



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY

CLINICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION



NATIONAL VISION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
AN ACO DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORTS 2016



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Vision and Mission

To be a world leading institution in the science, education and practice of optometry through promoting the visual health and quality of life of the communities we serve by leading the profession to build its' knowledge base, attain and advance clinical skills and deliver the best possible optometric care.

Objectives

Preservation of sight and prevention of blindness by:

Leading clinical best practice

To promote and demonstrate leading practice in the provision of clinical eye care services and service delivery models.

Valued public health eye care services

To improve patients' lives by providing exceptional general and specialised optometric care to communities most in need.

World class research

To undertake research seeking discoveries and advancing knowledge in vision sciences and the diseases and disorders that impact on vision to improve patient care and health outcomes.

Education

To develop the knowledge and skills of optometry students and optometrists in practice by providing the best possible clinical teaching and education.

A strong, effective and sustainable organisation

To continuously improve and develop our people, resources and infrastructure and effectively communicate and build relationships with our stakeholders.



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our facilities are located and pay our respects to their elders past and present



Our Values

Accountability & Transparency

We are responsible and accountable for our work and services and open and transparent in the discussions we make.

Integrity and Honesty

We act with integrity and honesty and avoid conflicts of interest and improper behaviour.

Leadership and Innovations

We foster and support professional leadership and encourage innovation in our work.

Respect and Care

We treat others and ourselves with respect and care and our workplace is free from discrimination, harassment and bullying.

Teamwork and Partnership

We foster and support teamwork and work collaboratively with partners to promote service excellence.

Knowledge and Excellence

We continuously improve our professional knowledge and strive for excellence in all areas of work.

Chief Executive Officer

Maureen O'Keefe
BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA WCLP GAICD

Company Secretary

Clare Escott
BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

Director Clinical Services

Associate Professor Sharon Bentley
BScOptom MOptom PhD MPH GAICD
FAAO FAGO

Director National Vision Research Institute

Professor Michael Ibbotson
BSc (Hons) PhD

Executive General Manager Finance & Corporate Services

Clare Escott
BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

General Manager Professional Development & Membership

Jolanda de Jong
BCom B Ed

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

2016 HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR for the ACO. The College continues to be in a strong financial position. A series of successful funding bids provide wonderful opportunities to deliver services and conduct research. While the CEO, Maureen O'Keefe, details these in her report, I cannot help but express my admiration for her and her team's role in securing as part of a consortium \$4.8million for indigenous eye health equipment and training, \$1 million NHMRC Development Grant for a research collaboration to further develop a bionic eye device, \$200,000 for the collaborative glaucoma clinic and \$360,000 philanthropic from 2 significant philanthropic organisations to establish a new research fellowship. These are extraordinary achievements which should be celebrated and reflect the quality of the team operating the ACO.

One of the most important reforms to college governance in recent years has been the opening up of Council to skills-based appointments. This is not simply governance best practice, but improves council performance in strategy, decision making, risk management and so forth.

At Council level, our role is to set the strategic direction and to try to create the opportunity for the organisation to be as successful as it can be. One important change in 2016 was to the investment policy of the organisation. The current low interest rate environment is challenging. The ACO's investment policy has always been, and remains, conservative. However a change in policy to allow a small holding in hybrid securities improves our returns. The term hybrid security is not self-evident but these include subordinated notes, capital notes and convertible preference shares. These instruments have both equity and fixed interest characteristics and when well chosen, by our advisors Perpetual, improve our overall investment returns. This is important for the long-term success of the ACO and in particular, the NVRI.

Speaking of the NVRI, it gives me tremendous pleasure to report that we have changed and modernised the NVRI constitution. This has been a process that has taken years of hard work. It was



Professor Konrad Pesudovs
Council President
Australian College of Optometry

essential to make these changes so that the ACO and NVRI constitutions meet best practice and are appropriately aligned with the Corporations Act (2001) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission Act (2012). Perhaps more importantly the constitutions need to reflect the governance of the organisation. In recent years, the administrative load on the NVRI Director has been minimised, and handled by the ACO, so that the NVRI Director can focus on conducting research. This is reflected in the recent high level of productivity by Prof Michael Ibbotson and his team. While this may not be the most exciting reform to the majority of members, I am particularly proud of it because I know how difficult it was. I tilt my hat to the College Executive, Maureen O'Keefe and Clare Escott, Prof Alex Gentle and the entire Board of Administration of the NVRI and Prof Michael Ibbotson for getting this done. The benefits in terms of productivity are already there to see and we look forward to continued research performance.

One of the most important reforms to college governance in recent years has been the opening up of Council to skills-based appointments. This is not simply governance best practice, but improves council performance in strategy, decision making, risk management and so forth. We have enjoyed strong contributions from The Honorable Paul Lucas who is a former Queensland Health Minister providing government relations, political and legal advice and Sarah Byrne who brings legal expertise. We have also had a financial / accounting expert perform the role of Honorary Treasurer. Mark O'Sullivan held

this role from 2015 but departed in early 2017 due to family commitments. He has been replaced by Denise Gronow who has been serving on the Finance and Risk Committee for a number of years and is now making a strong contribution at Council. These roles are valuable and important and we seek at the 2017 AGM to alter the ACO constitution to expand the number of skills-based roles from 2 to 3 so that we can have financial, legal and political skills on council without requiring one of these positions to be filled via the election process. This will leave the Council elections free to be contended by optometrist members only. This will be an important step forward.

A sad note was the passing of Dr David Cockburn. David was a profoundly influential optometrist. He was an inspiring and passionate teacher who brought competence in the diagnosis of eye disease to generations of University of Melbourne graduates. Without question, he laid the foundation on which the therapeutic era of optometry has been built. He certainly inspired me to further my ophthalmic disease education which I did in Ophthalmology and now students at Flinders University benefit from this. He was also instrumental in the foundation of the NVRI and tireless contributor to the ACO. Dr David Cockburn

was one of the greatest Australian Optometrists and his loss is sad indeed.

As we move into 2017 and beyond, I see the important challenge for the ACO is to make the “A” meaningful. That is we want a visible national footprint. The ACO is the acknowledged leader in public health optometry / ophthalmology partnerships. Opportunities exist throughout Australia to fill a gap in service delivery to the underprivileged, to partner with ophthalmology on improving access to eye care in the public hospital system and to deliver education and perform research. We need to identify the opportunities and engage in collaborative efforts to deliver our new vision “To achieve world-leading eye health outcomes for all”.



Professor Konrad Pesudovs

BScOptom PhD PGDipAdvClinOptom MCOptom FACO FAAO
 FCCLSA FAICD FARVO
 Council President



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2016 WAS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR for the ACO and it has been a privilege to lead the ACO through a significant period of development in its 75-year history. The building blocks have been laid to enable the ACO to achieve its full potential and deliver on its new rolling 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, which will be launched in early 2017. This Strategic Plan includes a new outward facing Vision "To achieve world-leading eye health outcomes for all", a refreshed Mission and Values and a roadmap which includes expanding our reach to enable those most vulnerable and disadvantaged to have access to affordable and accessible eye care across Australia.

A strong culture of collaboration is essential for achieving game changing outcomes – this philosophy needs to underpin everything we do to achieve our Vision and Mission.

As one of Australia's leading providers of public health optometric eye and vision care to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, the Australian College of Optometry plays an important role in providing primary, secondary and tertiary eye care to those most in need. The ACO is in the unique position of being able to contribute to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vision disorders and eye disease in 3 ways: through provision of eye care services; through research and its translation; and through development and delivery of education and training programs that meet the current and future needs of optometry students, optometrists in practice and the wider community. A strong culture of collaboration is essential for achieving game changing outcomes – this philosophy needs to underpin everything we do if we are to achieve our Vision and Mission.

Consortium of 5 leading organisations wins tender to address diabetes related blindness in Aboriginal Australians which is 14 times higher than in non-indigenous populations, when 94% of vision loss in Aboriginal communities is preventable or treatable.



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer
Australian College of Optometry
National Vision Research Institute

One of the highlights for the ACO in 2016 was the opportunity to participate in a collaboration of 5 organisations; the Brien Holden Vision Institute (co-lead), Australian College of Optometry (co-lead), Optometry Australia, Centre for Eye Health and the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia for the purpose of submitting a tender co-ordinated by BHVI to the Australian Government to provide eye health testing equipment, training and support in more than 100 primary health care clinics in remote sites across Australia.

The Consortium was very excited to learn in early 2017 that our bid was successful. Funding of \$4.8M will be provided over the next 2-3 years to improve access to timely detection, management and treatment of eye disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and assist in preventing avoidable blindness. The consortium is committed to ensuring respectful, consultative and culturally sensitive engagement with all communities. We look forward to working as part of the Consortium to address and arrest the rising rate of diabetes related blindness in affected communities.



This equipment and training program received funding from the Australian Government.

Partnership between ACO and the Eye and Ear Hospital established in response to the rising prevalence of glaucoma resulting from the growing incidence of diabetes and our ageing population, and the need for a more effective and efficient model of care which will ensure low risk glaucoma patients receive earlier care and treatment.

The ACO and the Eye and Ear Hospital (E&E) established a Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic in April 2016 with funding provided to the ACO by the Victorian State Government, Health and Human Services Workforce Branch, for the purpose of developing a model of care involving an integrated team of ACO optometrists and E&E orthoptists and ophthalmologists. The service has been developed to provide patient centred, cost effective care with a focus on facilitating community based follow up when appropriate, while improving access to hospital care for higher risk patients, with more than 600 patients examined to date, and outcomes to be evaluated and published in 2017. It is hoped that the results of this work will be of benefit to the wider community.

