

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Vision 2020 Australia Annual General Meeting

Meeting Date 1 October 2024, 10.30am AEST

1 Welcome and apologies

The Hon Christopher Pyne, Chair of Vision 2020 Australia, declared the meeting open at 1.04pm and welcomed members and guests. The traditional owners of the many land's attendees were on were acknowledged.

2 Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Hon Christopher Pyne presented the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Resolution 1: That the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting are adopted.

Moved: Mark Carmichael

Seconded: Jane Schuller

Motion Carried

3 Chair's address and presentation of Annual Report 2023-24

The Chair reflected that the past year has seen Vision 2020 Australia celebrate and showcase the work of its members—organisations that are pioneering ways to improve equity and access to eye health and vision services.

He highlighted the success of the Innovation in Eye Health and Vision Care cocktail function and exhibition at Parliament House in Canberra, which showcased organisations leading in technology and consumer support. The event was attended by The Hon Bill Shorten, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, who reaffirmed his commitment to engaging with the sector for people who are blind or have low vision.

The Chair reported that advocacy impact had broadened significantly across states and territories, with Vision 2020 launching its first state-based Parliamentary Friends Group in New South Wales and strengthening relationships with health, education, and disability ministers across multiple jurisdictions. This has already yielded tangible outcomes, such as the Victorian Government tripling the reach of the Glasses4Kids program and the South Australian Government expanding GlassesSA to reach an additional 7,000 people annually.

Federally, relationships remain strong, with committees providing valuable input to policies and submissions that improve eye health and vision services across Australia and the region. The Chair noted increased collaboration and networking across the membership, highlighting a roundtable with RANZCO and Optometry Australia that led to the establishment of a Collaborative Eye Care Working Group (RANZCO, Optometry Australia, and Orthoptics Australia), with paediatric eye care as its first area of focus.

He was pleased to have been reappointed to the Board and re-elected as Chair, acknowledging the Board's ongoing focus on governance modernisation, including the new Constitution and strengthening Board composition to reflect the diversity and expertise of the sector.

The Chair welcomed new Directors — Kylie Harris, Leah Cameron, Damian Papps, Brandon Ah Tong, and Dr Kris Rallah-Baker — and thanked outgoing Directors Jaki Adams, Shaun Tatipata, and Jessica Gallagher for their long-standing contributions. He was honoured to introduce Jessica Gallagher to deliver the Barry Jones Vision Oration. In closing, the Chair thanked Carly Iles and the Vision 2020 Australia team, the Board, Committee members, and all members for their collaboration and support. Members remain at the centre of Vision 2020's work, ensuring its collective voice remains unified and effective.

The Chair then invited Ms Carly Iles, CEO, to present her report.

4 CEOs report

Ms Iles reflected on a year of growth, innovation, and impact, highlighting strong advocacy and policy outcomes that shaped key national initiatives, including the Independent Review of the NDIS, Foundations of the New Aged Care Act, and the International Gender Equality Strategy.

Vision 2020 strengthened relationships across government, ensuring the needs of people who are blind or have low vision were embedded in policy discussions. This included presenting at the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS and holding over 100 member meetings to inform consistent, evidence-based advocacy.

Ms Iles acknowledged the Federal Government's decision to implement most of the MBS Review Taskforce recommendations on optometry and ophthalmology—an example of how coordinated sector advocacy drives change. At the state level, Vision 2020 expanded its ministerial engagement and continued to raise awareness through parliamentary eye screenings nationwide. Ms Iles noted that collaboration remains the organisation's greatest strength, exemplified by the Leaders Symposium on Children's Eye Health and Vision Services, which facilitated frank discussion and tangible problem-solving.

