



Macular  
Disease  
Foundation  
AUSTRALIA

MACULAR DISEASE FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

# Annual Report

## 2024



Together we can  
**FIGHT FOR  
SIGHT**

# Pillars of work



Macular Disease Foundation Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, and community.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the Elders both past and present.

# Highlights

**98%**

of Eye Connect participants would recommend the service to their family or friends.

**75%**

of Eye Connect participants reported that the service positively impacted their general wellbeing.

**6,000**

health professionals have completed our age-related macular degeneration and diabetes-related eye disease CPD courses.

Over  
**250,000**

people have completed our Check My Macula quiz and now understand their risk of AMD.

**50**

community education sessions reaching more than 1,100 people across Australia.

**2,000**

people living with macular disease responded to our second Social Impact Survey.

# Contents

Highlights	<b>3</b>
Chair update	<b>4</b>
CEO update	<b>5</b>
Support and care	<b>6</b>
Research	<b>9</b>
Advocacy	<b>12</b>
Community awareness and early detection	<b>13</b>
Healthcare engagement	<b>15</b>
Our community	<b>17</b>
Volunteer highlights	<b>18</b>
Governance	<b>20</b>
Committees	<b>22</b>
Financials	<b>23</b>
Our supporters	<b>24</b>

# Message from the Chair

**The purpose of our organisation is to reduce the impact of macular disease in Australia. I often reflect on these words, and particularly the word 'impact', when I work alongside fellow Board Directors and the staff of Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA).**

There are many ways to reduce the impact of this disease. For MDFA, keeping the community at the centre of our organisation's work continues to foster trust, enhances quality care, and drives positive outcomes for those living with macular disease. From a governance perspective, our community-centred approach guides the Board to make sure all policies and practices prioritise the well-being of people with macular disease, leading to better satisfaction and engagement, and reinforcing MDFA's commitment to health and wellness.

The launch of the new Eye Connect support service exemplifies our mission in action. This excellent new delivery of MDFA's service provision is already demonstrating improved outcomes for those living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The feedback and insights we receive from people using our services allow us to advocate for better access to affordable treatment and care, influencing government and funding bodies to prioritise the macular disease community's needs.

This year, the Board undertook a review of our constitution to modernise and bring

it into alignment with currently applicable legislation for charitable organisations. Changes included having only the current directors as the members, with membership beginning and ceasing with appointment to and from the Board. This change in structure also helps to simplify meeting provisions.

The Board welcomed Melbourne-based Ophthalmologist, Associate Professor Wilson Heriot this year, providing additional insights from a clinical, research, and patient-perspective. We also extend our sincerest thanks to Ms Imelda Lynch who stepped down from the Board after eight years. Imelda joined our Board in 2015 and has served as a member on the Research Committee (2016 - 2023) and as Chair of the Client Services Committee (2016 - 2018). We thank Imelda for her dedicated service to our community.

To all who have supported Macular Disease Foundation Australia, I wish to extend my personal thanks for your valued contributions. Together we are making great inroads in reducing the impact of this disease on our community.



**Graeme Head AO**  
Chair of the MDFA Board

# Message from the CEO

**Our Annual Report provides us with a great opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made over the past year. The 2023/24 financial year has been very strong for Macular Disease Foundation Australia – I am proud of the work we've done together. I am also optimistic about the very real difference our work is having in reducing the impact of macular disease, while knowing we have much more to do in the fight for sight.**

It has been very positive to see large numbers of our community benefit from our new Eye Connect service – the first free, independent and personalised support service for people living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The early evaluation results confirm we are reaching the right people and that participants feel very positive about the information and support delivered as part of Eye Connect.

The research we have funded is generating new and important knowledge, including our latest Social Impact Survey, which focused on the cost burden of having a macular disease and issues around driving.

We advocated for major issues to make sight-saving eye injections more affordable and accessible. This included the release of an important report in February at Parliament House, titled *Saving Sight Saves Money*.

We have raised community awareness of the signs and symptoms of macular disease, as well as ways to reduce risk and detect it earlier. More than 250,000 people have completed the Check My Macula quiz since its launch, and now know their individual risk factors and what actions they should take.

Through our online education modules, we have improved the understanding and knowledge of a range of health professional groups including optometrists, orthoptists, and pharmacists.

So many people in our community, their carers, and our healthcare partners have played a vital role in our success. We are very grateful for the generosity of our donors and supporters, especially with the cost of living being felt by so many in the community.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, supporters, volunteers, and our Board for their continued dedication to the important work that we do in fighting for sight. I hope you enjoy reading this report, which shows the great progress we are all making together.



