jean Kittson,
Ambassador.**

**10 years of
dedication to
saving sight.**

MACULAR DEGENERATION AWARENESS WEEK 2017

CARER RESEARCH
REVEALED **ONLY 6%**
OF 50 TO 64 YEAR
OLDS SURVEYED,
WHO CARE FOR
AGEING PARENTS OR
GRANDCHILDREN,
LISTED AN **EYE
DISEASE CHECK**
AS THEIR **TOP
HEALTH PRIORITY**



Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017

“Face the Facts about Macular Degeneration” was the theme for Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017 (21 - 27 May). The campaign focused on five key facts all Australians should know about the disease.

This was supported by an independent national Galaxy survey of carers aged 50 to 64 who were looking after ageing parents and grandchildren. The aim was to understand what impact this care had on their eye health.

The results showed that there are over 2.5 million caregivers in this age group providing weekly care to aged parents or grandchildren. Many of these carers in undertaking this role are sacrificing their own health, particularly their eye health.

National Survey Results

70% of Australians aged 50-64 years, both men and women, are providing weekly care to elderly parents or grandchildren.

Of the 2.5 million Australians aged 50-64 providing this care, only 6% consider that an eye disease check is a top health check priority.

For the 56% of those who care weekly for ageing parents or grandchildren the caring role had an adverse effect on their health.

Consumer survey conducted by Galaxy Research, 2-6 March 2017, N = 1,012.

Ambassador Jean Kittson was a key voice of the campaign as her own experience is similar to many in this age group, as she too cares for ageing parents. Jean's mother Elaine lives with vision loss from macular degeneration.

Jean shared how she manages to juggle a busy life and continue to look after her own eye health.



Jean Kittson with her mother Elaine.

“Many people my age find themselves in this ‘sandwich’ situation and are often doing more caring for family members than they expected and consequently are putting their own health and wellbeing needs further down the ‘to-do’ list,” said Jean. “I manage my health primarily because my family and I are a team.”

Jean Kittson, Ambassador

Voices of the Foundation

Foundation Patron Ita Buttrose and Chairman Robert Kaye joined Jean Kittson in sharing their personal stories of macular degeneration. The common theme of these stories was the impact loss of sight had on a parent, and the resulting effect on all the family.

Powerful firsthand accounts of living with macular degeneration were also shared from within the broader macular disease community. Gerald Buttrose, uncle to Ita Buttrose, shared his story on the importance of early detection and timely treatment. An editorial feature of Ita and Gerald appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald / The Age's Good Weekend magazine.



Patron Ita Buttrose and her uncle, Gerald Buttrose, discuss macular degeneration.



85 year old Nancy Little who lives with vision loss from macular degeneration, and her daughter Amanda, featured on our poster and in our media campaign.

Gerald and Nancy shared their stories in filmed interviews which were widely shared.



Nancy Little shares her story of living with vision loss.

Key Media Outcomes

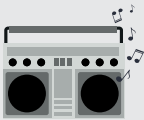
Television



4,829,000

Potential viewing audience across regional and metro stations

Radio



2,919,000

Estimated radio audience interviews and news grabs across metro and regional stations

Press



1,583,000

Trade and consumer print audience nationally

Online



61,685,000

Online editorial views across 79 websites



Jean Kittson interviewed on Studio 10.



CEO Julie Heraghty interviewed on Channel Nine News.

Social Media / Online Advertising

A social media program supported the traditional media campaign and included paid and organic posts. Posts included audio visual clips by key spokespeople, personal stories, and promotion of the Foundation's national Helpline and services. Online advertising to further the campaign's reach supported these activities.

Social Media

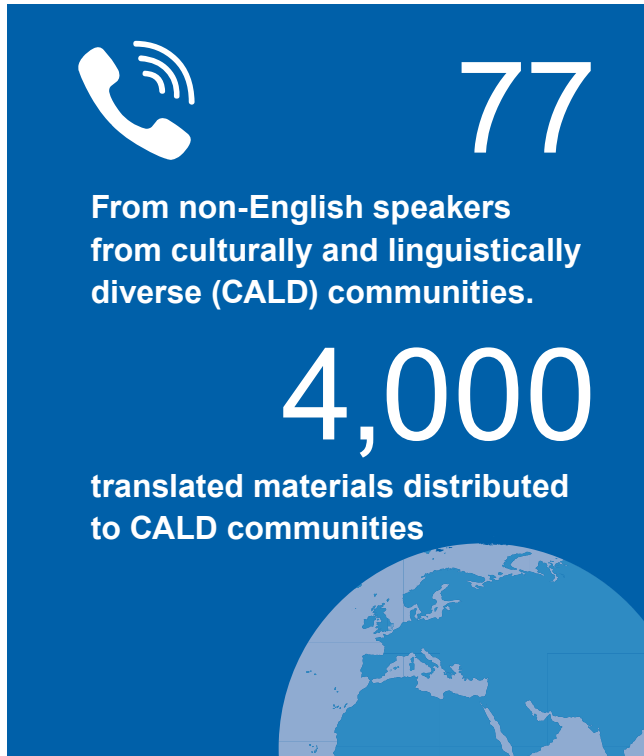


3,362,000

Potential audience on third party social media platforms

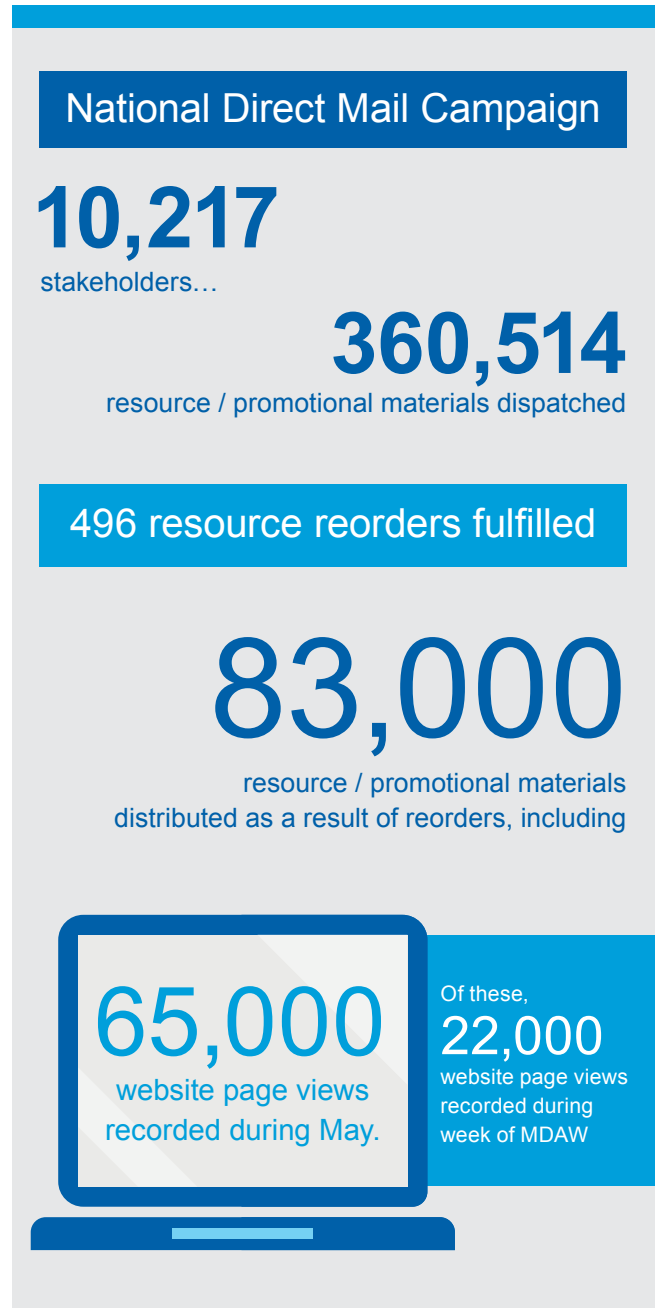
Reaching Out

The Foundation reached out to Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese communities with key messages translated for radio and print media.



Information Distribution

A national direct mail campaign was conducted reaching over 10,000 stakeholders. Resources were provided to raise knowledge of macular degeneration and key health messages. A toolkit was developed to assist with media / social media promotion.



Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017 was generously supported by Bayer, Blackmores and Optometry Australia.

mEYE World Photographic Competition 2016

The annual mEYE World Photographic Competition, initiated in 2011, raises awareness of macular disease and engages with the Australian community through the visual arts.

The 2016 competition (30 Aug - 18 Oct) called for entries that captured the theme "See My World".

Promotional activities included a community service announcement campaign across radio and print; editorial coverage across radio, print, online and television; an online advertising campaign; and other targeted engagement activities.

Thank you to judges Patron Ita Buttrose, Rex Dupain and Alan Pryke.