NHMRC Development Grant of \$1M won by bionic eye partnership established by The University of Melbourne with the ACO's National Vision Research Institute and start up company iBionics, to benefit people with age-related macular degeneration, the major cause of blindness and vision impairment in people over 50 and retinitis pigmentosa, the most common cause of blindness in the young.

Through a partnership established by the University of Melbourne, a Victorian group of researchers from the University and researchers from the ACO's National Vision Research Institute joined with Canadian eye surgeons and engineers to launch a start up company iBionics to move into clinical trials with the 256-electrode diamond device – one of two bionic eye devices developed previously by Bionic Vision Australia with \$50M of funding from the Australian Government. The University of Melbourne led partnership was successful in winning a significant \$1M NHMRC grant in 2016 which will allow preclinical testing to determine the stimulation patterns needed to achieve the best vision. If successful, translation of this research will enable recognition of facial expression and reading of large print in target patients. The ACO is committed to translating basic and clinical research to improve health outcomes and supports NVRI's strong national and international collaborations which are essential for winning major peer reviewed research grants.

The success of the ACO's education and training programs is totally dependent on the valuable contribution and support of the eye health community and the significant contribution they make to the course and curriculum advisory committees, the delivery of lectures and workshops, the development of course material and their advice and support with the examination and assessment process.

I am very pleased to see the continued success of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics, which saw record enrolments in 2016, attracting candidates from Australia, New Zealand, UK and Canada. The ACO received accreditation of its CPD in 2016 from the New Zealand Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board and is seeking to make its CPD more accessible internationally over the coming year.

During 2016 two new postgraduate level courses were launched – an Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma and a Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses. A new clinical workshop in Glaucoma Diagnostic Skills also commenced along with a refreshed Paediatric Optometry Clinical Workshop. Further new courses are under development for 2017. The ACO held a very successful National Conference in 2016, with the highest ever number of delegates in attendance.

Thank you to our Supporters.

The strength and viability of the ACO and the NVRI is heavily reliant on our members, government, trusts and foundations and philanthropists and other supporters who work with us in many ways.

I would particularly like to thank the trustees of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Foundation and the Lions Foundation for their amazing support in providing matching funds to establish a new 3-year Research Fellowship in the NVRI. This additional position will significantly enhance our research capability and we are very grateful for your support.

ACO is an organisation with a strong ethical culture, supportive work environment and a commitment to quality service.

Our inaugural Culture Survey was carried out in 2016 with very positive results. The consultant's overview identified that ACO is "an organisation with a strong ethical culture, supportive work environment and a commitment to quality service".

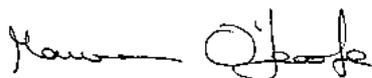
The outcomes of the survey will assist us to promote the growth of our great people, great culture and great clinical services, research and education into 2017. It will also provide an important baseline

measurement of our workplace culture for future surveys. The feedback is being used to implement improvements to our working environment, with the goal of enhancing our workplace culture into the future.

I would like to thank the current and departing members of the ACO Council for their support and valuable contributions to the ACO. I would particularly like to thank my two Council Presidents during 2016. Professor Nathan Efron AC was President for 4 years and retired as President at the 2016 AGM after a long association with the governance of the ACO. Nathan was President when I was first appointed CEO in 2013, and I am very grateful for the valuable strategic advice, guidance and support he has provided me with over the years. He was a great Council President. I am also very fortunate that Professor Konrad Pesudovs was elected as President in June 2016. Konrad has substantial experience having been a member of the Council for the past 7 years, which has enabled a smooth transition. The last 6 months has been very successful from a governance perspective with substantial modernisation of the ACO and NVRI

constitutions and development of a refreshed Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Plan. I am very much looking forward to the year ahead.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2016 Annual Report, and our achievements, none of which could have happened without the strong support of the ACO Council and sub-committees, my Leadership Team, the dedicated team of clinicians, researchers, educators, receptionists, dispensers, administrators, support staff, volunteers and students, ACO and NVRI Members, and our valued collaborators, partners and funders (including Commonwealth and Victorian Govts, philanthropists, trusts and foundations) who have all made a valuable contribution to enabling the ACO to achieve its strategic goals in 2016.



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer
Australian College of Optometry
National Vision Research Institute



ACO Leadership Team (L-R): Roman Serebrianik (Head of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services), Maureen O'Keefe (CEO), Sharon Bentley (Director Clinical Services), Neville Turner (GM Business Systems & Development), Elda Rebecchi (Communications & Marketing Manager), Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager), Jolanda de Jong (GM Professional Development & Membership), Michael Ibbotson (Director National Vision Research Institute), Jane Trevaskis (Head of Teaching & Quality), Jennifer Caulfield (Head of Clinic Operations & Support Services), Clare Escott (EGM Finance & Corporate Services). Absent: Piers Carozzi (Head of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services)

ACO YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Services

77,824
Patient consultations 

50,000
Spectacles/visual aids to **62,959** patients across the state through the Victorian Eyecare Service

Delivered the Mobile Eye Care (MEC) – Mallee program in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), the Victoria and Mallee Track Health and Community Services (MTHCS) and the ACO 

2,900
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients accessed eye examinations provided by the ACO and supported by the VES

14,236
Patient consultations at the Carlton general clinic

97%
of patients rated their care as good or very good and 98% said they will return to the ACO

Glaucoma clinic established in collaboration with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital at the ACO

Research

National Vision Research Institute

Invited to present papers at international conferences in Switzerland, Denmark and Korea

274.3
(2012-2016) mean citation growth rate over the past five years was achieved – compared to 199.6 (2007-2011) and 155.2 (2002-2006)

Developed new stimulation strategies for the next generation of bionic eyes 

13 Papers were published from the neurotechnology research group and seven in clinical research. Another six papers were submitted in late 2016 to be published in 2017

Developed a suite of new analytical techniques to assess the receptive fields of visual neurons in the brain 

Published papers in journals with impact factors in the **TOP 5%** worldwide.

Awarded a major Development Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council

Education

Record enrolments in the fifth intake of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics 

17%
increase in attendance at the ACO National Conference over the past three years – a record

New postgraduate level courses launched: the Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma and the Advanced Certificate in Contact Lenses 

Introduction of an Outstanding Graduate Award for the ACO–Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics 

New Glaucoma Diagnostic Skills Clinical Workshop launched

Membership

13%

Increase in ACO graduate members of total membership in 2016 compared to 7% in 2015



16%

increase in ACO membership over the past 3 years



6.5%

Increase in the number of registered optometrists as a proportion of total ACO members

Participation by ACO members in online courses and webinars continues to increase



A longstanding member of the ACO Community made a generous donation towards the development of the new \$100,000 ACO Museum exhibition gallery



Fundraising

Donors, Trusts, Foundations and Bequests

A new 3-year Research Fellowship position was established with generous matching funding by the LEW Carty Charitable Fund and Lions Foundation

The Rebecca L. Cooper Foundation grant enabled the purchase of laser equipment for research



John Nicola, Optique Line ran the *Marathon de Sable* in the Sahara Desert to raise funds for NVRI research and established the ongoing Nicola Family Fund

Fundraising events for research were held during the year by the Footscray Lions Club and the Clarinda Lions Club

Donald Cant Watts Corke fundraising dinner, the proceeds of which were generously donated to the ACO for its work with disadvantaged communities



Donations to the Cyril W Kett Optometry Museum increased significantly in 2016 with exclusive items donated including 41 items from the William Cooper Estate, 200 books on contact lenses from Professor Nathan Efron and Suzanne Efron, rare opera glasses from Pamela Sutton made by Jean Lerebours (1761-1840), optician to Emperor Napoleon

Corporate Services



Planning and supporting business development and business process improvements, aimed at enhancing and supporting service delivery arrangements

Implementation of full offsite recovery measures to protect the ACO in the event of technology failure



Completion of capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure leading to a reduction in our carbon footprint, technology enhancements and commencement of a rolling program of upgrades at our metro clinics



Changes to the ACO & NVRI Constitutions to meet best practice and the current requirements of the ACO and NVRI

WHO WE ARE

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) is committed to improving the eye health and quality of life of community through clinical optometry practice, research and education. We are involved in public health eye care service delivery, vision research and optometry education. We serve a diverse community and wide range of stakeholders. Our focus is to meet the equally diverse expectations and needs of these communities and to show leadership through innovation and best practice in each area. The ACO is proud to be the only organisation in Australia specialising in each of the areas of public health optometry, vision research and optometry student and professional education, which together are enhancing improvements in eye health and the well being of the community.

OUR HISTORY

From its humble beginnings as a teaching clinic on the 4th floor of Kurrajong House on Collins Street, Melbourne, the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) has continued to grow. Incorporated in 1940, the ACO was the first not for profit membership institution in Australia to teach a 4-year full time Optometry course, with its first students enrolled in 1941. Over the past 77 years the ACO has continued to build on its commitment to education, through provision of clinical training in a public health setting to pre-registration university optometry students across Australia, and through expansion and innovation of education

delivery to meet the current and future needs of members and the wider optometry profession.

Our much valued and important work providing eye care services to disadvantaged communities began back in 1955 when we received our first grant for this purpose from the Victorian State Government. Fast forward 30 years to 1985, when the Victorian Government made a key decision to establish an integrated, coordinated public health eye care program called the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES).