**Dr Kathy Chapman**  
CEO

## SUPPORT AND CARE

# Launching Australia's first comprehensive support service for people living with age-related macular degeneration

**This year saw a significant shift in the way we support our community with the launch of our new Eye Connect service.**

MDFA developed our new service in response to studies that show only 56 percent of patients with macular disease recall receiving a clear diagnosis, including the name of their condition, with 58 percent of patients unable to recall receiving any lifestyle modification advice from their eyecare professional.

Based on insights from our neovascular AMD pilot program and extensive research involving people living with macular disease, carers, ophthalmologists and optometrists, Eye Connect offers free, tailored health information, practical advice and emotional support.

## The response has been overwhelmingly positive

As part of a recent evaluation of the service, MDFA conducted a survey with the first 150 Eye Connect participants which revealed:

- 98% of respondents would recommend the service to their family or friends.
- 75% of respondents reported that the service positively impacted their general wellbeing.

- The diagnosis of most people accessing the service was neovascular AMD (56%); followed by geographic atrophy (26%). We know these groups are the most vulnerable and are often living with declining or low vision. Early AMD represented 13%, and 5% reported having intermediate AMD.



## Meet some of our Eye Connect participants

Karen has dry AMD, which was diagnosed over 25 years ago. She had previously been seeing a specialist for dry eye treatment and it was during an OCT scan that it was revealed she had AMD in both eyes.

Now an Eye Connect participant, Karen says the service has been particularly beneficial in helping her make manageable lifestyle modifications to better accommodate her changing levels of vision. She also enjoys the emotional support that Eye Connect provides her.

Like Karen, Eye Connect participant Kevin lives with dry AMD. Visual changes have impacted his independence and lifestyle

for two and a half years.

Kevin let us know that the Eye Connect service has given him a sense of reassurance regarding his experience with macular disease. It has helped provide him with a realistic understanding of the disease and its consequences. He not only appreciates the check-in phone calls he receives from the Eye Connect team, but also that there are people looking out for those who are living with macular disease.

Witnessing firsthand how Eye Connect is benefiting people like Karen and Kevin motivates and inspires the team at MDFA every day. We look forward to expanding the service to support a number of other macular conditions in the future.





Hobart peer support group.

## Expanding our peer support groups across Australia

In 2024, our peer support groups for individuals living with macular disease saw significant growth. We now have 12, volunteer-led groups operating in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the ACT.

These groups are supporting almost 200 participants by providing a platform to share their experiences, gain emotional support, and access valuable resources tailored to their needs.

Looking ahead, we are committed to further growing this service. In 2025, our focus will include expanding into the Northern Territory, as well as increasing the number of support groups in other areas with high prevalence rates of macular disease.

This growth will enable us to reach even more Australians impacted by macular disease, offering them the support they need to navigate the challenges of living with the disease while fostering a sense of community and connection.

## Reducing the impact of macular disease with the Paskeville Foundation

Founded by Peter and Sue Evans, the Paskeville Foundation has been providing funding to help people with macular disease access peer support groups delivered by MDFA since 2022.

**“When someone’s told you’re potentially going to be blind sometime in the future, that becomes quite a devastating diagnosis. It’s very important to talk to people that are in the same boat as you. There can be a fear of loneliness, which makes peer support important.”**

Peer support is a widely recognised way of connecting people with shared experiences to provide social and emotional support.

“My wife Sue has early-stage macular disease, her aunt and grandmother both went blind from it, so our children are potentially going to suffer from the disease,” explains Peter. “This, along with health being one of the pillars of our foundation, led to us making a substantial contribution to Macular Disease Foundation Australia.”

**“I have confidence in the crew at MDFA and am certainly happy with their work, which we intend to keep supporting. I would encourage anyone diagnosed with macular disease to explore the opportunity of joining a peer support group,” says Peter.**

Macular Disease Foundation Australia wishes to thank the Paskeville Foundation for their continued investment in our support and care programs.

## RESEARCH

# Macular disease and mental health – how we can help

**Living with a macular disease – and the prospect of vision loss – can carry a high emotional burden and profoundly impact quality of life. It can also affect those around you.**

One of the ways MDFA gains a deeper understanding of the impact of macular disease on the daily lives, health and wellbeing of our community, is through our Social Impact surveys. The surveys help us identify new ways we can support people and inform our advocacy activities and research priorities.

MDFA's second survey focussed on a number of topics, including the effect of living with a macular disease on mental health. More than

15% of the 2000 survey respondents (about 450 people) told us they had experienced anxiety or depression, with only 1 in 5 people receiving support for their mental wellbeing, and 1 in 10 people reporting taking medicines to improve their mental health.

These important findings highlighted the need for MDFA to provide more comprehensive and ongoing support for people living with macular disease, and to ensure that we are also supporting people with any mental wellbeing challenges resulting from their macular disease diagnosis.