Key Outcomes

- 2,424 entries
- Community Service Announcements reach potential audience of 25 million
- Online advertising reaches potential audience of 1.5 million, with 9,500 click throughs to the competition website
- 30% increase in 'Likes' on Facebook during campaign period.

2016 Winners



Macular Disease Community Category Winner and Grand Finalist: Tania Savona



Open Category Winner: Sharran Makin



Healthcare Professional Category Winner: Dr Kerry Boytell



Junior Category Winner: Floyd Mallon

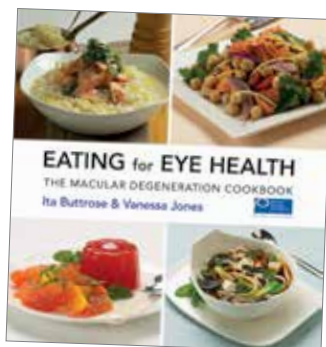
Do You See What I See?

The Foundation joined forces with local optometrists in the “Do You See What I See?” campaign. This aimed to improve the eye health of those at increased risk of developing eye disease, including diabetic eye disease. It highlighted the importance of early detection to save sight through regular eye tests and was supported by Bayer.



Eating for Eye Health

Eating for Eye Health - The Macular Degeneration Cookbook, co-authored by Patron Ita Buttrose and chef Vanessa Jones, continued to generate awareness of the importance of eating eye-health foods. It is now in its 3rd edition.



Keep on Driving Safely

The *Keep on Driving Safely* project continued to run in the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. The initiative involves a macular disease flyer being inserted into driver licence renewals.

National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA)

Aligning with Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017 the May/June NRMA Open Road Magazine included editorial coverage, a major advertisement, and an information flyer insert on macular degeneration. This was supported online through NRMA's website and social media promotion.

- 1.22 million people across NSW/ACT saw the editorial and advertisement
- 335,000 people in targeted high prevalence areas for macular degeneration received information leaflets



RESEARCH

Support and pursue research

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia Research Grants Program is a leading source of funding for macular degeneration research in Australia.

Since launching the program in 2011, the Foundation has committed almost \$3 million to support the work of world-leading Australian researchers, with the aim to reduce the incidence and impact of macular degeneration, and ultimately find a cure.

Funded research grants to date have resulted in over 40 peer-reviewed articles in leading scientific journals.

The Foundation is proud to have opened a fourth round of grant funding in 2016-2017, to be awarded on World Sight Day, 12 October 2017.

The Foundation is committed to raising \$10 million by 2021 to invest in macular degeneration research.



Since launching the Research Grants Program in 2011, Macular Disease Foundation Australia has committed almost \$3 million to 13 leading Australian researchers.

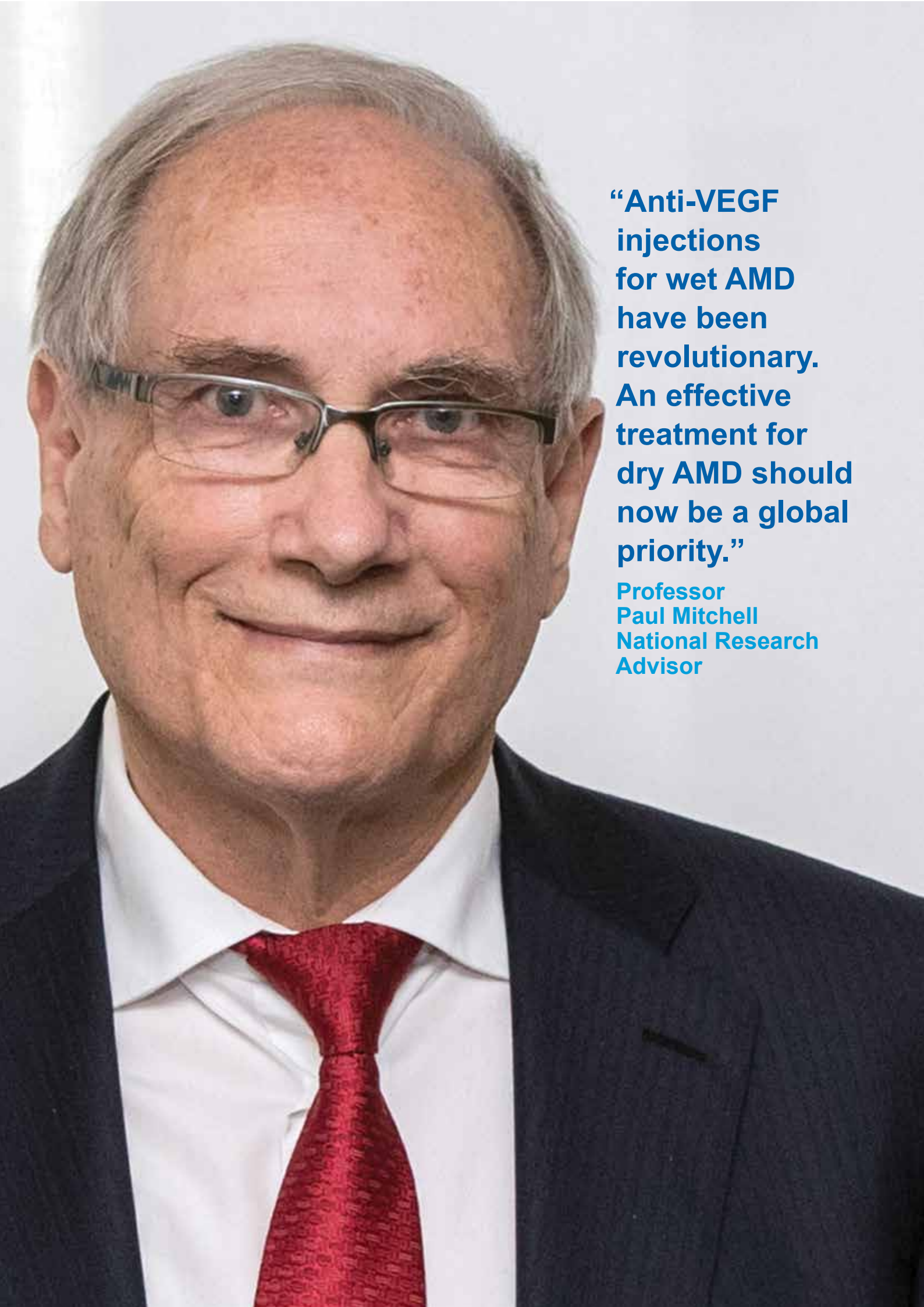
4TH ROUND
GRANTS ATTRACTED
21 APPLICATIONS

**RESEARCH
TARGET!**



**\$10 MILLION
BY 2021**

AGED CARE
FACILITY STUDY
REVEALS **68% OF**
THE RESIDENTS
TESTED HAD **SOME**
DEGREE OF AGE-
RELATED MACULAR
DEGENERATION
(AMD)



“Anti-VEGF injections for wet AMD have been revolutionary. An effective treatment for dry AMD should now be a global priority.”

**Professor
Paul Mitchell
National Research
Advisor**

Research Grants Program - Funded Projects in Progress

Eight research projects on age-related macular degeneration (AMD), funded by the Macular Disease Foundation Australia Research Grants Program, have been progressing in 2016-2017. Below is a snapshot of the researchers and their projects:



Could the future of AMD diagnosis involve a blood test?

Associate Professor Gerald Liew

Centre for Vision Research, Westmead Millennium Institute
The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Gerald Liew is analysing specific metabolites (small chemicals in the blood) that result from AMD. If Associate Professor Liew's research is successful it could lead to the development of an early indicator blood test for the progression of age-related macular degeneration.

Who is caring for the carer?

Associate Professor Bamini Gopinath

Westmead Millennium Institute
The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Gopinath's research, part funded by the Foundation's grants program, is looking at improving the emotional wellbeing of family members who care for someone living with AMD. The study involves working with members of the macular disease community to trial and evaluate a carer's wellbeing management program.



How can existing treatments be delivered better?

Professor Mark Gillies

Save Sight Institute
The University of Sydney

The "Fight Retinal Blindness Project!" is investigating a number of issues regarding "real world" treatment as this can be different to people in clinical trials. This international collaboration will provide strong data on several key questions about treatment and help direct improved delivery of current and future treatments.



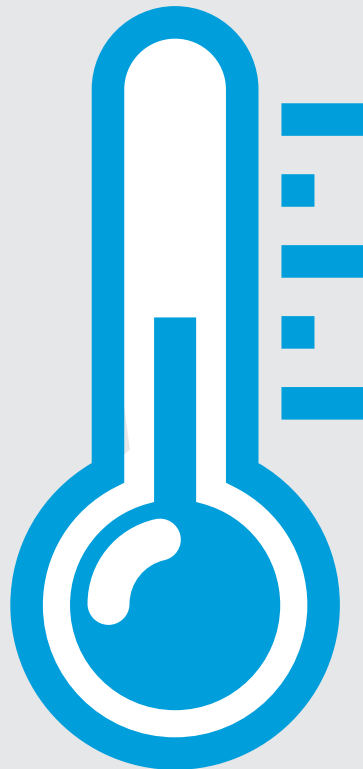
Can we predict who is at greatest risk?

