

Strong foundations for life

Support for children,
adolescents and families



Vision Australia

Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.

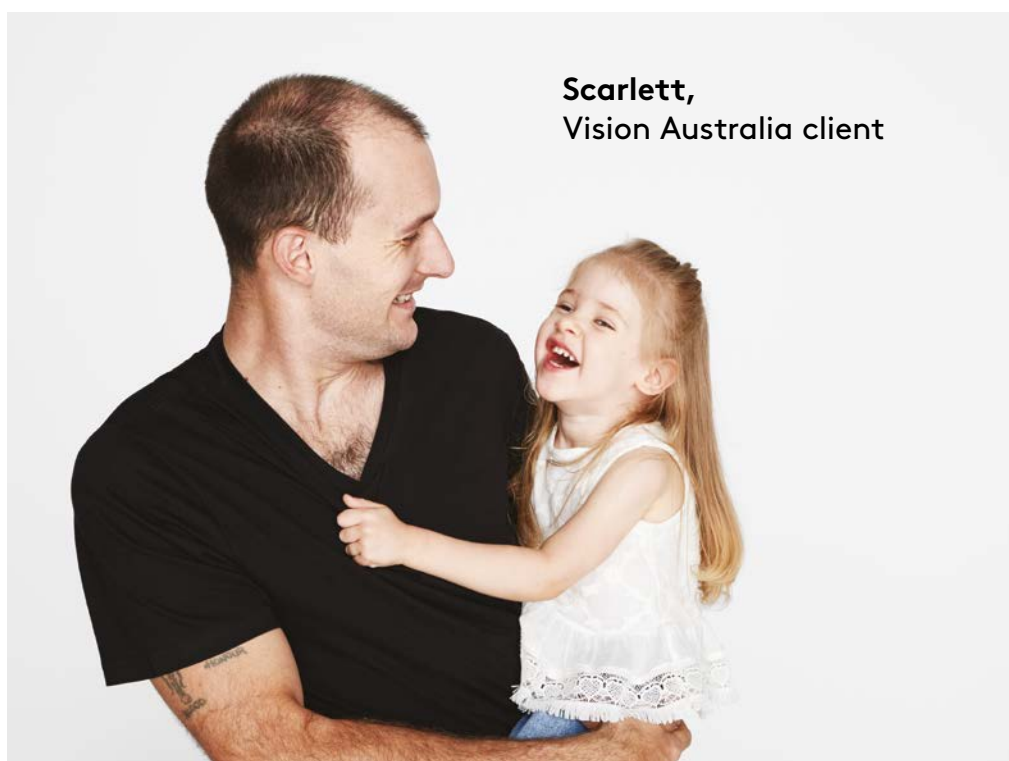
Strong foundations for life

Every child is unique, and as a parent you know they interact and learn in their own wonderful way. Finding out your child has vision loss can turn your world upside down. You may have all sorts of questions. What does the future hold for them? How will they manage at school? How will this affect our family?

Much of what we learn in life is through watching. So children with vision loss need to gather information about their world in different ways, and parents are their first and favourite teacher.

At Vision Australia we offer your family a personalised approach and innovative solutions tailored to the needs of your child.

On the cover: **Paisley**,
Vision Australia client



Scarlett,
Vision Australia client

Working together

Vision Australia will be with you and your family throughout your child's life – from birth and first steps, starting school and discovering their talents to graduating, finding after-school jobs and making the most of adulthood. You will get the support you need to be the expert on your child's situation. This includes becoming confident in the choices you make for them and proven approaches to help them realise their potential.

In collaboration with you, your Vision Australia support person will access the expertise of our allied health team, professionals and specialist staff to develop strategies that suit your child's needs.

Your child's support network of specialists include:

- Speech pathologists
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists
- Orientation and mobility specialists
- Access technology specialists
- Orthoptists

Access to funding

Various funding options can help you access Vision Australia's services and support. These include Medicare (such as Better Start Early Intervention Better Access to Mental health, Chronic Disease Management) and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We can help you understand what options are available and guide you through the process.

Your child's early years

Early learning and development are foundations for your child to grow into a confident, independent and healthy adult. Your child can learn and master important life skills including:

- Daily routines such as mealtime and family outings
- Playing, moving and exploring
- Using language and listening
- Social skills such as sharing and joining in

Your personal support person will meet with you and your child in your home, your closest Vision Australia office or wherever you feel most comfortable.

Getting your child ready for school

Your child can enjoy a smooth and successful transition to school with our help. Together we can:

- Ensure teachers and other important people in their lives understand your child's vision and needs, and how to tailor activities to be inclusive
- Teach your child skills so they're ready to learn in a new environment
- Help your child understand what to expect, how to join in and give them skills to find their way around
- Source the right equipment to help your child learn and teach them how to use it
- Develop your child's physical capabilities

Vision Australia
currently supports over
2,100 children nationally.



Your child's primary school years

Children develop academically, socially and emotionally during their school years. You and your family will have our support so your child is engaged and continues to thrive.

Support ranges from advice on lighting and desk setup to different formats for educational materials and technology to enable reading, writing and other tasks. Your child can access activities and sports clubs, make friends and learn ways to talk about their vision and advocate for themselves.

Last year Vision Australia spent over 25,000 hours supporting children in their primary school years.

Secondary school

As your child heads into adolescence in their secondary school years, Vision Australia will be there to support decisions on subject selection, career aspirations and extra-curricular activities as well as to help build their confidence so they can advocate for themselves.

Moving into adulthood

This is a big step for anyone. As a young adult making decisions about your life, Vision Australia will work directly with you so you can:

- Make the most of your choice of university, job, gap year or trade
- Source financial support for the right equipment to make your tertiary studies a success
- Learn the life skills you need to run your own home
- Form friendships and relationships
- Get involved in tailored or mainstream recreational activities
- Access information on how to advocate for yourself and influence change in the community
- Secure work experience or volunteering opportunities
- Explore your community and the world beyond

Vision Australia is a specialist in vision loss support for children and adolescents

Call our Helpline on 1300 84 74 66

Vision Australia has 28 metro and regional centres around Australia. Call us or visit our website to find the one closest to you.

Find out more

visionaustralia.org
info@visionaustralia.org

 VisionAustralia
 @visionaustralia

Vision Australia acknowledges the support of state and commonwealth governments. For full acknowledgments see www.visionaustralia.org/gvtfunding

visionaustralia.org



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