To do this, we have developed our new Eye Connect service to help support people in between visits with their optometrist or ophthalmologist.





# Research projects completed in 2024



**Researcher:** Dr Diana Tang

**Institution:** Department of Health Sciences, Macquarie University

**Award type:** Grant Family Fund

**Project title:** The development, implementation and evaluation of an online Movement, Interaction and Nutrition for Greater Lifestyles in the Elderly (MINGLE) program for people with age-related macular degeneration.



**Researcher:** Professor Matthew Simunovic

**Institution:** Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital

**Award type:** MDFA Grant

**Project title:** Optogenetic restoration of vision in macular degeneration with high-sensitivity Type I and Type II opsins.



**Researcher:** Dr Xavier Hadoux

**Institution:** Centre for Eye Research Australia

**Award type:** Grant Family Fund

**Project title:** Evaluating the potential of hyper spectral imaging for detecting and monitoring geographic atrophy.



**Researcher:** Dr Ceecee Britten-Jones

**Institution:** University of Melbourne

**Award type:** Grant Family Fund

**Project title:** Redefining macular disease diagnosis to improve access to emerging therapies.

# Valuable contributions from our Community Reference Group

**Our Community Reference Group is comprised of people with lived experience of macular disease and carers.**

This valuable group of people provide advice on the direction and activities of MDFA so we never lose focus on the people we are supporting.

The group was established in 2019 to strengthen our consultations with the community and ensure our representation and work align with the needs of people living with macular disease, as well as their family members and carers.

In January 2024, Mr Cameron Algie AM became the first elected Chairperson of the Community Reference Group. Mr Algie has many years of experience in the low vision sector, and in recognition of his community and commercial work, he was made a Member in the Order of Australia in 1993. He is legally blind from retinitis pigmentosa.

We consulted with the Community Reference Group members on many MDFA initiatives throughout this financial year, including our social impact surveys, research strategy, the research grants applications we received and the internal accessibility guidelines.

MDFA thanks and acknowledges the Community Reference Group members for their invaluable contributions to our organisation's mission this year.

## List of members

Mr Cameron Algie AM (Chair)  
Mr Godwin Abela  
Ms Lucy Arundell  
Mr Ashley Chapman  
Mr Barry Clarke OAM FIPA  
Ms Fran Cutler OC  
Ms Susan Falon  
Mr Rohan Goyne  
Mrs Val Nicholson  
Ms France Pilavakis  
Mr John Simpson AM  
Miss Kristina Ward

Valued members of the Consumer Reference Group.



## ADVOCACY

# New advocacy report launched at Australian Parliament House

M DFA launched our latest report, *Saving Sight Saves Money: Addressing treatment access and affordability in macular disease*, at an event at Australian Parliament House in Canberra.

The report highlights the significant challenges that people living with macular disease face when it comes to accessing – and affording – eye injection treatments. The report also provides recommendations for actions the Australian Government can take to address the barriers to treatment access and affordability.

Anti-VEGF eye injections have been a game changer since first being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in 2007, saving the sight of tens of thousands of people with treatable macular diseases. Regrettably, 20% of people stop eye injection treatment in their first year, and 50% of people stop within five years, putting them at risk of severe vision loss or blindness.

Accessing affordable or bulk-billed anti-VEGF treatment can be described as a “post code lottery”. This is because there is currently no access to PBS-subsidised treatments in public

hospital eye injection clinics in NSW or the ACT, including anti-VEGF eye injections, and there is a severe lack of public eye injection services nationally. In addition, only a few private ophthalmology clinics offer bulk billing to eye injection patients.

These challenges, especially for pensioners, low-income earners and people living in regional and remote areas, are the main reasons why people stop treatment, and they remain an important focus of M DFA’s advocacy.

Previous M DFA research showed that government investment in improving treatment access and affordability could increase persistence by 25%, saving the sight of 22,000 more Australians with neovascular AMD, and saving the government up to one billion dollars over five years. M DFA is therefore committed to ensuring that macular disease is a greater health priority for the government.

**Without action, thousands of Australians with treatable macular diseases will experience avoidable vision loss and blindness. This CAN and MUST be avoided.**



## COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EARLY DETECTION

# Educating communities about macular disease

We delivered more than 50 community education sessions across New South Wales, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, and Victoria, reaching more than 1,100 attendees throughout the year.

These sessions provided critical information to community groups and university students about AMD, including vision loss and balance.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 95% of survey respondents finding the content relevant, and over 90% feeling more confident in explaining

AMD to family and friends. Notably, 70% of attendees reported that they intended to change their diet and lifestyle to reduce their risk of AMD.

Our education sessions will continue to play an important role in raising awareness and promoting prevention strategies for people at risk of AMD.