Associate Professor Chi Luu
Centre for Eye Research Australia

The validation of a new diagnostic tool designed to detect people with high risk AMD at a much earlier stage is the focus of this study. If successful, this technology will enable trials of new treatments to be conducted more quickly, which would result in faster approvals.

Other funded projects in progress include:

- **Professor Steven Krilis, St George Hospital, UNSW** - This study will link environmental risk factors such as smoking and a high fat diet with biological system changes that are involved with AMD development.
- **Dr Isabelle Jalbert, School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW** - The focus of this study is to identify obstacles faced by eye care practitioners in delivering the best care and advice for people living with AMD, especially in regard to diet, supplementation and lifestyle modifications.
- **Dr Laura Downie, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, The University of Melbourne** - This project will develop a standardised education program for optometrists based on best practice to deliver a more consistent standard of early diagnosis, improved referrals and guidance from optometrists to patients and their families.
- **Associate Professor Wilson Heriot, The University of Melbourne** - This research explores whether a link between plaquenil and chloroquine retinal toxicity and blue light damage has possible connections to other macular diseases, including Stargardt's disease.



The lofty goal of \$10 million by 2021 is our research fundraising target.

Research Grants Program - Project Outcomes

Seven research projects funded by Macular Disease Foundation Australia Research Grants Program have now concluded. Below is a snapshot of the researchers and their outcomes.



Professor Damien Harkin

Queensland University of Technology and
Queensland Eye Institute

Project: Professor Harkin's project looked at developing an artificial scaffold, derived from silk protein, on which can be grown retinal cells derived from stem cells. It is hoped the scaffold will improve the survival of implanted retinal cells.

Outcome: Professor Harkin has obtained an additional \$600,000 NHMRC grant on the basis of the work he has completed with the Foundation's grant. This will be used to further refine the scaffold and start clinical trials.

Professor Robyn Guymer

Centre for Eye Research Australia

Project: This study undertaken by Professor Robyn Guymer involved detailed analysis of the fine structure of the retinal cells in people with early disease, and tracking them over several years to better predict people at highest risk at an earlier stage. The use of several new diagnostic tools was also studied in detail.

Outcome: A number of early markers were identified and several of the findings are under consideration for use in clinical trials of new drugs.



Professor Paul Mitchell

Westmead Millennium Institute, The University of Sydney

Project: A vast amount of data was collected in this study from a major public clinic on the diet and lifestyle characteristics of people with late stage AMD. This data was compared to a similarly aged population without macular degeneration.

Outcome: The study provided new information on diet and lifestyle modification to strengthen the Foundation's key messages.





Professor Erica Fletcher
The University of Melbourne

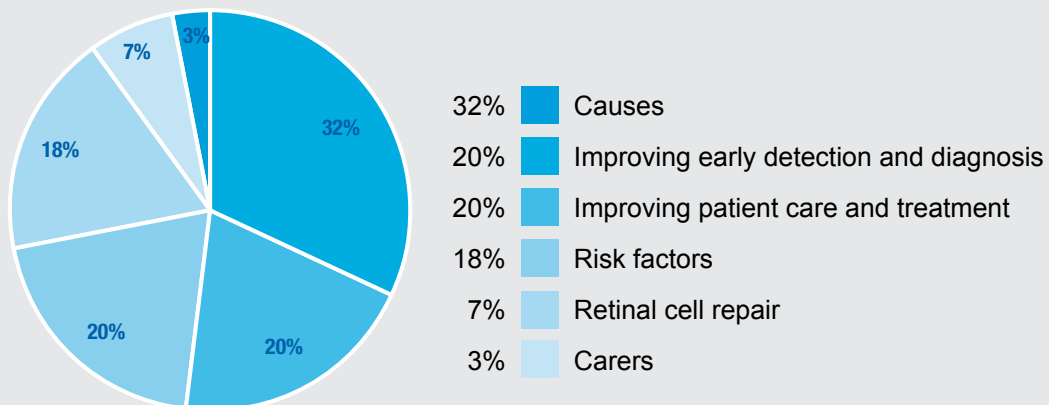
Project: This project examined the role of genetic variations that affect the role of a group of compounds (purines) in the early development of AMD.

Outcome: The key findings include the potential to develop a new treatment for dry AMD.

Other projects completed include:

- Associate Professor Bamini Gopinath, Westmead Millennium Institute, The University of Sydney**
This project confirmed that dietary intake of vitamins C and E, folate and vegetables tends to be much lower in people with late stage AMD.
- Dr Liubov Robman, Centre for Eye Research Australia**
The study found that people whose primary diet comprises fish, chicken, grains, nuts, fruit and vegetables were at significantly lower risk of developing vision-impairing late stage AMD.
- Associate Professor Bamini Gopinath, Westmead Millennium Institute, The University of Sydney**
This project enabled analysis of associations between certain micro and macro nutrient factors and AMD progression. It also analysed behavioural changes over 10 years in people who had received a diagnosis of AMD. Findings included a lower risk for people consuming regular dairy foods, and a potential role for vitamin B12 and folate supplementation. These initial findings now need to be confirmed before clear recommendations can be made.

Macular Disease Foundation Australia Research Grants Program expenditure on AMD to June 2017.



Inaugural Research Symposium

The inaugural Research Symposium, hosted by Foundation Patron Ita Buttrose, was a highlight of Macular Degeneration Awareness Week 2017. Over 100 guests attended the event.

The keynote speaker was the eminent Professor Paul Mitchell who was joined by Professor Damien Harkin and Associate Professor Gerald Liew. All the speakers have been recipients of Foundation research grant funding.

The key focus of the day was the extraordinary outcomes in macular degeneration research to date, current projects underway, and the future of macular degeneration research.

All agreed there is definitely hope for better outcomes for those living with macular degeneration, but this will involve more research, more time, and more funding. These are challenges the Foundation is helping to address through its Research Grants Program.



From left to right: Professor Damien Harkin, Patron Ita Buttrose, Professor Paul Mitchell, Associate Professor Gerald Liew, Foundation Chairman Robert Kaye

Foundation Research

The Foundation conducts independent and collaborative research.

Residential Aged Care Research

Previous research indicated residential aged facilities have little guidance or support in ensuring that the eye health of residents is properly understood or managed. To address this, the Foundation secured government funding in 2015 for a two and a half year study aimed to reduce the incidence and impact of vision impairment in residential aged care facilities.

The study included testing the vision and eye health of residents in several facilities and comparing these findings to the records kept by the facilities. The facilities' senior staff were surveyed to learn about policies and procedures relating to the management of residents' vision and vision impairment. The legislative and regulatory environment for residential aged care, and the current reform agenda for aged care in Australia was also reviewed.

The results confirm that eye disease is a significant co-morbidity of residents in residential aged care facilities in Australia. Recommendations will be published in 2017-2018.



Key outcomes

Testing of residents showed:

- At least 73% had some form of eye disease, and many had multiple eye diseases
- Up to 68% had some degree of age-related macular degeneration
- 25% were classified as having low vision and 4% were legally blind

Published Articles

Two peer-reviewed Foundation articles were published in medical literature in 2016-2017, bringing the overall total to eight. These are:

Implementing a multi-modal support service model for the family caregivers of persons with age-related macular degeneration: a study protocol for a randomised controlled trial. Gopinath B et al, BMJ Open, 2017;7:e018204

Disparities in access to anti-vascular endothelial growth factor treatment for neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Finger R et al, Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2017 Mar;45(2):143-151

REPRESENTATION

Advocating for the best interests of the macular disease community

As the national peak body representing the macular disease community the Foundation provides expert advice and information to government and allied health organisations. The Foundation works for the betterment of the macular disease community.

The focus of the Foundation's advocacy work is support for prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation of Australians living with, or at risk of, macular disease.

A robust engagement program with government and stakeholders is undertaken to achieve key advocacy objectives.



The Foundation's advocacy efforts over the last 16 years have led to affordable, registered, sight saving treatments for macular disease.

“As the leading voice of the macular disease community we are vigilant in advocating for the best interests of all affected by macular disease.”

Julie Heraghty
Chief Executive Officer

40

SUBMISSIONS
TO GOVERNMENT

AUSTRALIAN
FIRST **LOW**
VISION REPORT
SENT TO **883**
STAKEHOLDERS



An Australian-First Report on Low Vision

For over a decade the Foundation has advocated to successive governments for improved access to and affordability of low vision aids and technologies. In that time the issue has been shuffled between state and federal governments, between portfolios in health, ageing and disabilities and finally falling between the gaps of government reform in aged care and disability.

To raise awareness of this issue and to document the benefits of aids and technologies for people with vision loss and blindness, the Foundation produced an Australian and world first report.