The ACO has been responsible for administering this important initiative on behalf of the Victorian Government for over 30 years, over which time more than 2 million Victorians experiencing disadvantage and most vulnerable have benefited from quality eye care consultations and services aimed at correcting refractive error and preventing eye disease. In 2016 the ACO, in partnership with rural practitioners, provided over 77,000 patient consultations and dispensed almost 50,000 spectacles or other visual aids to more than 62,000 patients under the VES program.

Today the main clinic is in Carlton with a network of clinics in metropolitan Melbourne and a mobile eye care service. Outreach services began in 1998 for patients with disabilities that could not access mainstream services, and expanded in 2003 with services to indigenous Australians, homeless and other vulnerable Victorians. The ACO provides a coordinated program of clinics and outreach services across Victoria, including services for the aged and frail, indigenous communities, refugees and asylum seekers, children from disadvantaged schools, homeless and other high-risk groups. Going forward the ACO seeks to adapt and expand this important public health eye care model to benefit more Australian's experiencing disadvantage.

Back in 1972 the ACO reached another milestone with the establishment of its research division, the National Vision Research Institute, to pursue research in vision and the disorders of vision. The NVRI was made possible through donations from the optometry community and later strengthened in 1979 and 2001 through a generous donation followed by an even more generous bequest from the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust. Over the past 45 years, the NVRI has carried out basic, applied and clinical vision research, with current research priorities including neurotechnology, with a strong focus on the development of prosthetic vision devices (or bionic eyes), clinical optometry and public health, to improve the understanding of vision science, vision care and treatment.

Maureen O'Keefe, CEO

CLINICAL SERVICES

AFFORDABLE, QUALITY EYE
CARE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

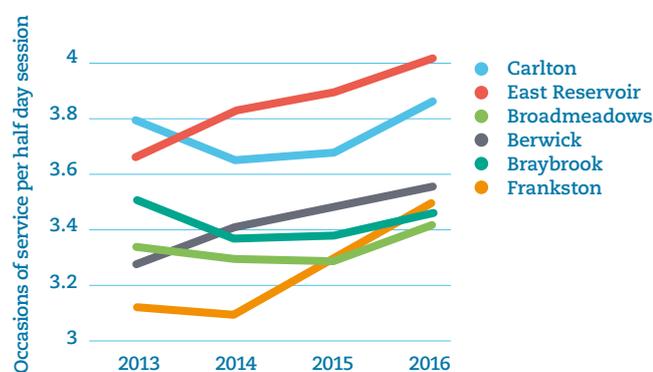


DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To promote and demonstrate leading practice in the provision of clinical services and service delivery models to improve patients' lives by providing exceptional general and specialised optometric care to communities most in need

THE DIVISION OF CLINICAL SERVICES has made considerable progress toward achieving the strategic objectives of the ACO in 2016. In leading clinical best practice we established the Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic at our Carlton clinic in April, in partnership with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. This is now one of several specialist clinics we provide at the ACO, including a post-surgical care cataract clinic and diabetes clinics within hospital settings, as well as contact lens, paediatric, low vision, disability and visual functions clinics. Furthermore, our models of outreach service delivery to various communities experiencing challenges in accessing eye care, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, continue to be recognised as exemplary at a national level. Both the Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic and the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme are highlighted elsewhere in this annual report.

Clinic Productivity 2013 – 2016



In providing valued public health eye care services, key areas of focus in 2016 were strengthening the productivity and efficiency of primary care service delivery at Carlton to bolster the financial viability of the clinic, embedding electronic records across the organisation and reviewing outreach services. Across all primary care services at Carlton, we provided eye examinations to more than 14,236 patients, with significant improvements in occupancy (from 87% to 92%), productivity (from 4.26 to 4.40 occasions of service per half-day session) and income (a 12% increase per half day session) compared with the previous year. In addition to improvements at the Carlton clinic, we have implemented strategies that have led to steady increases in productivity at all of our five major

metropolitan clinics. An audit revealed that our transition to electronic records is progressing well and we have engaged with staff in an effort to make further enhancements. Our review of outreach services indicated increasing demand, with the challenge over the next few years being to obtain further funding and develop cost-effective ways to provide this much needed model of public health eye care. As demonstrated by our patient experience survey, our services are indeed valued, with 97% of patients rating their care as good or very good and 98% saying that they would return in future.



Assoc Professor
Sharon Bentley
Director Clinical
Services

We continue to contribute to the evidence-base in clinical optometry through research in the areas of glaucoma treatment, barriers to accessing eye care (experienced by geographically displaced persons), low vision, teaching and the patient experience, the evaluation of new models of glaucoma service delivery, and the impact of eye care services in aged care facilities, to name some.

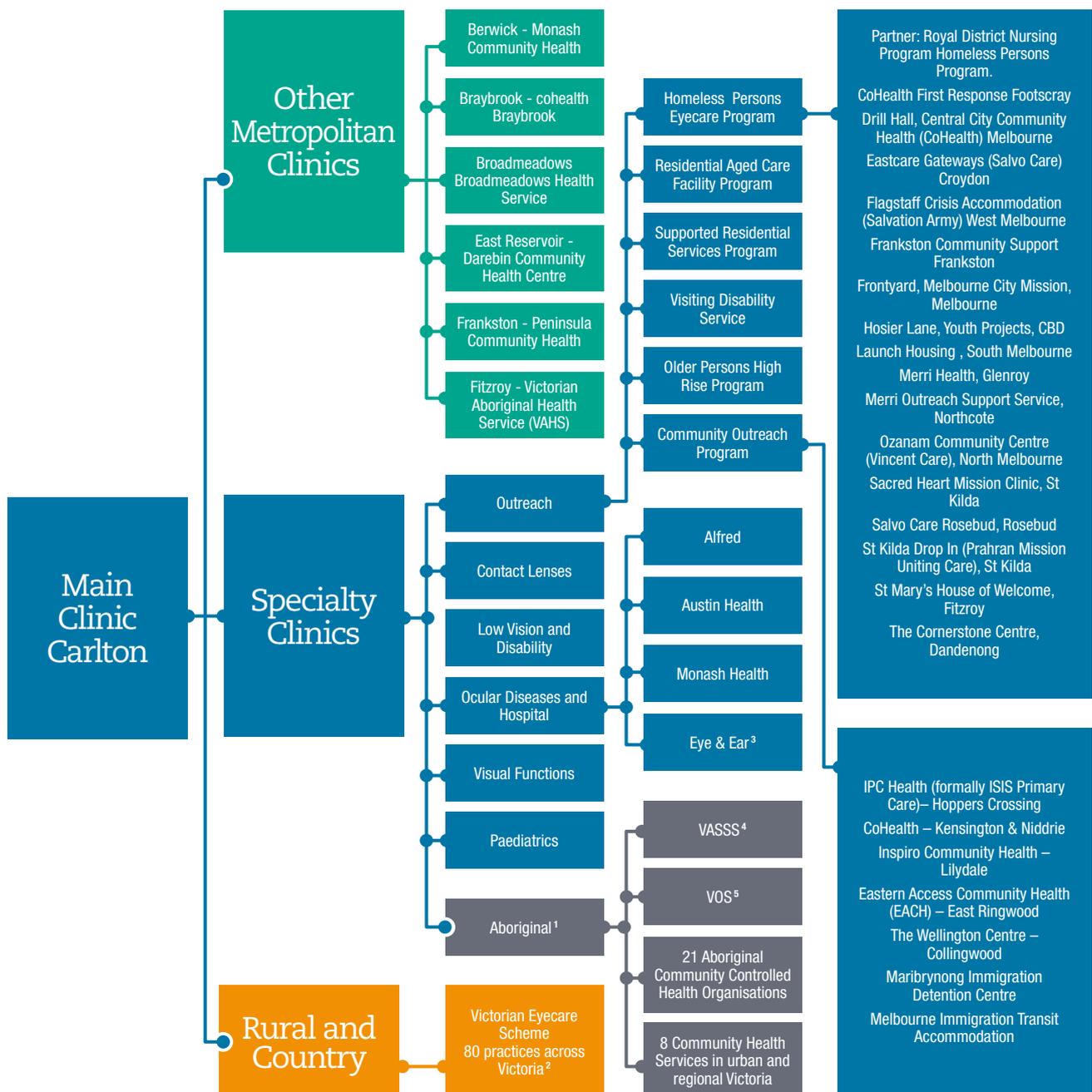
The Clinic strives to support providing the best possible education to optometry students and the profession. Staff optometrists have been involved in delivering some 22,117 hours of clinical education to pre-registration optometry students in 2016. Additionally, we have provided clinical skills workshops and presentations to the profession, as well as input into the development of new certificates in contact lenses and glaucoma, with more certificates to come.

It has been an immensely rewarding 2016, with numerous successes that could not have been achieved without dedication and strong teamwork. The clinic staff have worked very hard together and demonstrated commendable agility in challenging times – I would like to thank every one of them. The team is keen to maintain a path of continuous improvement and innovation, with many previous achievements to consolidate and new projects to implement in 2017.