## Welcome to our newest ambassador, The Hon Jillian Skinner AM

This year we were pleased to announce the Hon. Jillian Skinner AM as our newest MDFA Ambassador. Jillian was a former Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research in the NSW government. She led

an impressive 23-year political career and is widely respected for her contributions to the health and medical sectors in Australia. Jillian began her career as a journalist in Melbourne and was the first woman journalist on the

Victorian Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Diagnosed with age-related macular disease 12 years ago, Jillian brings lived experience to her ambassadorship with MDFA.

**“My ambassador role with Macular Disease Foundation Australia involves raising public awareness of macula health – both how to prevent and manage macular disease. I will support research and advocate on the policy benefits to government and others.”**



## Macula Menu

Asian-style dishes for eye health



# Keeping an eye on your diet

## People often ask their treatment professionals what foods they should eat to manage their condition.

When it comes to AMD, a survey of optometrists found that two-thirds of practitioners regularly discuss the impact of diet on eye diseases, and 91% routinely recommend nutritional supplements to patients.

In May, as part of the Macula Month celebration, MDFA launched updated, evidence-based Nutrition Guidelines for AMD. Based on the first systematic review of all the published systematic reviews, we investigated dietary patterns, food, nutrition supplements and AMD. This research was performed in partnership with the University of Sydney.

A new finding for MDFA was that sticking closely to the Mediterranean diet was likely associated with lower risk of early AMD and delaying progression to late AMD. Similarly, an Asian-

style eating pattern (defined as a high intake of vegetables, fish and plant-based proteins, in the diet pattern traditional in Japan and south-east Asia) likely reduces the risk of developing late AMD and might reduce the risk of developing early AMD.

The importance of overall eating patterns has been stressed in MDFA's nutrition recommendations, as well as a new Asian-style Macula Menu featuring MDFA's Patron, Ita Buttrose, AC OBE.

"My father had AMD and lost his central vision," Ita explains. "Given I have a familial risk of developing the disease, I have been incredibly conscious

of my food choices for a long time, so much so that in 2009 I co-authored with Vanessa Jones *Eating for Eye Health: The Macular Degeneration Cookbook* to highlight how foods can promote good eye health and reduce the risk of age-related macular degeneration."

Joining Ita in the newest Macula Menu series are celebrity chefs, Luke Mangan OAM, and Matt Moran AM. Our celebrity contributors have been joined by community members and MDFA funded researchers who share their favourite eye-health recipes.

The menus are free of charge and can be found on the MDFA website for all to enjoy.



Ita Buttrose AC OBE



Luke Mangan OAM



Matt Moran AM

**"The new Nutrition Guidelines from Macular Disease Foundation Australia reinforce with evidence the importance of making the best diet choices to help maintain eye health. It's an invaluable resource for people and communities." – Ita Buttrose**

## HEALTHCARE ENGAGEMENT

# Supporting eyecare professionals to deliver better health outcomes to our community

Launching Eye Connect involved a multi-platform marketing campaign to introduce eyecare professionals to the new service and encourage them to begin referring their patients who are living with AMD.