Low Vision, quality of life and independence: a review of the evidence on aids and technologies.

The report documents the value and effectiveness of low vision aids and technologies, the barriers to access, and the reasons why this issue must be firmly placed on the government agenda. For this report the Foundation commissioned The George Institute for Global Health to undertake an international literature review on the value of aids and technologies for those with vision loss and blindness.

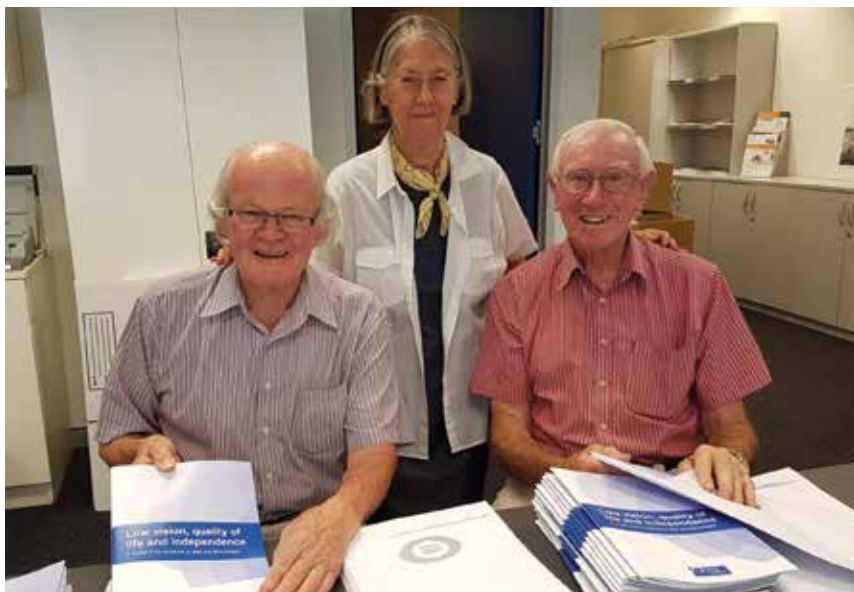
The report strongly recommended the establishment of a federally funded national aids and equipment program for older Australians with vision loss and blindness.



Foundation CEO Julie Heraghty met with Julian Leeser MP, Member for Berowra, to discuss the report.

883 Federal and State Members of Parliament, low vision agencies, private health insurers, key academics and health care providers received the Foundation's ground breaking Low Vision Report.

Foundation volunteers Jim, Clare and Des help dispatch the Low Vision Report



Graham's story

Graham is an acclaimed fine artist, a published writer and a former creative director who worked in some of the world's biggest advertising agencies. Now in his late 80s, he has lost most of his sight to dry macular degeneration. Graham refers to this condition as "a wicked joke" played out against someone who has always relied on sharp vision to pursue his passions and his career.

Graham finished up in advertising long before computers were introduced to the profession, yet that hasn't stopped him from embracing a vast array of technologies, including the DAISY player.

"The DAISY is easy to use and I have enjoyed many, many hours listening as it reads wonderful books to me. Recently I came across some sketches I'd done of Bilbo Baggins from Tolkien's book, *The Hobbit*. That inspired me to listen to *The Hobbit* on my DAISY."

"I love classical music, I've always got Classic FM playing. I also love politics,

so I often use the DAISY to listen to biographies about composers and international politicians. It is a great friend to me."

Graham recently purchased an iPad and an iPhone, both of which he is getting to know with help from Vision Australia. "I love technology; it helps me and keeps me in touch with the outside world. I've recently learnt to touch type and using Bluetooth, I can connect a large font keyboard to my iPad to type up my notes."

"At this age you've just got to keep on being interested. I rely on community transport and often I meet elderly people on the bus who complain that they can't enjoy music or read or get around anymore because they can't see well enough. That really annoys me so I tell them about the technology that's available to help them, and I send them in the right direction. I'm still out there changing people's lives, one day at a time."

Low vision aids and technology was a central part of our advocacy to government throughout the year.

The leading voice of the macular disease community

40 submissions

to Commonwealth Government inquiries, new programs and reviews.

Support services for older Australians with vision loss

Affordability of diagnosis and treatment

Consumer rights for those with a disability

Evidence-based research and information

KEY ACTIVITIES

Senate Inquiries: National Disability Strategy, Mobility Allowance Payments Program

Productivity Commission Inquiries: National Disability Insurance Scheme Costs, Human Services Sector

New Commonwealth Programs: Single Aged Care Quality Framework, Short Term Restorative Care Program, Integrated Carer Support Service, Continuity of Support Program

Commonwealth Reviews: Medicare Benefits Schedule, Aged Care Legislation, Medical Research Future Fund Priorities, Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, National Health and Medical Research Council Grants Funding, National Research Infrastructure Capability, Commonwealth Disability Employment Services Program, National Aged Care Advocacy Program Framework, National Disability Insurance Scheme Code of Conduct and Accessible Public Transport Design Guide

Other Reviews: Ocular Coherence Tomography Rebates, Medicare Rebates Indexation Freeze for Health Professionals, Disability Discrimination Commissioner's National Priorities



National Reach

Government

National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions

The Council of Australian Governments produced the *National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions* in 2017.

The vision of the Framework is that all Australians live healthier lives through effective prevention and management of chronic conditions by focusing on prevention, care and target priority populations. This includes older Australians, carers and people with a disability.

The Foundation's vision

The Foundation's vision to reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease and our target priority populations are in alignment with the vision of the Framework. There is now a strong basis for elevating macular disease as a serious chronic disease issue which impacts millions of people in this country.

Peak Bodies

The Foundation engages with other peak bodies in the areas of health, ageing and disability including:

- **National Aged Care Alliance:** A representative body of peak national organisations in aged care including consumer groups, providers, unions, and health professionals.

The Foundation: Chaired the Ageing and Disability Interface Working Group and has been highly active in the finalisation of a policy paper entitled *Improving the Interface Between the Aged Care and Disability Sectors Discussion Paper*.

- **Australian Blindness Forum:** A forum that promotes effective functioning of blindness agencies by exchanging information and influencing the policy agenda of government.

The Foundation: Worked to influence the National Disability Insurance Scheme policies to ensure participants with blindness are able to receive specialised low vision assessments.

- **People with Disability Australia:** A national disability rights and advocacy organisation with a cross-disability focus which seeks to provide people with disability with a voice of their own.

The Foundation: Partnered with People with Disability Australia and 23 other community groups to influence government for a positive outcome to prevent the loss of the mobility allowance for those with a disability, including vision loss.

- **Vision 2020:** A global initiative of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

The Foundation: Membership of 2 committees - Prevention and Early Intervention and Independence and Participation Committee.

CONTRIBUTED TO
**22 SUBMISSIONS WITH
OTHER PEAK BODIES IN
SUPPORT OF OUR VISION**

Health Advocacy in Action 2017

24 leaders from 18 Australian major health consumer organisations came together in 2017 to consider the challenges, opportunities and developments in Australian health policy. All organisations agreed on four key positions, which were communicated to government:

- healthcare interventions must be backed by robust evidence
- innovation presents opportunities for cost-effective health investment
- the need for increased consideration of the value of health technologies beyond the health portfolio
- the importance of data linkage being prioritised as a means for driving evidence-based policy.



Guest speaker Professor Paul Mitchell at Health Advocacy in Action.



“As advocates for patients, their families and carers, we are all familiar with the many challenges our healthcare system presents. However, part of our responsibility is to be dynamic, forthright and constructive in finding solutions that will drive change in health policy to achieve equitable and meaningful outcomes.”

Co-chairs of Health Advocacy in Action
Julie Heraghty, CEO, Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Richard Vines, CEO, Rare Cancers Australia

This event was supported by Roche.

State Reach

Agency for Clinical Innovation Ophthalmology Network Governing Body (co-chair): promotes equitable access to public sector ophthalmic services for the people of NSW.

Non-Government Organisation Advisory Committee (member): facilitates collaboration between NSW Health and non-government organisations (NGOs) on the development and implementation of NSW health policy.

Global Reach

Transforming Ageing in Asia Pacific

In 2016 the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer was invited to participate in an expert panel discussion on *Transforming Ageing with Health Innovation* at the University of Singapore. The expert panel included Professor John Eu-Li Wong (Chief Executive, National University Health System, Singapore), Chua Chee Yong (Director, Planning Group, Integrated Health Information Systems, Singapore)

and Dr Chuan Kit Foo (Head of Medical Affairs, Bayer Pharmaceuticals Asia Pacific). The panel discussion was part of a symposium to discuss the challenges of an ageing society. It was broadcast to a potential 70 million people in the Asia/Pacific region for Channel NewsAsia's series *Perspectives*, which focuses on societal themes.