Assoc Professor Sharon Bentley

BScOptom MOptom PhD GradDipSpecEd MPH CertOcTher
GAICD FAAO(DipLV) FACO
Director of Clinical Services

CLINICAL SERVICES NETWORK



1 Victorian Aboriginal Health Services (VAHS) also under this heading

2 Complete list of VES Service providers on page 52

3 Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital

4 Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the state government)

5 Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the government)

Clinic management team

Heads

Ms Jennifer Caulfield, *Clinic Operations and Support Services*

Mr Roman Serebrianik, *Primary and Specialist Eye Care Services*

Mr Piers Carozzi, *Community and Outreach Eye Care Services*

Ms Jane Trevaskis, *Teaching and Quality*

Leads

Dr Adrian Bruce, *Contact Lenses*

Ms Mae Chong, *Low Vision*

Dr Nellie Deen, *Paediatrics*

Ms Leanne Nguyen, *Ocular Diseases and Hospital Services*

Dr Genevieve Napper, *Aboriginal Services*

Managers

Ms Angeliki Arvanitis, *East Reservoir Metropolitan Clinic*
 Mr Joseph Choi, *Primary Care and Clinical Teaching*
 Ms Lesley Dacion, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic*
 Ms Rosemary Haikal, *Broadmeadows Metropolitan Clinic*
 Ms Angela Hall, *Clinical Research*
 Ms Iris Huang, *Frankston Metropolitan Clinic*
 Ms Lauren Kharsas, *Berwick Metropolitan Clinic*
 Dr Josephine Li, *Community Eye Care Services*
 Ms Lisa Lombardi, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic*
 Ms Vicki McSweeney, *Clinic Administration*
 Mr Ho Wah Ng, *Visual Functions*
 Ms Janelle Scully, *Clinic Operations and VES*

Clinic operations network

The Australian College of Optometry provides community eye care services at clinics within Melbourne and through a network of participating optometrists in rural and country Victoria. It also provides outreach and eye care, glasses and visual aids to aboriginal communities.

Main clinic – Carlton

The ACO's largest clinic and hub is located in Carlton, with more than 25 consulting rooms and state-of-the-art equipment. In 2016 we provided more than 30,000 services to Victorians at this location, predominantly

primary eye care services delivered through our 'general clinic.'

Other metropolitan clinics

The ACO has six satellite clinics that are an important part of our network in providing community eye care. Five of these clinics have two to three consulting rooms and are fully equipped with the latest diagnostic and imaging equipment to ensure the highest level of care possible. These clinics are co-located within community health centres offering a range of health services to local communities

The ACO clinics are located at:

- Berwick Clinic– Monash Community Health Berwick
- Braybrook Clinic– cohealth Braybrook
- Broadmeadows Clinic– Broadmeadows Health Service
- East Reservoir Clinic – Darebin Community Health Service
- Frankston Clinic – Peninsula Community Health and
- Fitzroy Clinic– Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

Specialty clinics

Paediatrics

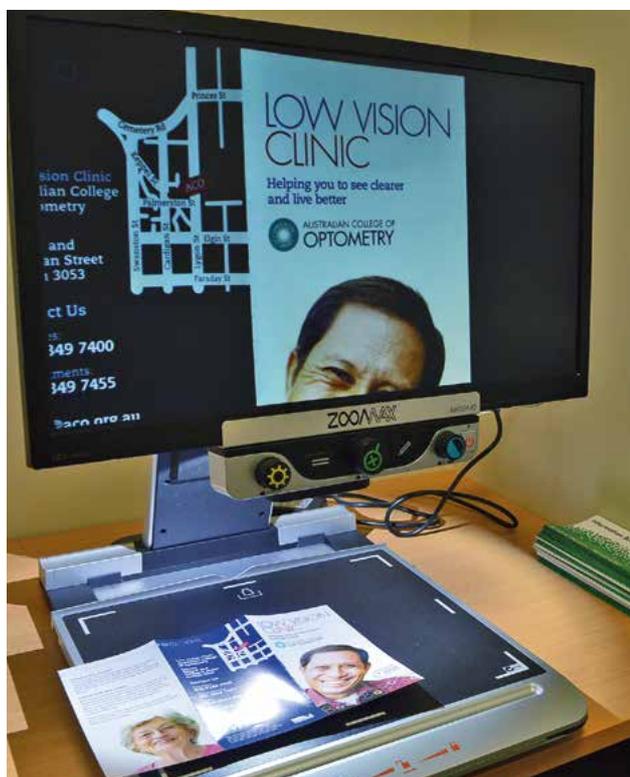
The ACO has a dedicated paediatric eye care service at Carlton. We provide comprehensive age-appropriate assessments, as well as evidence-based vision therapies to children who need them. The ACO provides a full service directly to Furlong Park School for the Deaf and Sunshine Harvester Primary School, where there are many children with disabilities or from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The ACO works in partnership with maternal and child health nurses, teachers, behavioural psychologists, other optometrists and the Royal Children's Hospital to support the eye care needs of children.

Contact Lenses

At our Carlton location we offer a comprehensive contact lens service, ranging from daily soft to mini-scleral and prosthetic contact lenses. We welcome referrals and receive many from optometry colleagues and ophthalmologists. In addition, ACO optometrists provide contact lens services at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

Low Vision and Disability

The ACO leads an integrated holistic service for people with vision impairment, in partnership with Vision Australia at our Carlton site. We offer a low vision clinic at Carlton that is supported by occupational therapists and has a full range of optical devices and adaptive equipment, including electronic magnifiers. We also provide eye care services to people with other disabilities.



Low Vision Clinic



ACO Optometrist Anna Gatsios, left, assesses Sulemani's eyesight through ACO's Outreach Service

Ocular Diseases and Hospitals

At our Carlton location we offer services in acute care, anterior eye, cataract, diabetes, glaucoma and retina. Additionally, we work in partnership with the Alfred Hospital to provide a cataract surgery aftercare clinic and with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to provide a glaucoma collaborative clinic, both at our Carlton location. ACO optometrists also provide eye care services at the Austin Hospital and Monash Health Dandenong Hospital for patients with diabetes. Our optometrists are endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines for the treatment of eye conditions.

Outreach

The ACO provides outreach services to members of the community who have difficulty accessing mainstream eye clinics. Outreach services runs seven key programs, mostly in the metropolitan area: homeless persons eye care, residential aged care, supported residential services, visiting disability services, asylum seeker centres, older person's high rise and community outreach. In addition to these programs, we work with the Royal Flying Doctors to provide eye care in remote parts of Victoria. Refer to chart page 13.

Aboriginal

The Aboriginal Services team at the ACO are working to "close the gap" for vision in Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander communities. The ACO has had a regular clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Services in Fitzroy since 1998. We also work in partnership with 21 Aboriginal community controlled health organisations and eight community health services in urban and regional Victoria, as well as in border regions in NSW and SA. The ACO's work in Aboriginal services is not only supported by the VES, but by the Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the Australian government) and the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the Victorian state government).

Visual Functions

Through the Visual Functions clinic at Carlton, the ACO provides highly specialised ocular imaging, colour vision testing, visual field testing and electrodiagnostics. Referrals for this service are welcome and we receive regular referrals for driver license applications and vocational assessment (police, armed forces, laser technicians, electricians, textile workers). We also provide counselling for children and their carers about the impact of colour vision problems on career choice. In addition, our optometrists are accredited to conduct vision certifications on behalf of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE

THE VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE (VES) funded by the Victorian State Government and administered by the Australian College of Optometry provides quality eye care, spectacles and visual aids to Victorians who meet specific eligibility criteria.

The ACO administers and co-ordinates the delivery of services in metropolitan Melbourne, and rural Victoria through a VES practitioner network, outreach services and Aboriginal services. It works closely with representatives of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Through the VES, the ACO provides eye care services targeted to Victorians who are financially, socially or geographically most in need, with the aim of correcting refractive error and preventing eye disease. For more than 30 years, the VES has provided Victorians with a high quality, coordinated program of eye care and subsidised spectacles and visual aids. People are eligible for VES benefits if they are permanent residents of Victoria and either: hold a Pensioner Concession Card; hold a current Health Care Card (and have done so for at least 6 months); are children in out-of-home care; or identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

The VES is largely delivered by ACO staff in the metropolitan area and by the invaluable contribution of more than 80 partner private practices in regional and rural areas across the entire state. Services in metropolitan Victoria are provided through the ACO

The ACO provides eye care services targeted to Victorians who are financially, socially or geographically most in need

clinics, including our main clinic at Carlton, six smaller satellite clinics based in community health centres in East Reservoir, Frankston, Berwick, Braybrook, Broadmeadows and at the Fitzroy Aboriginal Health Service, as well as 'mobile' outreach clinics to a multitude of sites. A full list of Outreach partners, VES regional and rural practices and Aboriginal services is provided on page 52.



ACO Optometrist Katrina Wong, examining Angela's eyes at Sacred Heart Clinic

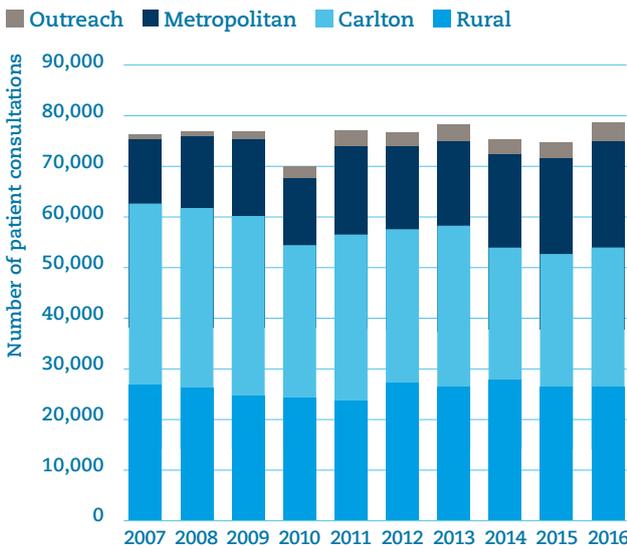
Victorian Eyecare Service (VES)

In 2016, more than 77,824 consultations and almost 50,000 spectacles/visual aids were provided through the VES to 62,959 patients across the state. Consistently, the VES is delivered to within $\pm 3\%$ of set targets. Two-thirds of services are provided in the wider Melbourne clinics.