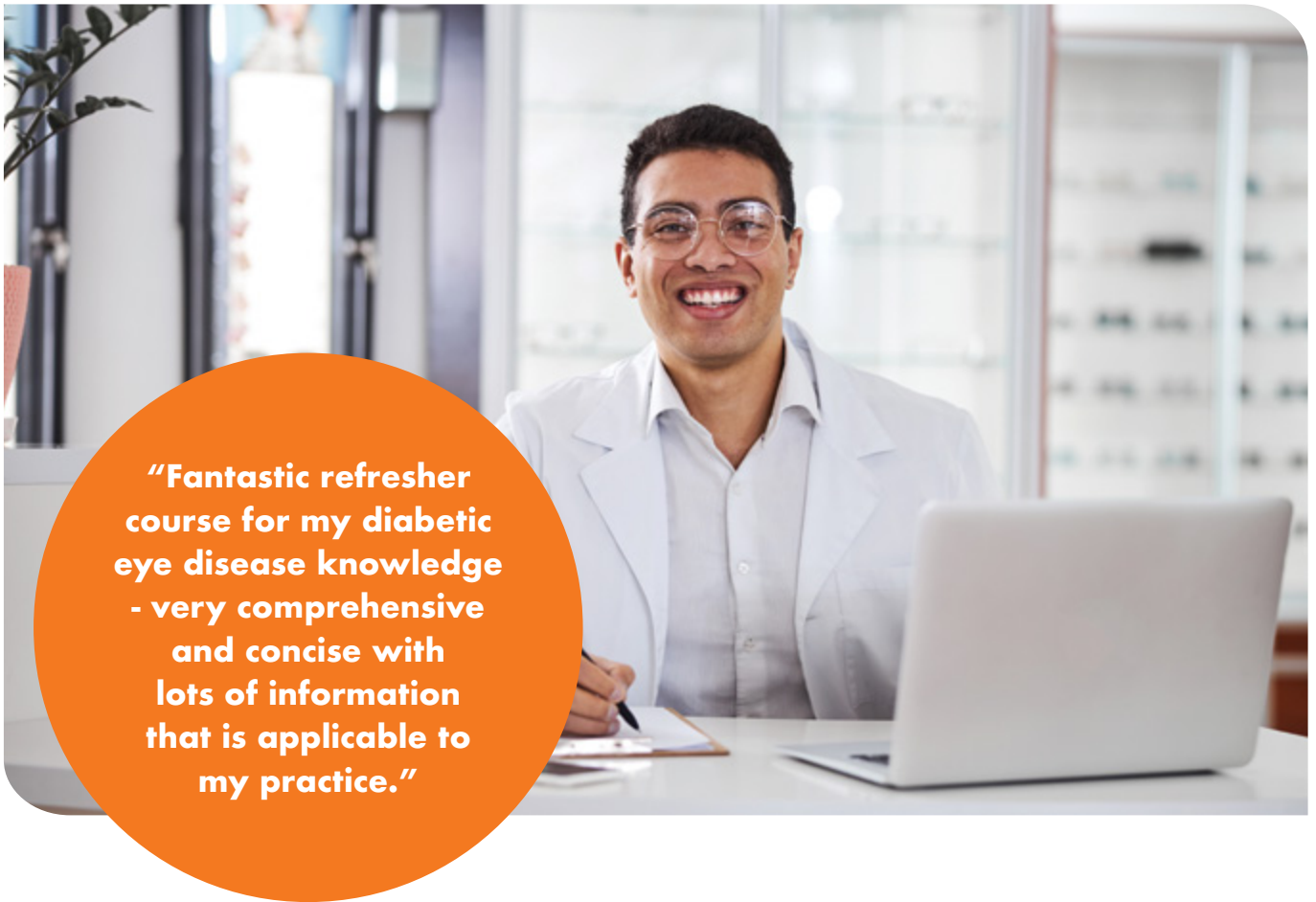
To engage eyecare professionals in a unique and memorable way, we produced a community service video featuring comedian Bron Lewis.

The amusing yet impactful video presented information about how Eye Connect is available to provide patients with complementary support and information when they are not in a clinical setting.

### Statistics show the importance of our new service:

- **Only 56% of patients** recall receiving a clear diagnosis, including the name of their condition.
- **Less than half (45%) of patients** recall receiving an explanation of what may happen to their vision in future.
- **58% of patients** were unable to recall receiving any lifestyle modification advice from their eyecare professional.





**“Fantastic refresher course for my diabetic eye disease knowledge - very comprehensive and concise with lots of information that is applicable to my practice.”**

## Evaluation of our e-learning health professional education program

This year, MDFA completed the delivery of a four year program funded by the Australian Government to develop and deliver a nationally consistent education and training program to health professionals to improve early detection and management of people with macular disease.

During 2024, MDFA delivered nine different e-learning courses for five different health professional groups who are on the front line of patient interactions. Online courses were created for optometrists, orthoptists, community pharmacists, general practitioners and diabetes educators.

These evidence-based courses were developed in collaboration with leading experts and incorporated pre and post course quizzes to evaluate knowledge change. MDFA will continue to make these available to healthcare professionals free of charge.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Almost 3,000 health professionals** completed the AMD course.
- **More than 3,000 health professionals** completed the diabetes-related eye disease course.
- **We found 99% of health professionals learned something new** to manage their patients at risk of AMD or diabetes-related eye disease, or of disease progression.
- **Estimates suggest the courses have influenced the management and advice** given to more than 900,000 Australians with AMD and more than 18,000 with diabetes-related eye disease.

## OUR COMMUNITY

# Elisabeth's legacy

**Sadly we say farewell to our friend and supporter, Elisabeth Macdonald. While we will miss her positive approach to living with AMD, we celebrate Elisabeth's life and the legacy to research she has gifted MDFA.**

Born in England, Elisabeth moved to Armidale in 1969. She lived on acreage outside of town and considered herself a die-hard "bushie", but after her early-AMD diagnosis in 2005, and then a neovascular (wet) AMD diagnosis in 2010, Elisabeth decided to move closer to medical support and become a "townie".

Elisabeth knew she was at high risk of developing AMD because her mother had also lived with the condition. This meant she always paid close attention to her vision, so when she developed AMD, it was detected early. She had great success with treatment for her wet AMD, which helped her everyday life.