The importance of geographic atrophy: acting now for a better future

In 2016 representatives of patient and vision loss organisations, along with experts in ageing and personalised medicine, met in Brussels (Belgium) to discuss raising awareness of geographic atrophy (known as late stage dry age-related macular degeneration). The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer presented the Foundation's best practice model in patient advocacy, awareness and education.

A second meeting was held whereby attendees developed an action plan to help shape the policy environment around geographic atrophy to improve diagnosis, care and treatment.

International Experience Exchange for Patient Organisations

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer participated in a 3-day conference in Madrid (Spain) in 2017 titled *Amplifying the Patient Voice*. It was attended by 250 patient organisations from around the world representing many diseases.

Conference delegates worked together to share ways to influence government policy. Pivotal to this was recognising that central to healthcare decisions is the input and voice of the patient. There was also an acknowledgement of the importance of data and patient information by all attendees.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Providing information, guidance,
understanding and support

Macular Disease Foundation Australia provides independent, free, expert advice to people who are living with and at risk of macular disease, their families and carers.

The Foundation also supports health care professionals with information and resources to help them care for their patients.

To ensure that we are offering a quality service and meeting the needs of the macular disease community, the Foundation conducts an annual evaluation of its services.

Our latest results show that 92% of clients were “very” or “mostly satisfied” with our service.



148,380 calls to the Foundation’s national Helpline since its establishment.

8,380

CALLS TO THE
FOUNDATION’S
HELPLINE

660,000

INDIVIDUAL
PUBLICATIONS
AND RESOURCES
DISTRIBUTED

**NEW WEBSITE
LAUNCHED TO
SUPPORT THE
MACULAR DISEASE
COMMUNITY**



Publications

The Foundation produces publications in print, audio and online formats. These publications are critical to increasing awareness of risk factors and symptoms, and giving guidance on diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. They are distributed nationally to individuals as well as to health care professionals to support their patients.

Fact Sheets

As well as producing publications on macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease and low vision, the Foundation produces fact sheets on other macular diseases and associated issues.



CALD Communities

Recognising Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population, the Foundation provides key publications translated into Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese. The publications are available in print and on the Foundation's website.

Guides for Low Vision

The Foundation's low vision series assists people to live independently with low vision, and help carers and family to provide effective support.

The series comprises:

- **Low Vision: A Guide**
A practical introduction to living with low vision
- **Family, Friend & Carer: A Guide**
For people providing care to a person with low vision
- **Slips, Trips & Falls: A Guide**
Practical advice on avoiding falls
- **Low Vision Aids & Technology: A Guide**
Information on the different types of aids, equipment and technology which assists those with low vision.



Audio Publications

The Foundation produces a number of its information booklets as audio publications for use by people with low vision. Audios cover macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease, nutrition and supplements, living with low vision, reducing slips, trips and falls, and information on Charles Bonnet Syndrome. They are available online via the Foundation's website and on CD.

“Thank you for sending me your package on macular degeneration. I have found a great deal of information which has helped me to better understand the disease.” Iris

Information Kits

Information kits were distributed at education and awareness events and in response to calls to the Foundation's Helpline. There were 660,000 individual publications and resources distributed to the general public and health care professionals.



Foundation volunteers packed 9,300 information kits in 2016-2017.

National Helpline

During 2016-2017 the Foundation's Helpline answered 8,380 calls from people around Australia who live with a macular disease, their family members, friends and carers. The Foundation's Helpline team offered valuable information, guidance, understanding and support.



8,380
CALLS TO HELPLINE

“Thank you very much for the information booklets you mailed me, they were very informative and I have learnt so much! Because of the information I received from you, I was able to discuss things further with my specialist. I was able to have a more informed conversation, and get more specific and detailed answers. Thank you very much, you are doing such great work!” Joyce

Communications

Newsletters

A quarterly macular degeneration newsletter is produced. It provides updates on projects, advocacy campaigns and outlines key research. The newsletter remains a vital tool for communicating with the community. Additionally, a dedicated diabetic eye disease newsletter, with two editions released per year, provides key information on diabetes and eye health.



Annual Research Updates

The annual *Research Update*, produced every December, summarises promising research developments around the world. The Foundation is grateful to the Medical Committee, which provides oversight and guidance on this publication.

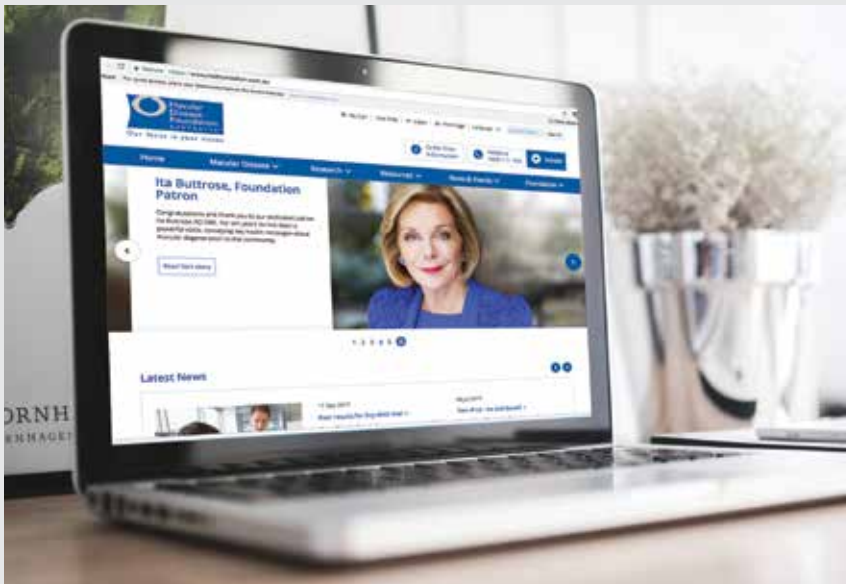
Eye Care Professionals

A weekly research e-newsletter is produced and distributed to 1,000 eye care professionals. This important resource summarises global published peer-reviewed research on macular disease.

Social Media

The Foundation communicates important eye health messages through its social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

New Website



“I have been advised today that I have macular degeneration. While it is far from good news, the quality of the information on your website is astoundingly good and for that I wanted to express my appreciation.” Michael

In May 2017 the Foundation launched a new website to provide continued support of the macular disease community. The Foundation’s website is a powerful tool for the dissemination of information on macular disease, research and associated issues and the promotion of the Foundation’s many activities.

Low Vision Services

Low Vision Information Days

Low vision information days provide an opportunity for the Foundation to connect with the macular disease community and provide advice on equipment that can enhance quality of life and independence.

Low vision service providers were invited to present alongside the Foundation, including Vision Australia, Guide Dogs, Quantum RLV and Humanware.

Low Vision Advisory Service

The Foundation continued to provide its free low vision advisory service in collaboration with Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. This service operates from the Foundation's national office and involves an orthoptist from Guide Dogs working closely with clients to assess individual needs and determine which aids and technologies can help to best maintain independence and quality of life.

Navigator Audio Book Program

The Navigator is a hand-held portable device that reads books and newspapers aloud. The Foundation provides free access to the Navigator via two projects: the Navigator Library Access Project and the Navigator Home Access Project. These projects provide free access to audio book technology either through a local library or via download access from home.



Foundation Services

The Foundation evaluates its services by surveying a random sample of 2000 clients from across the spectrum of the macular disease community. The information collected is analysed and used to inform activities and services.

Key Services: Newsletter, Helpline, Education Sessions and Website.

91%

of clients are using our key services

86%

of clients who used key services stated they were 'good' or 'excellent'

92%

of clients were 'very' or 'mostly satisfied'

55% very

37% mostly

5% indifferent

3% Dissatisfied

Dedicated Volunteers

Volunteers provide valuable support to the Foundation, contributing both time and expertise in many different areas of work. Many volunteers live with macular disease, are carers, family members or friends. Others volunteer as part of their philosophy of giving to the community.



Foundation volunteers with Patron Ita Buttrose.



Volunteers Clare and Beverley acknowledged in 2016 by Patron Ita Buttrose for 10 years of volunteering.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for the outstanding support they provide to the Foundation.

Jan's Story

For a considerable part of my life I was blissfully unaware of the existence of the disease known as macular degeneration.

When my grandfather, naval engineer and yacht designer Aage Utzon, gradually lost his sight in the late 1960's, it was accepted as something that could be expected when you grew older. Not until my father, Jørn Utzon, began to experience the same symptoms at the turn of the millennium, did the term 'macular degeneration' appear in the vocabulary of our family. Wet macular degeneration was the verdict. His vision steadily declined over the years until his passing in 2008.

My father was able to keep working on projects up until the end of his life. As he and I had been working together for almost 40 years, we had developed an architectural rapport as it were, where his ideas and directives, through my hands, could produce the documents and drawings needed for the refurbishment of the Sydney Opera House.

Because of his analytical approach to his own condition, the rest of the members of our family became acutely aware of the trauma that macular degeneration can have on a person's life. As you can imagine I have become very aware of macular degeneration, and must accept that I have a hereditary risk of being afflicted with the disease.