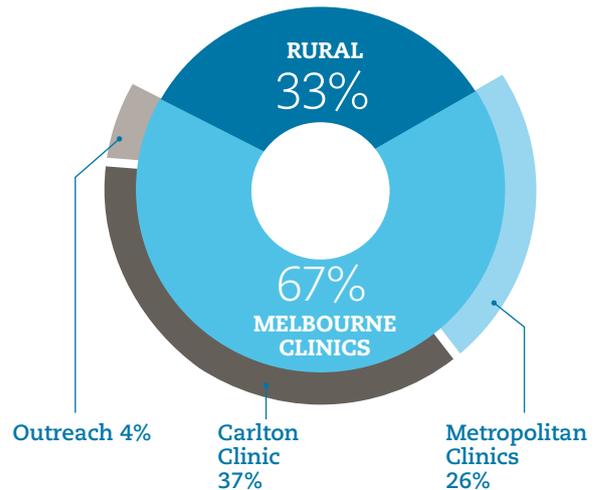
We started operating an additional consulting room at our East Reservoir clinic and made plans to refurbish our frame display areas at our East Reservoir, Berwick, Braybrook and Frankston metropolitan clinics.

During May and June we travelled across the state to personally visit partner VES regional and rural practices. It was a delight to meet so many dedicated supporters of the VES. Through the feedback obtained, we have already made several operational enhancements to the program.

VES consultations 2007 – 2016



VES consultations by location



VES LOCATIONS

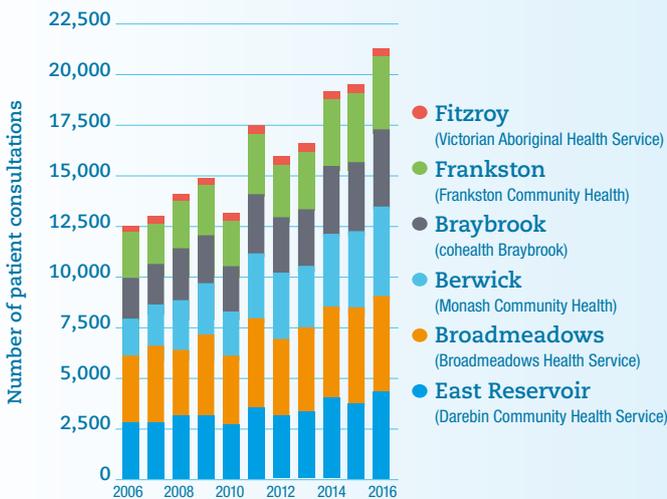
Metropolitan, rural, regional and country locations



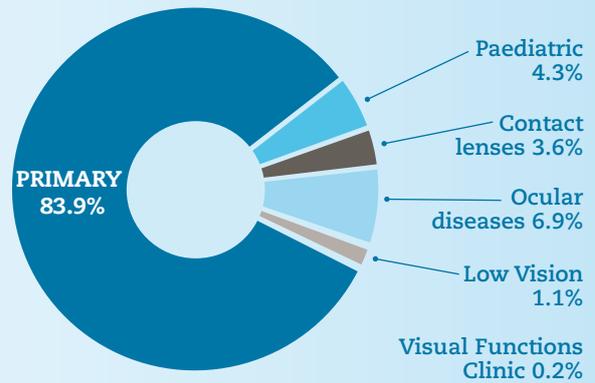
- Metropolitan Clinics
- Outreach Service
- Victorian Eyecare Service
- Provider of VES and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme

There are 80 practitioners across Victoria. List of VES and Aboriginal service providers are on page 52

VES Metropolitan Services 2006 – 2016



Type of service provided



VES Advisory Committee

The ACO convened a new VES Advisory Committee comprising representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services (Ageing and Aged Care Branch), cohealth, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Inner North West Primary Care Partnership, Leading Age Services Australia, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation as well as ACO practitioners, VES regional and rural practitioners (Graham Hill and Kaye McCraw) and a consumer representative (Rosie Maddick), along with the ACO CEO, Director of Clinical Services and Head of Community and Outreach Services. The Committee meets three times per year to provide advice to the ACO and Department of Health and Human Services in relation to the activities and priorities of the VES and also to identify ways to continuously improve delivery of the VES.

VES Staff Member Milestone

Diane Leaf is a key part of our VES administration team and has been with the ACO for 21 years. Over that time she has seen a great deal of change and growth in the VES, more recently playing a significant part in transferring the VES administrative processes to an electronic online system – an initiative that has been overwhelmingly appreciated. Diane remains the go-to person for technical queries, ever ready with an answer and a friendly smile.



Diane Leaf

YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic

The ACO and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital have joined forces to tackle the public waiting list for glaucoma assessments. Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable and irreversible blindness worldwide. Currently in Australia, half a million people are estimated to have glaucoma, suspect glaucoma or ocular hypertension – all forecast to increase with the ageing population. All require accurate diagnosis, possible treatment and lifelong review. Nowhere is the need greater for eye care professionals to collaborate and address this issue than in the public system, which services people experiencing financial, social and other hardship, many on a long waiting list for care.

In April 2016 the ‘Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic’ was established, operating one half-day per week at the ACO Carlton site. The pilot model of care is based on an integrated team approach involving optometrists from the ACO and orthoptists and ophthalmologists from the Eye and Ear Hospital. Essential to the success of the model are clear protocols, referral criteria and patient pathways. The Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic has been based on the model proposed by White and Goldberg (*Clin. Exp. Ophthalmol.*, 2014) and the referral pathways for glaucoma management later developed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO). The service has been developed to provide patient-centred, cost effective care with a focus on facilitating community based follow-up when appropriate, at the same time as improving access to hospital care for higher risk patients.

More than 600 patients have been examined in the Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic to date. Preliminary findings indicate that the majority are low risk glaucoma suspects who do not require ongoing

hospital-based care. Only a small proportion are being redirected back to the hospital with most patients being discharged with a recommended management plan to community optometric care. The staff and patient experience is being evaluated throughout the pilot phase of the project.

This project is funded by the Victorian State Government Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services Workforce Branch.

Outreach Services

Mallee Region

The ACO works in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria and Mallee Track Health and Community Services (MTHCS) to deliver the Mobile Eye Care (MEC) – Mallee program. The aim of the program is to reduce barriers experienced by rural and remote communities in accessing optometry services. The service was launched in Ouyen in late 2013 and has since expanded to Murrayville, Sea Lake and Underbool. The fly in fly out model has provided a mechanism for an ACO optometrist to travel to the Mallee region and deliver eye care services over two days each month. The ACO has a team of incredibly dedicated and experienced optometrists who transport themselves and the necessary portable equipment to provide public health outreach eye care services to such remote communities.

In 2016, the program was evaluated and highly positive feedback from patients was received. The Mallee community has embraced the MEC - Mallee program as an integral service. Over a 12-month period, 161 patients accessed the service. Failed to attend rates of less than 3% on average, indicate that the community values the service. Patients expressed appreciation for the service being both convenient and accessible, as the nearest optometry practices are over 100 km away.



ACO Optometrist Karen Trinh on her trip to Mallee Region



Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic patient, Gurloveleen Bahl with ACO Optometrist Lauren Kharsas

Almost half of the patients required new or updated spectacles for refractive error correction, which for the many patients who were eligible, were supplied through the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES). This was considered a substantial benefit to these patients who reported cost as being an additional barrier to accessing services in the past. Another important aim of the program is to detect and manage eye disease. Over 12% of patients were referred for management of significant eye disease. All patients who responded to the survey stated that the service was of high quality and had improved their health and wellbeing.

Aboriginal Services

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians experience 3 times the rate of blindness and vision impairment than other Australians and vision loss accounts for 11% of the health gap. The National Eye Health Survey reported that 90% of vision loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is preventable or treatable with over 60% of vision loss caused by uncorrected refractive error. The Aboriginal Services team at the ACO are working to “close the gap” for vision in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We work in partnership with 21 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHOs) in urban and regional Victoria and border regions including southern NSW and south eastern South Australia. Services for Aboriginal communities are also available through 8 community health services sites and a regular optometry clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Services (VAHS) in Fitzroy.

Partnerships and collaborations are significant enablers for the services. In 2016, 2900 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients accessed eye examinations provided by the ACO. Services are supported by the VES, and the Visiting Optometrists

Scheme funded by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) South Australia.

The VOS via RWAV also supported access to eye examinations for 250 non-Aboriginal Victorians in the following areas: Robinvale District Health Service, and residential aged care facilities in Horsham, Minyip, Dimboola, Rupanyup, Boort, Pyramid Hill and Quambatook.

The Aboriginal Services team at the ACO are working to “close the gap” for vision in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The ACO participates in the Koolin Balit Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group that oversees Aboriginal eye health activities in Victoria. In 2016 the ACO contributed to working groups of this committee that developed a Future Strategy 2016-2020, Future Strategy Action Plan and Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Progress Review 2013-2016.