Being able to continue reading music (as a cellist), and to drive, was intrinsic to Elisabeth's well-being and independence. The owner of labradors including Ronald Macdonald, her beloved reclassified guide dog, Elisabeth

maintained a high level of activity throughout her life, but she was the first to point out that you can't be too proud to ask for help when you live with low vision.

"Not only did I inherit the disease from my mother, but I also inherited her positive attitude in managing the condition," said Elisabeth. "It's not a devastating life sentence. It's a nuisance when you trip up a curb or can't read a sign, but people are only too willing to help."

Elisabeth also understood the importance of supporting others, including researchers.

As a final act of support in her life, Elisabeth committed a generous gift to MDFA to fund

new research that investigates and addresses aspects of vision health and care relevant to people living with macular or retinal diseases in regional and rural areas in Australia.

**"My hope is that a focus on research in regional and rural areas will lead to better outcomes for people living with macular disease outside of the big cities."**

**– Elisabeth**

The new research funding stream will be celebrated as the **Elisabeth Macdonald Memorial Award**, which will launch in 2025 as part of MDFA's 25th anniversary celebrations.



Elisabeth and Ronald Macdonald.



Ita Buttrose and Jim Pringle.

## Volunteer Highlights

### Jim Pringle, a real A-lister volunteer

This year, we said thank you and so-long to one of the original members of the volunteer A-Team, Jim Pringle.

Jim joined MDFA as a volunteer in May 2007 and has been a dedicated supporter of the Foundation, while also living with macular disease. Jim has been an active member of the team and most recently was using his lived experience to support other people in the community through the Peer Support Program. Jim's lived experience has also informed our programs, and he has lent his voice to many campaigns to raise awareness about what it is like to live with geographic atrophy (dry AMD).

Jim stepped down from the A-Team in December 2023 to spend more time with his wife Mary, who also has been a great ambassador for our cause.

**We thank Jim for his time, support, snazzy dressing, and generous spirit.**

### Volunteer growth for impact

Our volunteers have continued to make an invaluable contribution to the support we provide to the macular disease community. They play a key role in helping us to extend our reach across Australia, enabling us to connect with as many people as we can.

We have experienced exceptional growth in our volunteering program, which has seen more than 70 people investing their time, energy and skills into our mission. The work contributed by MDFA's volunteers has grown from 788 hours in the preceding year, to more than 2,500 hours in the 2023/24 reporting year.

From administrative support, to facilitating peer support groups and community-based education, our volunteers bring a range of experience and expertise to a wide range of roles in our organisation. Possessing strong technical skills is important, as we know guidance on technology



Acknowledging the vital work of our volunteers.

is valued by our community. For instance, community members often seek guidance from our volunteers on how to download and install applications on their smartphones to help enhance their vision and lifestyle.

Many of our volunteers are bilingual or multilingual and proficient in public speaking, which enhances our outreach efforts to the community.

**“Getting involved is a wonderful chance to make a meaningful difference in someone’s life while also growing personally and forming lasting connections within our community.”**  
**– Thu, MDFA Volunteer**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **215%** year-on-year increase of volunteer numbers.
- **Our national volunteer footprint now covers** New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory.
- **2,550 hours** of work contributed by volunteers.

**“If you have some free time, I think volunteering is the best way to do something useful and meaningful for other people. And you are doing something amazing for your community.”**  
**– Cristina, MDFA Volunteer**

# Governance

## Board Directors



**Mr Graeme Head AO**  
FIPAA  
Chair



**Mr Peter  
Abrahamson**  
BAppSc, Dip. Business,  
FAICD



**Ms Emma Cleary**  
B.Bus, CA, GAICD



**Associate Professor  
Alex Hunyor**  
MBBS (Hons),  
FRANZCO



**Ms Lisa Lusthaus**  
BSc App. Psych (Hons)



**Ms Gillian Shea**  
B.Bus, CA



**Ms Susan Williams**  
BArgSc, MPH, CFRE



**Mr Neil Wykes OAM**  
BCom, FCA, AGIA, ACIS

## Welcome to our new Board member



**Associate Professor  
Wilson Heriot**  
MBBS, FRANZCO

Associate Professor Wilson Heriot is a vitreo-retinal specialist based in Melbourne, and the director of Retinology Institute. Wilson is a past recipient of MDFA research grant funding.

## Farewell and thanks to our retiring Board member



**Ms Imelda Lynch**  
RN, BN, MHSN, GAICD  
Retired (December 2023)

We farewell and thank Imelda Lynch for her service to our Foundation. Imelda joined our Board in 2015 and has served as a member on the Research Committee (2016 – 2023) and as Chair of the Client Services Committee (2016 – 2018).

We sincerely thank Imelda for her passion and dedication and wish her all the very best for the future, knowing that she will continue to be a strong advocate for our community.