Witnessing my father's sight deteriorate from macular degeneration was heartbreaking. I can only urge everyone to have their macula checked, and very importantly, urge our society to make a greater effort to find a cure for this disease, which unnecessarily disables many of our citizens, individuals who, if they could retain their eyesight, with their skills and knowledge could be of great benefit to our society.

Ambassador Jan Utzon

Jan Utzon is a Danish architect and son of famed Sydney Opera House architect Jørn Utzon. Deeply influenced by his father's approach to architecture, the two worked closely together on several prestigious projects until Jørn's passing in 2008. Jan, through his own design practice, has undertaken many interesting projects. One of his most successful is the Performing Arts Centre in Esbjerg (1997) with its theatre and concert hall combined with the earlier art museum. Macular Disease Foundation Australia is grateful to have a strong and staunch advocate in Jan, and thank him for agreeing to be a champion for the cause.



Financial Report

PROFIT & LOSS (FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE)

\$000	2017	2016
Revenues		
Sponsorships	1,118	1,266
Donations/Fundraising	936	544
Donations - Research Grants Program	207	706
Corporate support	600	600
Government grants	762	698
Investment income	575	636
Total Revenues	4,198	4,450
Expenses		
Support services	583	636
Awareness	642	622
Research Grants Program	684	616
Research	331	347
Management	625	516
Education	300	387
Representation	206	232
Fundraising	128	114
Total Expenses	3,499	3,470
Net Surplus	699	980
Net fair value gains/(losses) on investment	241	(479)
Total Comprehensive Income/(Expense) for the year	940	501

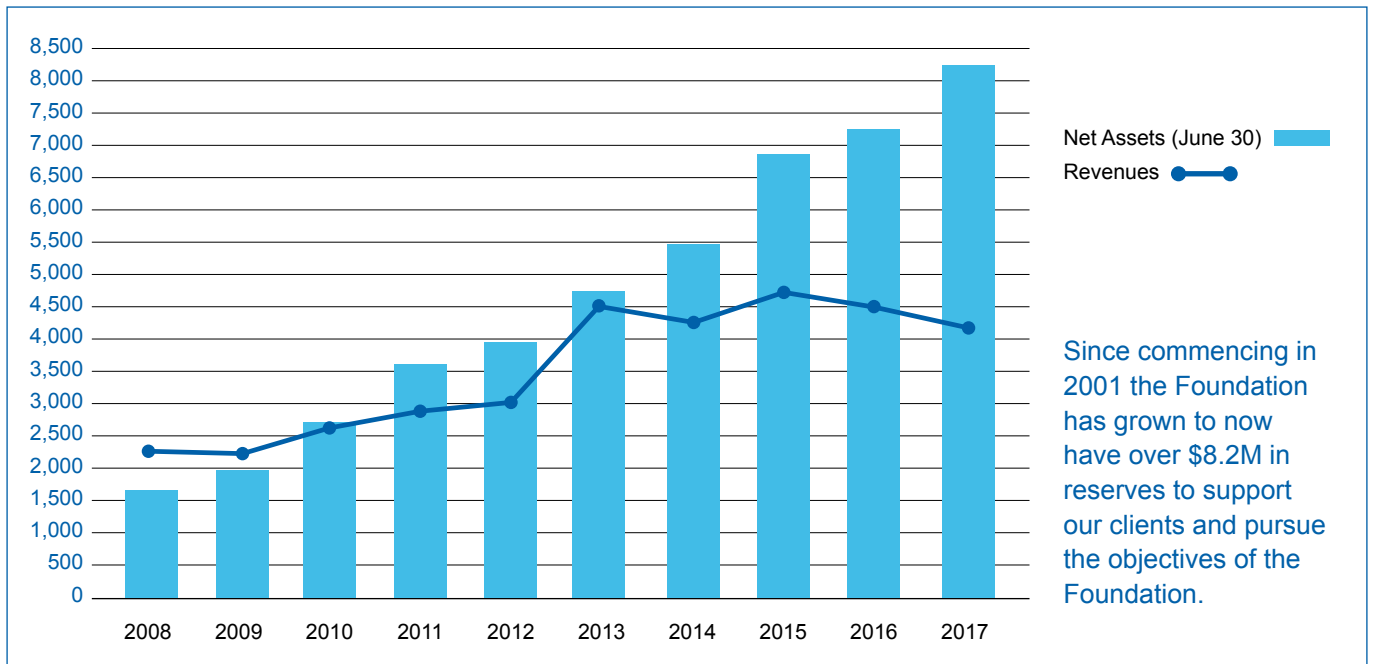
BALANCE SHEET (AS AT 30 JUNE)

\$000	2017	2016
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,262	1,118
Investments	6,403	5,666
Trade and other receivables	1,136	1,451
Property, plant and equipment	7	16
Total Assets	8,808	8,251
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables and provisions, current	533	924
Provisions, non-current	51	42
Total Liabilities	584	966
Net Assets¹	8,224	7,285

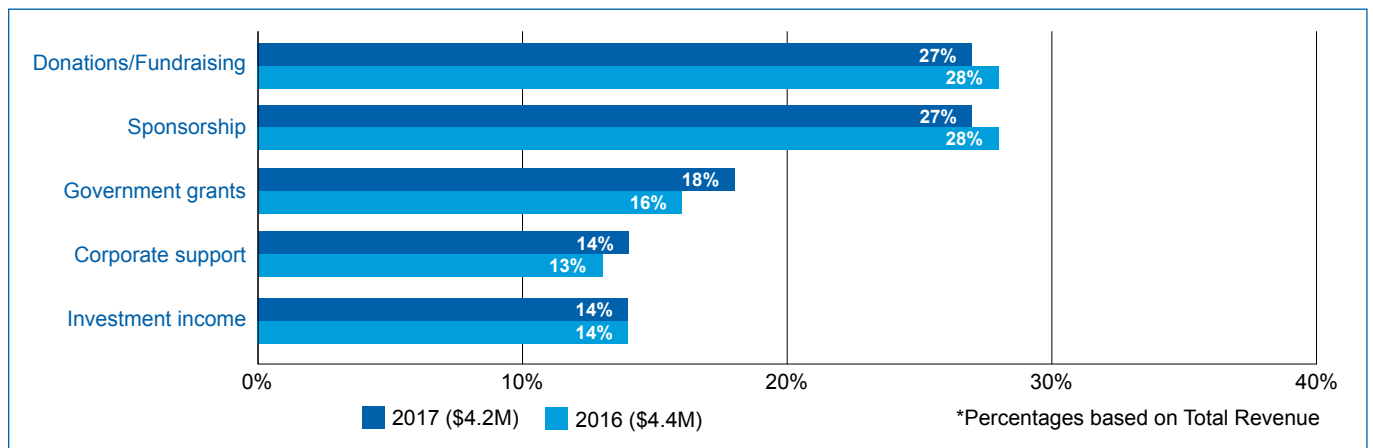
¹As at 30 June 2017 the Foundation had \$1,081,000 (2016: \$1,165,000) set aside within the Net Assets to support future research initiatives.

The information on this page was extracted from the audited Financial Statements of Macular Disease Foundation Australia for the year ended 30 June 2017 and is presented in a management reporting format. The audited Financial Statements can be obtained free of charge on the Macular Disease Foundation Australia website or by contacting the Foundation on 1800 111 709.

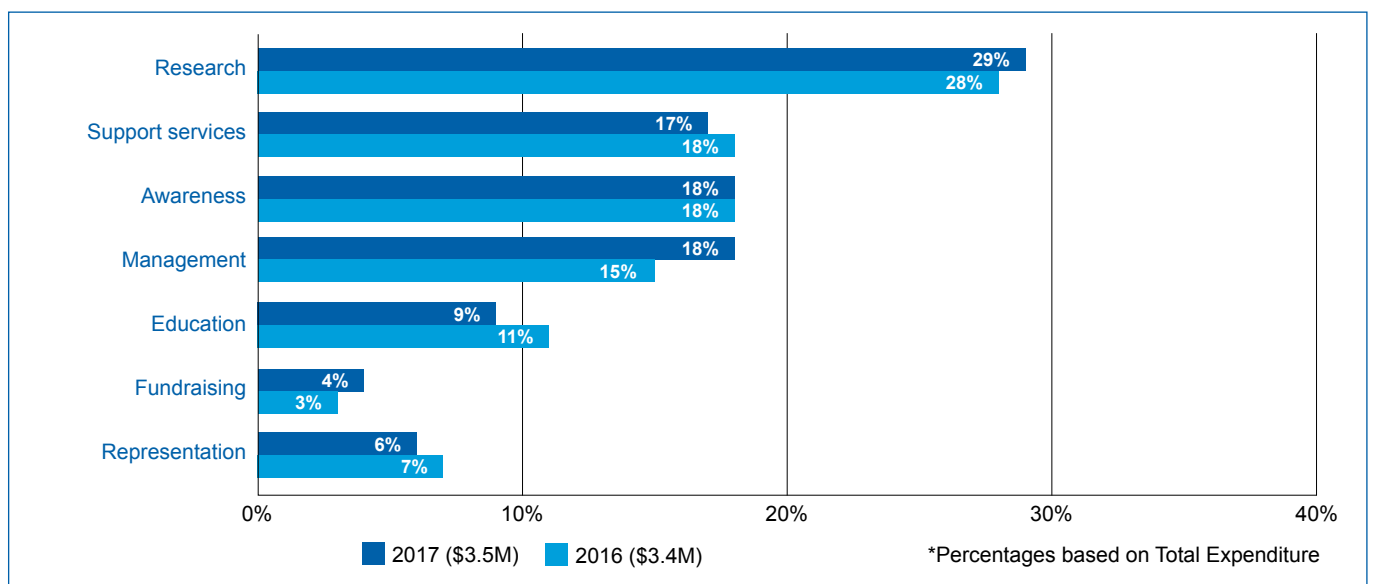
10 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$000)



REVENUE SOURCES



EXPENDITURES



FUNDRAISING

Together we can protect and save sight

The Foundation relies on financial support from government, organisations and individuals to meet the real needs of the macular disease community. Together we are reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia.