[L-R] Tim Fricke VASSS Evaluation consultant, Susan Forrester VACCHO, Genevieve Napper ACO, Dee Tumino Vision Initiative Manager, Christine Pereira Vision Initiative, Sarah Zerbib Vision Initiative

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) is a key partner in ACO work with ACCHOs in Victoria.

ACO leads the North Metro and West Metro Regional Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group and a report “Strengthening Eye Care Pathways and Eye Care Access Koolin Balit North and West Metropolitan Region



Colin Mitchell, Diabetes Victoria pictured with ACO Optometrist Anagha Joshi

Aboriginal Eye Health Project” was released during 2016. ACO also participates in regional Aboriginal eye health projects in the Grampians, Geelong, Loddon Mallee and Great South Coast

VACCHO and Vision Initiative in partnership with stakeholders including ACO produced a range of culturally sensitive brochures about major eye conditions and these were launched at the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative in Shepparton in November.

Diabetes Victoria launched the eye module for the “Feltman” diabetes education resources. ACO contributed to the technical advisory group for the development of the resource along with VACCHO, IEH and the Vision Initiative (a Vision 2020 Australia public eye health program, funded by the Victorian State Government).

The National Eye Care Equipment Inventory Project has surveyed equipment in ACCHOs across Victoria and the ACO has worked with the Fred Hollows Foundation project team and VACCHO to support this project.

Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme

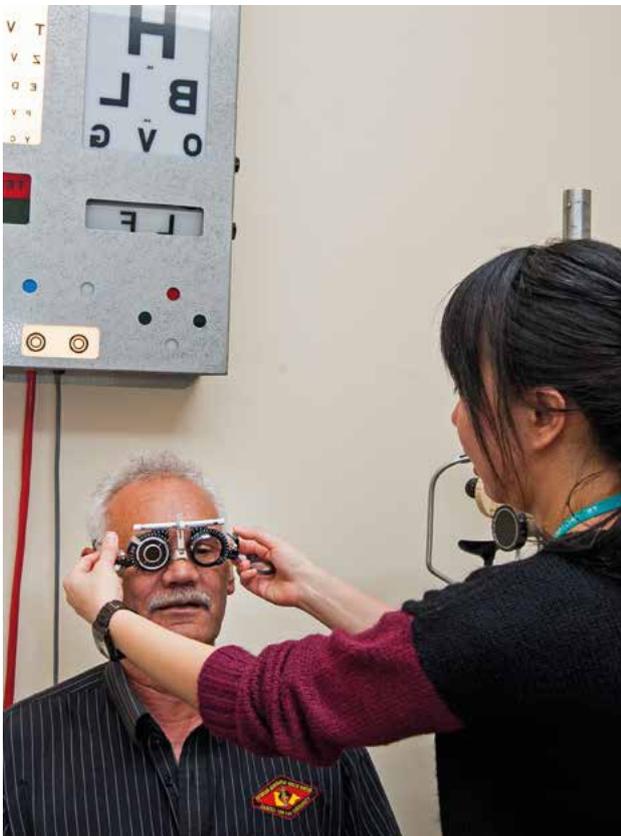
The Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (VASSS), a Victorian State Government initiative introduced in 2010, is an additional subsidy of the state wide Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) managed by the ACO. The VASSS aims to improve access by Aboriginal Victorians to high quality glasses, and in doing so,



[L-R] Carol Wynne Indigenous Eye Health University of Melbourne, Genevieve Napper ACO, Mitchell Anjou Indigenous Eye Health University of Melbourne, Dee Tumino Vision Initiative/Vision 2020 Australia

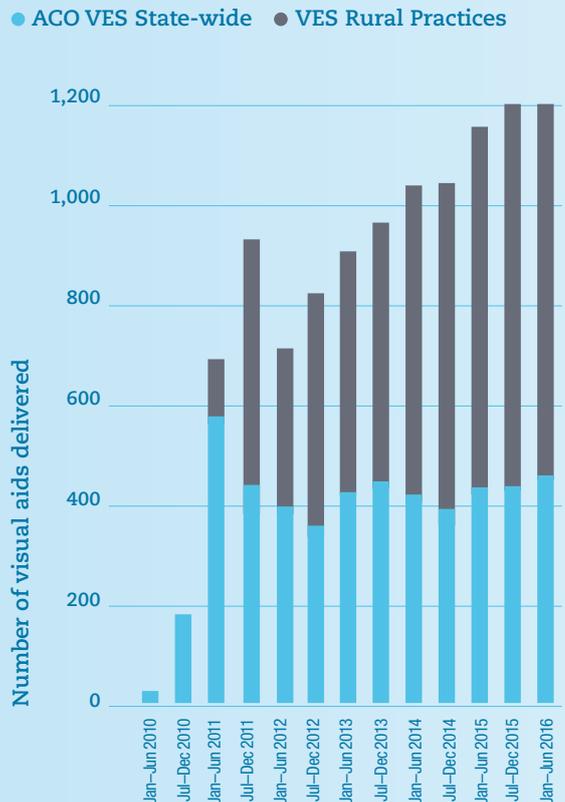
seeks to contribute to broader aspects of closing the gap in vision between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians.

The VASSS encourages Aboriginal Victorians to routinely access vision assessments and reduce barriers through being prescribed spectacles.



ACO Optometrist Danielle Zheng with patient Kim, at VAHS – Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy

Figure. VASSS dispensing June 2010-2016



In 2016, an external consultant evaluated the VASSS. The findings demonstrated that the VASSS is very well received by stakeholders and continues to successfully fulfil its main objective (improved access to high quality affordable glasses for Aboriginal Victorians) and increased uptake of primary eye care.

Clinical Residency Program

The ACO clinical residency program extends over a two-year period and is designed to strengthen the clinical, academic and professional development of newly graduated optometrists. After an initial period of orientation to the ACO and clinical duties, residents are expected to complete two units of approved postgraduate study in optometry, as well as a professional skill development experience

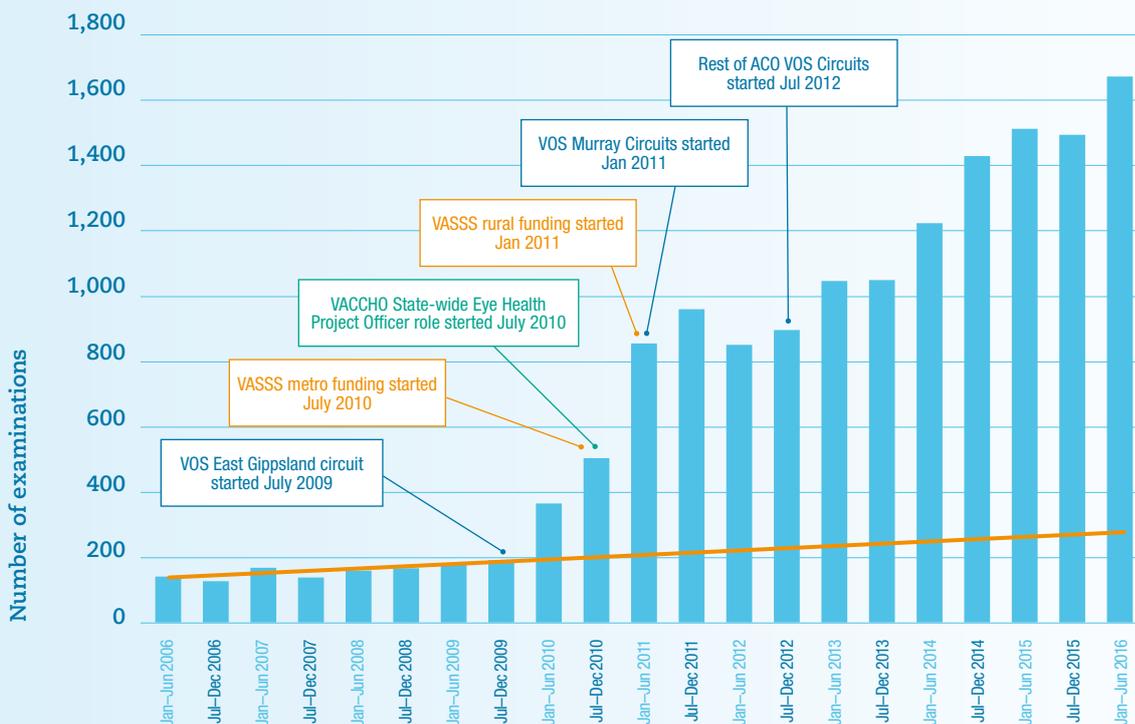
The professional skill development experience may comprise, for example, a case report, minor research project, poster at an optometry conference, additional tertiary studies or an overseas volunteer optometry experience. Helen Cho, a graduate from New Zealand, commenced employment at the ACO as a clinical resident at the beginning of 2015 and has recently completed the program. As well as general practice optometry, Helen has been involved in providing eye care services in outreach settings in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria. She has completed post-graduate training in contact lenses and paediatrics and undertook a research project to evaluate a new low vision service at the ACO Carlton clinic.



The ACO clinical residency program is designed to strengthen the clinical, academic and professional development of newly graduated optometrists.