# Committees

**MDFA committees play a key role in advising management and championing our purpose to reduce the impact of macular disease. We are fortunate to have Australia's eminent research and retinal specialists and other professionals to inform our work.**

## **Medical Committee**

Associate Professor Alex Hunyor (Chair)  
Dr Amanda Greaves  
Dr David Hilford  
Associate Professor Anthony Kwan  
Dr Tharmalingam Mahendrarajah  
Professor Paul Mitchell AO  
Dr Grant Raymond  
Professor Peter van Wijngaarden  
Dr Xia Ni Wu

## **Research Committee**

Associate Professor Anthony Kwan (Chair)  
Professor Peter van Wijngaarden  
Associate Professor Fred Chen  
Associate Professor Samantha Fraser-Bell  
Ms Emma Cleary

## **National Research Advisor**

Professor Paul Mitchell AO  
MBBS MD PhD FRANZCO FRACS  
FRCOphth FAFPHM

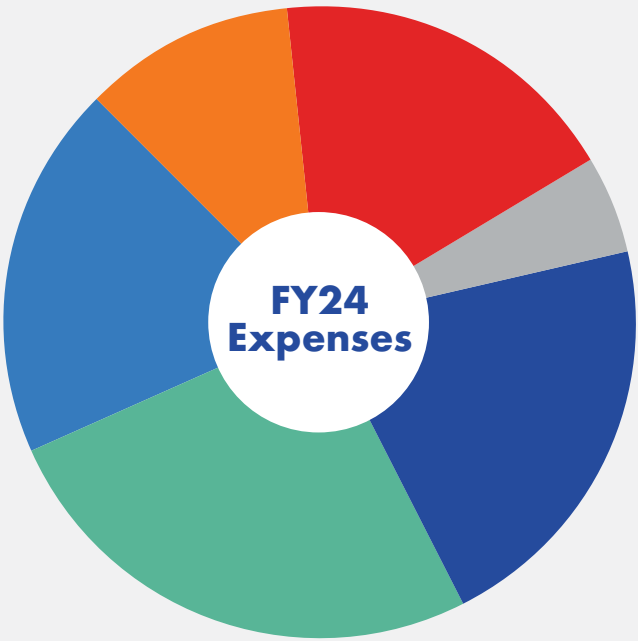
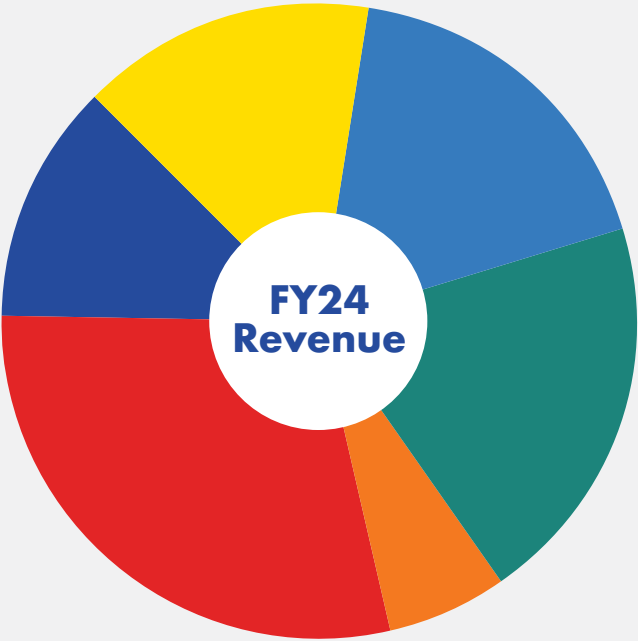
## **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**

Mr Neil Wykes OAM (Chair)  
Mr Peter Abrahamson  
Ms Gillian Shea  
Ms Emma Cleary

## **Fundraising and Engagement Committee**

Mr Peter Abrahamson (Chair)  
Ms Lisa Lusthaus  
Ms Susan Williams

# Financials



## Revenue \$5,723,820

- Bequests \$1,674,978
- Donations \$1,138,715
- Government Grants \$1,053,947
- Sponsorship \$674,161
- Trust & Foundations \$331,242
- Investment Gains/Losses \$850,778

## Expenses \$4,659,016

- Services & Support to the Macular Disease Community \$1,198,979
- Awareness and Early Detection & Health Care Professionals \$994,626
- Research Grants & Other Research Projects \$849,931
- Advocacy \$226,105
- Operational Costs \$883,834
- Fundraising Activities \$505,541

# Our Supporters

**Together we are working to reduce the impact of macular disease in Australia. Thank you enormously for your trust and support.**