Vision 2020 continues its journey as a stronger ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, advancing work on its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A highlight of the year was welcoming IAPB President Caroline Casey to launch World Sight Day 2024 in Australia, alongside NSW Parliamentary Friends Group Co-Chair Tim James MP, with events successfully held across three states. Ms Iles expressed gratitude to the Chair and Board Directors, the four Policy Committees and their Chairs, and the membership, acknowledging that their collective expertise underpins Vision 2020's success. Also paying tribute to the Vision 2020 team, describing them as “small but mighty,” whose dedication and passion continue to advance the organisation's mission.

Looking ahead, Ms Iles expressed optimism for the coming year, with continued collaboration across the membership and partners to ensure equitable eye care access and full participation for all Australians.

Ms Iles then invited Mr Damian Papps, Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, to present the financial statements.

5 Financial statements and reports

Mr Damian Papps, member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Standing Committee noted that the Directors' and Auditor Reports including financials for the year ending 30 June 2024 were on the Vision 2020 Australia website and that these showed that the organisation is in a sound financial position with an unqualified report.

He noted that for the reporting period:

- Total income for the year was \$1.263 million, with 52% of that from Federal Government funding and a further 20% from Victorian Government funding for the Vision Initiative/ Education and Development program.
- Membership revenue accounted for a further 23% of income and remains a critical part of our income as it supports activities such as advocacy and engagement.
- Like many organisations, staff expenses were the one of the largest categories of expenses in the 2023-24-year accounting for 59% of expenses.
- Operational expenses were the next highest category at 23%, which includes contracted professional services.
- Overall, a surplus of \$2,941 was recorded for the year.
- The organisation has a strong balance sheet including solid financial reserves and on 30 June 2024, had net assets of \$1.287 million.

Mr Papps noted that the Board is committed to maintaining sound financial reserves that are conservatively managed, but also recognised the need to balance this with investments to support the membership and had therefore committed some of these surplus funds to sector wide initiatives over the coming year.

In closing, Mr Papps formally laid the financial statements and reports before the meeting for consideration in accordance with the ACNC guidelines.

6 Meeting close

As no other business was raised by the membership, the meeting was declared closed at 10.52am AEST, with members encouraged to view the Annual Report and reports from the policy committee chairs on the Vision 2020 Australia website.

Attendees

Pete Haydon	Australian College of Optometry
Kylie Harris	Australian College of Optometry, Director, Vision 2020 Australia
Tony Starkey	Beyond Blindness
Deb Deshayes	Blind Citizens Australia
Keith Martin	Centre for Eye Research Australia
Felicity Beaulieu	EverAbility Group
Dale Cleaver	Guide Dogs NSW/ACT / Director, Vision 2020 Australia
Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou	Indigenous Eye Health Unit at Melbourne University
Skye Cappuccio	Optometry Australia
Professor Peter McCluskey	Save Sight Institute
Associate Professor MeiYing Boon	School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of Canberra
Professor Lisa Keay	School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of New South Wales
Mr Damian Papps	Seeing Differently with the Royal Society for the Blind
Brandon Ah Tong	The Fred Hollows Foundation, Director, Vision 2020 Australia
Jennifer Gersbeck	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Mark Carmichael	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
Honourable Christopher Pyne	Chair, Vision 2020 Australia
Jane Schuller	Deputy Chair/ Director, Vision 2020 Australia
Dr Kate Reid	Director, Vision 2020 Australia
Fiona Woods	Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Apologies

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

Australian Society of Ophthalmologists

Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association

Brien Holden Foundation

Brien Holden Vision Institute

Can:Do4Kids

CBM Australia

Deakin University

Diabetes Australia - National Office

Diabetes Victoria

Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand

Foresight Australia

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Glaucoma Australia
Guide Dogs Queensland
Guide Dogs Victoria
Keratoconus Australia Inc
Lions Eye Institute
Macular Disease Foundation Australia
NextSense
OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation
Orientation and Mobility Association of Australasia
Orthoptics Australia
Queensland Braille Writing Association (Braille House)
Retina Australia
Royal Guide Dogs Australia
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of Melbourne
Sight for All Foundation
Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation
University of Western Australia
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Vision Australia