Generous support and donations have helped the Foundation and the macular disease community by:

- Funding pioneering research to find better ways to treat and care for patients who have macular disease
- Supporting people who need information, guidance and support.
- Reducing the number of people losing their sight through education and awareness programs across Australia.



The Foundation has benefited from those generous Visionary Partners who have left a gift in their Will. A legacy gift allows the Foundation to plan for tomorrow.



ROTH GAIR GOLF
DAY **\$16K IN 2017.**
10 YEARS OF
SUPPORT TOTALS
\$120K.

\$140K
CLUBSNSW
CLUBGRANTS

10 YEARS
OF SUPPORT
BY PROFIELD
FOUNDATION



**Community fundraisers,
Grumpy and his girl guides
on the Larapinta Trail**

10 Years of Sight Saving Support

Profield Foundation

This year marks ten years of support by the Profield Foundation. Since 2007, Profield Foundation has helped fund client services including the Helpline, publications, awareness and education activities.

This support of Macular Disease Foundation Australia's frontline services directly helps Australians on their journey with macular degeneration, along with their family and carers, by providing relevant and timely information, guidance and support.

On this 10th anniversary of Profield Foundation's support, we acknowledge the legacy of Mr Ross Field, who lived with macular degeneration.

The continued support of the Field family is greatly appreciated. They are committed to the Foundation's vision to reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia.



Profield Foundation Board

Roth Gair Golf Day

The 10th anniversary of the annual Roth Gair Golf Day this year raised over \$16,000. This community fundraising event has now raised a total of \$120,000 for the Foundation.

The golf day was established to commemorate the memory of Mr Roth Gair. When he passed away in 2003, at the age of 79, he had lost 90% of his vision to macular degeneration.

Roth had a strong network of friends and was a member of the Lions Club, becoming president of Forest Hill Lions Club. He joined the Blind Golfers Association in its early days and played in the World Blind Golf Tournament. He was proud of what he had achieved.

In 2006 the Forest Hill Lions Club decided to hold an annual golf day in his honour, which would also raise funds for the

Foundation. This golf day is a legacy of Roth's determination never to give up hope.

The Foundation wishes to thank the enormous efforts and contribution by the Gair family, the Lions Clubs of Forest Hill and Park Orchards, and all golfers, sponsors, families and friends who support Roth's lasting legacy.



Roth Gair Golf Day Committee members with Board Director, Suellen Tapsall.

Corporate Partnerships



Bayer

Since 2011 Bayer has provided exceptional support for key initiatives in the areas of client services, awareness, education and research, allowing the Foundation to expand its activities and services. Bayer's support of Macular Degeneration Awareness Week has helped maintain the Foundation's position as a world leader in awareness of the disease.

*Nelson Ambrogio, General Manager
Bayer Pharmaceuticals Australia / New Zealand*

Blackmores

Blackmores has been a long term supporter of the Foundation's education, research and awareness programs. Blackmores continued its 13-year support of Macular Degeneration Awareness Week in 2016-2017 which plays a major role in raising awareness.

Marcus Blackmore, Executive Director, Blackmores



Novartis

Novartis has contributed generously to the Foundation since its establishment. In particular, Novartis supported the Foundation's first national television and radio awareness campaigns from 2008 to 2012, which helped Australia become a world leader in awareness of macular degeneration. In 2016-2017, Novartis continued this support, contributing to improving macular health in Australia.

*Brian Gladsden, Country President and Managing Director
Novartis Australia and New Zealand*

Quantum RLV

Low vision aids and technologies provider Quantum RLV is a founding and continuing supporter of the Foundation. Throughout 2016-2017, Quantum RLV and the Foundation worked together across 20 education events nationally, sharing important information on living well with vision loss to over 1,500 people.

Humanware

Low vision aids and technologies provider Humanware continued their support in 2016-2017. Over the past year, Humanware has supported the Foundation by attending our Low Vision Days, and together, we presented the latest in low vision technologies at six events nationally.

Government Funding

Thank you to the Commonwealth Government for its financial support since 2005, and the NSW Government which has continued to provide funding since an initial establishment grant in 2002.

Commonwealth Government

Commonwealth Government Department of Health funding further contributed to the Foundation's work, through:

Peak and Advisory Bodies Programme:

This three and a half year grant supports the Foundation's work including the development and communication of relevant evidence based information for the macular disease community, health providers, government and other related stakeholders.

Aged Care Service Improvement Fund:

Aims to reduce the incidence and impact of vision loss associated with macular degeneration (and other eye conditions) in residential aged care facilities.

NSW Government

Funding from the NSW Government contributed to the Foundation's delivery of comprehensive education and awareness programs as well as support services to thousands of people in NSW, including those in regional and remote areas.

Australian Government



Health

South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

Other Generous Supporters

Perpetual Foundation

Perpetual supports many of Australia's leading not-for-profits providing funds that enable enrichment of every aspect of the community including health, education and medical research. The Foundation is the recipient of this support which affirms the good work undertaken.

In 2016-2017, Perpetual also graciously supported the inaugural Research Symposium allowing the macular disease community to come together and hear from Australia's leading researchers.

Allergan

A new partner in 2016-2017, Allergan is supporting activities that focus on awareness and understanding of diabetic eye disease.

Community Fundraisers

Grumpy and his Girl Guides take on The Larapinta Trail

“MD won’t beat me” was their mantra, and that’s exactly what happened when three sisters Jenny, Cathy, and Siobhan took their dad Jeff (aka Grumpy) on a six day trek of a lifetime along the Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory. What was remarkable about this trek is that Grumpy lives with vision loss from macular degeneration.

Aware of the effect macular degeneration was having on their dad, Grumpy’s daughters decided to give him a bit of a boost. The result for Grumpy was a memorable six days with his daughters, who were his ‘Girl Guides’ along the track. In the process they raised vital funds for the Foundation.

Grumpy says that the trek was probably the best six days of his life. “The trek proved to me that there are still many things out there that can be achieved and enjoyed. A new wave of optimism has washed over me thanks to my three daughters.”



“The trek proved to me that there are still many things out there that can be achieved and enjoyed.”

Living with Stargardt’s Disease

Seventeen is an age we’re meant to look to the future with excitement and possibility. For Erin Philpot it was the age she first learned she’d face a future with vision loss from Stargardt’s disease.

Now 28, Erin along with her husband Marcus decided to don their fundraising hats to help research into Stargardt’s disease. Through a series of fundraising events Erin, Marcus, family and friends have raised over \$15,000 for the Foundation. These included a “Bright Lights” fundraiser in Cairns and a Gold Coast/Saints AFL Ball. So inspired by their efforts, a friend of the couple, Liam Page, ran a marathon. The impact of these efforts was not just raising vital funds, but raising awareness for a disease which is lesser known.

Erin says, “There are so many people worse off than me, without the support network that I have. I hope sharing my story might help other young people diagnosed with Stargardt’s. Although I’m probably too far gone in deterioration for any research to directly benefit me, I do hope it will help another young person in the future.”



“There are so many people worse off than me, without the support network that I have.”

Thank You

Macular Disease Foundation Australia thanks all sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters whose generosity enables it to meet the real needs of the macular disease community. Together we are reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia.

Sponsors & Supporting Partners

**Australian
Government**



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District



Science For A Better Life

BLACKMORES®



Profield
FOUNDATION



Funded by the Perpetual Foundation



KING & WOOD
MALLESONS



Humanware™



thurnhamteece
advertising publicity marketing

Community Supporters

Donations from individuals and community organisations, both large and small, are essential to the Foundation's ability to maintain and expand services to meet the needs of the macular disease community. Thank you to those who have generously supported the Foundation.