## Individuals

Mrs Denise Bradey  
Miss Denise Bramble  
Mr Alex Cleave  
Mrs Carolyn Curnow  
Mrs Lorraine Duthie  
Mrs Sheryn Foord  
Mrs Dinie Gaemers  
Ms Beryl Gallard  
Ms Natasha Lee  
Ms Imelda Lynch  
Ms Elisabeth Macdonald  
Mr Bill McGhie  
Mr & Mrs Robert McLean  
Dr David Moore  
Professor Lesley  
Parker-Reynolds

Mr Alan Roberts  
Mr Gregory Sachs  
Mr Brian Schafer  
Ms Linda Sen Gupta  
Ms Linda Thomas  
Mr W L Turnbull  
Mr Charles Vowell  
Mrs Jan Waddington  
Mrs Sarah White  
Mr Richard Williams

## Organisations

Siesta Properties Pty Ltd  
Midwest Ophthalmology  
Orange  
Club Burwood RSL  
Club Rivers  
Club Forster

## Trust & Foundations

Centenary Foundation –  
The Barbara Sherwood  
Legacy Fund  
Fitzpatrick Sykes  
Family Foundation  
Hughes Family Trust Fund  
Idles Acres Foundation  
McBriarty Family at  
APS Foundation  
Mills Family Foundation  
Profield Foundation  
Paskeville Foundation  
Perpetual Foundation  
Queensland Community  
Foundation

**“Without the generous support of funders and donors, our research ideas would just remain as ideas in our heads, they’d never get turned into research projects and then into new discoveries.”**

**– Dr Ceecee Britten-Jones**

## **Estates**

The Estate of the Late  
Dawn Albert

The Estate of the Late  
Alma May Bower

The Estate of the Late  
Nancy Pearl Bramer

The Estate of the Late Bruce  
Archibald Chapman

The Estate of the Late  
Marie Chapman

The Estate of the Late Jean Foley

The Estate of the Late  
Santina Gravina

The Estate of the Late  
Patricia Hookham

The Estate of the Late  
Patrick Kevin Lynch

The Estate of the Late  
Marjorie Ellen Martindale

The Estate of the Late  
Shirlee Ann Neilson

The Estate of the Late  
Holly Clarice Smith

The Estate of the Late  
Glenda Webb

## **Visionary Partners**

Mrs Robin Allardice

Mrs Mary Allen

Mr Ernest Athfield

Miss Barbara Beames

Mrs Janina Bourke

Mrs Meryl Bowman

Ms Elizabeth Carr

Mrs Paddy Carter

Mrs Norma Davidson

Mr Lloyd Davis

Mrs Kay De Graaf

Ms Lynette Elliott

Mrs Janet Fenwick

Ms Elisabeth Fisher

Mr Neville Gallard

Mrs Marion Gillies

Mrs Diane Hobden

Mrs Christine Hooks

Dr Edith Horvath

Mrs Muriel Ion

Ms Sue Jones

Mrs Stephanie Joss

Ms Anne Keehan

Mr John Koivisto

Ms Wai Man (Connie) Kwong

Mrs Margaret Laird

Mr David Ljoljic

Dr John Mayo

Mr John Murphy

Miss Marina Pitsonis

Ms Josephine Platt

Mrs Rita Pyyvaara

Mr Gregory Sachs

Mr Brian Schafer

Ms Nancy Scott

Mrs Jill Sedla

Mrs Elaine Sinclair

Mrs Sue Smith

Ms Pamela Taylor

Mrs Bertha Tilley

Mrs Marjorie Vorsa

Ms Jennifer Wakeling

Ms Marion Weeks

Mrs Judith Wright

Ms Sandy Xu

Ms Lorraine Young

# Supporters

**We are grateful for the generous contributions from the following organisations.**

## **Government support**

**Supported by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. Supported by NSW Health.**

Our education and awareness programs, as well as our evidence based information, is supported by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, supported by NSW Health.

**The generous support provided by the following organisations enables the delivery of key initiatives and activities.**



Apellis continues to support the implementation of Eye Connect which allows those living with macular disease to receive the right information at the right stage of their disease journey.



Bayer's funding assists with key awareness, early detection, and prevention programs such as Macula Month and supporting MDFA's efforts to raise the voice of the macular disease community.



JBWere manages MDFA's investments and supports MDFA with strategic advice for social return.



Novartis has been a contributor to Eye Connect and is helping MDFA build integrated systems to support patient adherence and care.



Profield Foundation has been a long-time supporter and continued to support travel bursary program in NSW and Victoria to help vulnerable people in rural and regional areas attend sight-saving medical treatment.



Roche is working with MDFA to enable research, strategy, technology development, and support for people undergoing treatment for macular disease through our Eye Connect service.



MDFA has collaborated with the TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy network to raise awareness of macular disease among pharmacy teams and community members, focusing on education and screening to improve detection and management in the community.





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