VASSS examinations 2006 – 2016

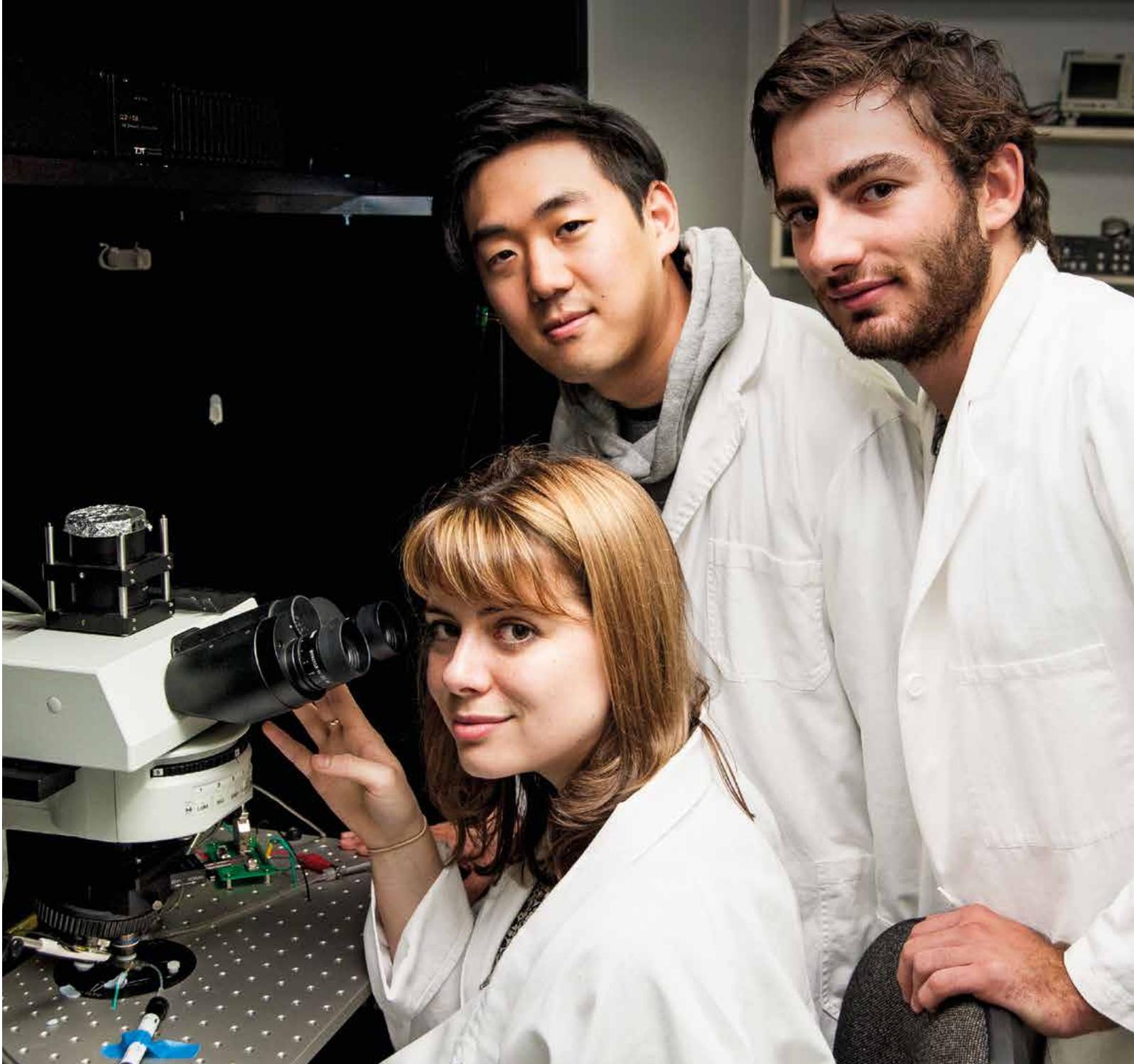
Number of eye examinations conducted by ACO optometrists (i.e. not including those conducted in VES Rural practices) for Aboriginal Victorians over time. The orange line is the linear trend of examination numbers for the period prior to the start of the VASSS, projected forward to June 2016.



RESEARCH

 NATIONAL VISION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
AN ACO DIVISION

LEADING INNOVATION IN RESEARCH THROUGH COLLABORATION



CHAIR'S REPORT

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO REPORT on another successful year for the NVRI and its research team, led by NVRI Director Professor Michael Ibbotson. As my predecessor touched on in his report of last year, the accepted metrics of a successful research institute are: its grant successes; its publications and the peer-reviewed journals in which these publications sit; the vibrancy of its student research programs and the future employment destinations of its graduates; and the frequency with which its scientific peers and colleagues refer to and cite its work. Again this year, Professor Ibbotson's team produced strong results in each of these areas, further advancing the national and international profile of the NVRI. Given the relative size of the Institute and the ever-diminishing pool of public resources available to Australian researchers, the NVRI has much to celebrate, and to be celebrated for.

This year in particular we should celebrate the successes of the NVRI in attracting further funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, specifically to support the development of the NVRI's recent research innovations. This marks an important step in the growth of the NVRI as an institution that has the focus and capability to move scientific innovations from the laboratory into the commercial environment. Having the vision and capacity to undertake commercialisation of research is increasingly important to the health of a research institution, particularly in the current, and likely the future funding climates that define the modern research world. We should also celebrate the quality of the published outputs of the NVRI, which continue to be held in high regard by scientific peers and colleagues. In particular, Professor Ibbotson's report shows how he and his team have continued the great work of his predecessors in ensuring that the published body of work of the NVRI continues to accumulate peer citations. Indeed, the NVRI's citation rate shows a steady increase year on year, one of the hallmarks of a successful research organisation.

However, such national and international recognition is not simply brought about through doing good science and publishing in well-regarded journals. This year on year increase in citations also speaks to the commitment of Professor Ibbotson's team to seeking high quality opportunities to bring their strengths to fruitful collaborations and to promote the work of the NVRI at national and international conferences. Such an approach is another hallmark of a modern and agile institution.

Despite this national and international recognition, it is important to remember where the NVRI came from, and the many benefactors that have contributed to making such growth and success possible. We should

therefore take comfort in the fact that the NVRI continues to seek to retain and, where possible, strengthen ties with its members, governors and philanthropic partners. 2016 has been no different in this respect as the NVRI Director and his team continued to work with its partners to explore and expand the funding relationships that strengthen positions of core staff and facilitate the purchase of important equipment to carry on the innovative science.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Professor Konrad Pesudovs in chairing the NVRI Board for the first half of the year, before he assumed the mantle of President of the ACO Council and passed the baton of the NVRI Board on to me. My job this year has been made very easy by the support of the members of the NVRI Board, the NVRI Director and the ACO CEO and her team. For that I am very grateful. During my short period as Chair of the NVRI Board, my main task has been in shepherding the constitutional change initiated by my predecessor which was implemented on 5 April 2017 and I now feel that we have a structure that brings the ACO and the NVRI more closely in line with their current day legislative and financial obligations. Importantly, this change will also ensure that the NVRI Director is afforded an environment that is conducive to him achieving the Institute's, and the ACO's, research aims, without undue distraction. This change will see the Director better provided for in terms of advice and mentoring from distinguished scientific colleagues, helping him set the agenda in terms of research direction and strategy that will foster further successes.

In finishing my report, I'd like to acknowledge and thank those Members and Governors who have, this year, again made generous donations that continue to sustain the NVRI. On behalf of the NVRI Board I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Schultz Laubman Schultz Trust, the NVRI Governors Fund, the Victorian Lions Foundation and Lions International. Without such generosity and support the NVRI would not, and could not, exist and all associated with the ACO and NVRI are very grateful for this.



**Professor
Alex Gentle**
Chair NVRI

Professor Alex Gentle

BSc GradCertUniTeach PGCertOcTher PhD

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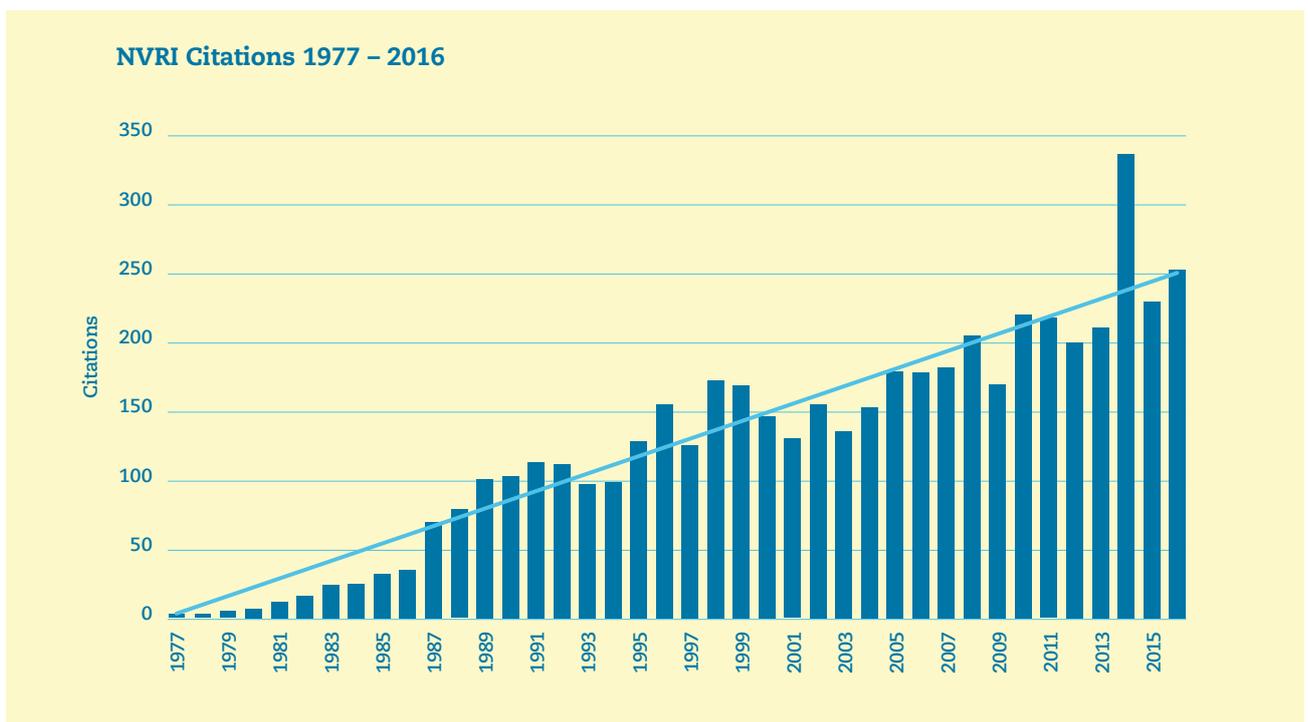
Chair, NVRI Board