ClubsNSW ClubGRANTS

During 2016-2017 the Foundation was a beneficiary of the NSW ClubGRANTS scheme, which encourages registered clubs in NSW to contribute directly to the provision of frontline services in their local communities. Commercial Club Albury, Ashfield RSL Club, Euston Club Resort, Campsie RSL Club, Dubbo RSL Club, Mounties Group, Goulburn Soldiers, Goulburn Workers, Club Forster, Lithgow Workies, Hornsby RSL Club, Club Central Hurstville, Kiama Leagues Club, Petersham RSL Club, Mosman RSL Club, Orange Ex Services Club, Parkes Services Club, Queanbeyan RSL Club and Rockdale RSL.

Community Fundraisers

Jeff Barber, Jenny Barber, Siobhan Barber and Cathy Manderson; Lena Dunn; Marcus Oates; Erin and Marcus Philpot; Lions Clubs of Forest Hill; Run for a Cure; From Spain with Love

Donor Supporters

Mrs Betty Barker, Margaret Beaumont, Commazetto Family, Susan Harvey, The McBriarty Family, The Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation - Alma Orchard Bequest, Lesley Parker Reynolds and Graeme Reynolds, San Pantaleone Committee of Brisbane, William Service - Gold Wash, Don Scott, Joan Stevens, Mrs J Thomas, W.L. Turnbull, U & A Foundation, Mrs Sally White.

Visionary Partners

The Estate of the Late Shirley Custance, The Estate of the Late Vera Gertude Thompson, The Estate of the Late Norma Frances Walsh

mEYE World Photographic Competition 2016

Prize Donors: Adobe, Carter Bond, FUJIFILM Australia, Jono Hennessy, Harvey Norman, ICAP, Mainline Photographics, Manfrotto, Momento, Saxon, Wacom Australia.

Professional Friend Program

Dianne Andrews, Menai Eye Care ● Dr Jennifer Arnold, Marsden Eye Specialists ● Sally Atkins, Atkins Optometrist ● Dr Gayatri Banerjee, Nepean Valley Eye Surgeons ● James Baumgarten, Family Eyecare ● Dr Paul Beaumont, Retina & Vitreous Centre ● Geoff Blackwell, Clear Optometry ● Garry Bormann, Vision Eye Health ● Deanne Bradford, Windsor Optometry ● Ian Brigden, Eyecare Plus Nelson Bay ● Elaine Bryant, Lakes Entrance Optometrists ● Dr Guy Bylsma, Hobart Eye Surgeons ● Mary-Rose Campbell, Optomize ● Dr Derek Chan, Retina Consultants ● Dr John Chang, Retina & Vitreous Centre ● Andrew Christiansen, The Optical Superstore ● Dr Augustino Clark, St Vincent's Hospital ● Dr Sudha Cugati, Lyell McEwin Hospital Ophthalmology Department ● Peter D'Arcy, Peter D'Arcy Optometrist ● Cedric De Souza, Melville Optical Clinic ● Maria Dimitratos, Icon Eyewear ● Dr John Downie, Retina Consultants ● Dr Cameron Dyson, Dyson & Long Optometrists ● Fiona Eising, Eye Zing Optometrists ● Dr Michael English, Cambridge Eye Clinic ● Dr Adrian Fung, Retina and Macula Specialists ● Russell Glasser, Eyecare-2-You ● Dr Kai Goh, Murdoch Ophthalmology ● Kylie Gough, Eyecare Plus Nambucca Heads ● Alan Greenhill, Alfred Nott Optometrists ● Dr Erwin Groeneveld, Brisbane Eye Clinic ● Aaron Henry, Aaron Henry Optometrist ● Dr David Hilford, Watkins Medical Centre ● Graham Hill, Graham Hill & Associates Optometrists ● Huy Ho, A+ EYECARE ● Dr Shelley Hopkins, QUT Health Clinics – Optometry ● A/Prof Alex Hunyor, Chatswood Retina Associates ● Dr Girish Jamnadas, Ipswich Eye Centre ● Dr Bradley Johnson, Northern Eye Surgeons ● Susan Kalff, Freemasons Homes ● Chris Katopodis, Canterbury Eye Care ● Peter Kazacos, Eyecare Plus ● Dr Frances Kearney, Vision Centre ● Dr Gilda Kert, Darling Downs Eye ● John Kingshott, Glenorchy Eyecare ● Dr David Kitchen, CQ Eye ● Jim Kokkinakis, The Eye Practice ● Dr Vinithra Kumar, Specialist Medical Suites ● Judy Kwan, Super Optical Optometrists ● Dr Shish Lal, Hornsby Eye Specialists ● A/Prof Christopher Layton, Greenslopes Specialty Clinics ● Dr Kuo Luong, Lee Eye Specialists ● Dr Peter Macken, Dr Peter Macken and Associates ● Dr Jodie Marshall, Aspect Eye Clinic ● Wayne McCarthy, Angelo Street Optical ● Bruce Mellick, Bruce Mellick Optometry ● Dr Randev Mendis, Canberra Retina Clinic ● Philip Milford, Philip Milford & Associates ● Dr Mark Morgan, New England Eye Centre ● Siobhan Murphy, National Vision Optometrists ● Dr Michael Newman, Miranda Eye Surgical Centre ● Judith Nicol, Optometrist ● Harry Notaras, Eyewear Youwear ● Dr Elvis Ojaimi, Essendon Retina ● Dr Ju-Lee Ooi, Eye and Retina Specialists ● Dr Joseph Park, Westside Eye Clinic ● Brendon Pearce, Fernvale Optical ● Lee Pepper, Vision Excellence ● Dr Vivek Phakey, Waverley Eye Clinic ● Elise Pocknee-Clem, Eyre Eye Centre ● Dr Neroli Porter Eye Care Queensland ● Allan Poulter, Allan Poulter Optometrist ● Ray Proust, Ray Proust Optometrist ● Dr Vignesh Raja, Joondalup Eye Clinic ● Rick Ross, Forest Hill Optometry ● Guy Ryan, Kalamunda Optical ● Dr Jennifer Sandbach, Annandale Eye Care ● Nicola Sawyer, Ballina Optometry ● Glenda Schubert, Mooroolbark Eyecare ● Lachlan Scott-Hoy, Innovative Eye Care ● Dr Ashley Seawright ● Dr Shanel Sharma, Eye and Laser Surgeons ● Dr Neil Sharma, Eye and Retina Specialists ● Dr Jeremy Smith ● David Stahmer, The Eyewear House ● Dr Brighu Swamy, South Eastern Eye Care ● Dr William Talbot, William Talbot Eyecare ● Dr Kong Tang, Midwest Ophthalmology ● Dr Christine Tangas, Northcote Eye Clinic ● Dr Brendan Vote, Launceston Eye Institute ● Robert Webster, Webster Optometrists Cowra ● Dr Michael Wertheim, Perth Eye Clinic ● David West, David and Carol West Optometrists - Eyecare Plus ● Dr James Wong, Strathfield Retina Clinic ● Dr Johnny Wu, WA Eye Specialists ● Dr Stephanie Young, Gladesville Eye Specialists ● Robert Zent, Robert P Zent Optometrist.

Help Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Donate to Save Sight

Making a donation can help the Foundation achieve its vision of reducing the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia. All donations support the many activities undertaken in education, awareness, support services, research and representation. Every donation goes towards helping save sight. Joining the Foundation's regular giving program provides a sustainable future for the work of the Foundation.

Donate to Research

The Foundation's Research Grants Program funds Australian research into macular degeneration. The aim is to save sight and reduce the impact of vision loss.

A Bequest

A bequest can make a lasting impact on generations to come and is gratefully received by the Foundation.

Corporate Partnerships

There are many opportunities for partnerships with corporations to support the work of the Foundation in its activities in education, awareness, support services, and research.

Sponsors

The Foundation implements a range of programs across Australia. Sponsorship opportunities exist for organisations to support specific projects throughout the year.

Community Fundraising Events

The Foundation welcomes contributions from the fundraising activities of community and service organisations, schools and clubs. The Everyday Hero and GoFundraise websites are available for people who participate in events to support the Foundation.

A Commemorative Gift

A donation to the Foundation in lieu of a gift can help commemorate a significant occasion.

A Memorial Gift

A memorial gift can be made in lieu of flowers in memory of a family member or friend.

Volunteering

The Foundation welcomes and values volunteers who undertake a range of work to support its activities across Australia.

**To donate or for more information
contact the Foundation**

1800 111 709

info@mdfoundation.com.au

www.mdfoundation.com.au

**Macular Disease Foundation Australia is a registered charity.
All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.**

OUR VISION

To reduce the incidence and impact
of macular disease in Australia



Our focus is your vision

Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Suite 902, Level 9, 447 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Helpline: 1800 111 709

www.mdfoundation.com.au

ABN 52 096 255 177

