

Glaucoma

“More than 50% of individuals with glaucoma in the developed world are unaware they have the disease.”¹

Glaucoma is an eye disease that slowly damages the fine nerves connecting the eye to the brain. The damage generally occurs when pressure within the eye rises. If untreated, glaucoma causes a loss of peripheral vision resulting in tunnel vision and even total blindness.

Whilst Glaucoma doesn't usually develop before the age of 50 years, it affects one in 15 people over the age of 70.

Due to its strong hereditary factor, relatives of people with glaucoma should have regular eye examinations. In the early stages of Glaucoma people may have few or no symptoms. However, once diagnosed Glaucoma can usually be controlled. Early diagnosis and proper treatment by administering eye drops, surgery or laser treatment is important to prevent any further loss of vision.



6/6 Vision



Glaucoma

Some functional implications of Glaucoma are:

- difficulty in adjusting to changes in lighting conditions such as indoors to outdoors
- transient blurring of vision
- a halo effect may be visible around lights
- glare and light sensitivity
- difficulty identifying the edge of steps
- being unable to differentiate between footpath and road
- tripping over or bumping into objects

¹Clear Focus from http://www.vision2020australia.org.au/assets/content/3704/v2020aus_clear_focus_report_final.rtf

How we can help

People with Glaucoma can receive assistance from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.

Orientation and Mobility services are designed to meet individual needs and are provided on a one-to-one basis. Our Instructors will assist the person with a vision impairment to become confident travelling safely and efficiently in familiar and unfamiliar environments.

Our Low Vision Clinic is a joint venture with the University of New South Wales School of Optometry and assessments are billed through Medicare. The clinic is located at Guide Dogs office in Chatswood, Sydney.

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT provides all of its services, including mobility aids, free of charge.

To refer someone to us, with their permission, please phone your nearest Client Services office on:

Sydney East Region:	(02) 9412 9300	Lismore:	(02) 6621 8475
Sydney West Region:	(02) 9891 4914	Newcastle:	(02) 4925 3066
Low Vision Clinic:	(02) 9412 9392	Orange:	(02) 6362 6625
Guide Dogs Centre:	(02) 4579 7555	Tamworth:	(02) 6761 3152
ACT:	(02) 6285 2988	Wagga Wagga:	(02) 6925 3559
Albury	(02) 6041 5201	Wollongong:	(02) 4225 9247
Coffs Harbour:	(02) 6652 7424		

Or contact us at www.guidedogs.com.au/contact