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To undertake research seeking discoveries and advancing knowledge in vision sciences and the diseases and disorders that impact on vision to improve patient care and health outcomes

AN INSTITUTE IS OF COURSE JUDGED by its performance metrics and the NVRI is doing very well in this regard. This is an important contributor to its continuing success in the national competitive grants system. Below I have included a graph of the citations to the 243 NVRI articles that have been published over the last 40 years. This shows an almost linear increase in citations to our published work. The linear increase should not be taken for granted – an upward trend is only possible if interest in our work is continually promoted and if the current work is ground breaking. Historically each of the NVRI's Director's has driven research that is topical at the time but also has substantial longevity. As I look at who was cited in 2016, names such as Ian Bailey, David Vaney, Ulrike Grunert, Paul Martin and Sam Solomon remain prominent, alongside more recent work conducted during my tenure. As you can see from the graph below, each of the last 3 years has generated more citations than any previous year. We had an exceptional year in 2014 due to the confluence of citations to several prominent NVRI papers present and past. The citation indicators quantitatively demonstrate that the NVRI's research is highly regarded in the larger community and I will strive to continue this upward trend.

An essential part of keeping our citations moving upwards is to disseminate our research through international contact with the science community and the general public at large. To this end, we had a busy year. I gave an invited talk, which was live streamed on the internet, at the Australian Academy of Sciences "Shine Dome" in Canberra. This led to many interactions with the public, as apparently the lecture was well received around the country and abroad. I visited our collaborators in the headquarters of the Human Brain project, in Geneva, Switzerland and then presented our latest work at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies meeting in Denmark. Dr Hamish Meffin organised and ran a workshop on bionics at the Computational Neuroscience conference (CNS), held in South Korea. Dr Maturana presented his work at the Medical Bionics Conference and, immediately afterwards at the Neuroengineering conference in Brisbane. Finally, most of the NVRI team made its



presence felt at the Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) meeting in Hobart in December.

The NVRI attracted quite a bit of media attention, leading in early 2017 to a major page 3 article in the Herald Sun and a large article in MiVision. We were also involved in a number of outreach programs. Perhaps the most enjoyable was an Australia wide art competition for primary school children, run by the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function to promote awareness of the brain. I got to present the award to Sebastian, the Victorian preparatory year winner.

Given the success of our outputs, we might hope for increased income. Indeed, the NVRI has been performing very well in recent times, despite very low national success rates with Federal grants. In 2015 we won two National Health and Medical Research Council Grants (\$653,000 and a portion of a \$680,000 fund) and followed this in 2016 with a successful NHMRC Development Grant (\$1,010,000) in collaboration with iBionics & the University of Melbourne. Unfortunately, not everything went our way in 2016. We were unsuccessful in our application to the Australian Research Council (ARC). We were also unsuccessful in our application to the US National Institutes of Health. It is important to remind readers that, while it was won three years earlier, the NVRI's involvement in the \$28M ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function remains its most important single grant win. It will supply funds until 2021, which will guarantee high quality science for years to come. Looking forward, we have our mid-term review in 2017 and we are

already starting work on developing a plan for another potential ARC centre. The grant cycle never ends.

If it were not for philanthropic funding agencies, the NVRI would be in a far more difficult financial situation. It is important for readers to understand the enormous contribution made by these organisations. In 2016 two organisations came together to deliver a new funding agreement for the NVRI. These were the Victorian Lions and the LEW Carty Charitable Fund. Together, these organisations generated a 3-year grant to the NVRI totaling \$360,000 to fund vision research. This is enough money to fully fund a research fellowship and as a result of this combined generosity we were able to employ Dr Molis Yunzab for a three-year post as the "LEW Carty Charitable Fund – Lions Fellow". Without doubt, this was a great achievement in 2016 that helped to solidify core staff appointments. We applied for a grant for a new laser electrode-puller from the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation. We won \$23,000, which allowed us to buy the equipment early in the year. This has revolutionised our retinal research laboratories as the equipment it replaced was showing its age. It was purchased early enough for it to suffer from the millennium bug – according to its clock it was 1916 when we disposed of it!

Beyond the contribution outlined above, the Lions clubs of Victoria contributed in a number of other ways to the NVRI. I was invited by the District Governor of Lions area V5, Mr Brian Buchanan, to speak at the regional conference in Shepparton, Victoria. It was tremendous to explain to a large number of dedicated fundraisers where their money went when it was given



NVRI Neurotechnology Research Team (L-R) Scott Sun (Research Student), Dr Hamish Meffin (Research Fellow), Young-Jun Jung (Honours Student), Matias Maturana (Research Student), Stephanie Kirkby (Honours Student), Michael Ibbotson (Director), Ali Amasi (Research Student), Artemio Soto-Breceda (Research Student), Kevin Meng (Research Student), Lewis Karapanos (Honours Student), Yan Wong (Research Fellow), Tania Kameneva (Research Fellow, University of Melbourne).

to the NVRI. In an unrelated activity, the Footscray Lions club ran a fund raising event in October at the Happy Receptions Function Centre, in Ascot Vale, Melbourne. In one night this very energetic and capable club raised \$22,000, largely from the local Vietnamese community, so that the NVRI could purchase two 3 dimensional microscopes. Finally, as if this is not enough, the Clarinda Lions Club raised \$1,400 from a fund raising event in December. It is fair to say that 2016 was “the year of the Lions” and I thank them all for their contributions.

In 2016 two organisations came together to deliver a new funding agreement for the NVRI. These were the Victorian Lions and the LEW Carty Charitable Fund. Together, these organisations generated a 3-year grant to the NVRI totaling \$360,000 to fund vision research

The NVRI continues to train the next generation of scientists and technologists. We had one PhD completion in 2016, Dr Matias Maturana. We also had three Honours students complete during the year. As an indication of the calibre of our students and the training they received, one decided to stay and do a PhD while the other two were accepted into medical schools, respectively, at the University of Melbourne and at Deakin University.

I wrote a very exuberant message for the 2015 annual report and I am proud to say that 2016 was just as good. Members of the NVRI won two major prizes in 2016. I won the Kevin Cahill Award from the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation for Vision Science Research, which honoured my ongoing efforts to learn about the visual system and develop translational outcomes to restore sight to the visually impaired. One of our recently graduated PhD students, Dr Matias Maturana, won the highly competitive Mendelsohn Prize for Neuroscience for the best PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne. This is a highly sought after prize for which Matias had the honour of giving a well-attended public lecture at the Melbourne Brain Institute. I'm glad to say that, for his troubles, Matias was also given a large cash prize and a beautiful trophy. We were fortunate in 2016 that Matias thought so highly of the NVRI that, despite his enormous market-ability, he chose to take up a postdoctoral fellowship with us, so he continues to enrich our scientific lives.

I'll end by thanking those that have offered support and assistance through the year. These include the

members of the NVRI Board of Administration and the ACO Council, the members of the administrative support teams at the ACO and the many members and friends of the NVRI that so kindly donate their time and money to our causes.

Year Highlights

2016 was a very good year in which the focus was very much on spending as much time as possible in the laboratory to capitalise on all the new equipment obtained from recent grant wins and applying the new techniques that we have developed.

- ▾ The NVRI's mean citation rate for 2012-2016 was 274.3, which compares very favourably to 199.6 in 2007-2011 and 155.2 during 2002-2006.
- ▾ We developed new stimulation strategies for the next generation of bionic eyes which allows multiple electrodes to be stimulated simultaneously, potentially increasing the resolution of the current generation of devices without redesigning their physical structure.
- ▾ A suite of new analytical techniques to assess the receptive fields of visual neurons in the brain was developed. Through this work we started to build sophisticated models capable of simulating activity patterns in the visual cortex.
- ▾ Grants awarded and won during the year included a major Development grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council, a new joint philanthropic grant from the LEW Carty Charitable Fund and Lions Foundations and a grant from the Rebecca L. Cooper Foundation.
- ▾ Thirteen papers were published from the neuro-technology research group and seven from clinical research activities. Another six papers were submitted in late 2016, to be published in 2017.
- ▾ One student was awarded a PhD and three Honours students obtained first class grades. One student stayed to do a PhD, while the other two went to Medical School.
- ▾ For the last 5 years, the NVRI has published papers each year in journals with impact factors in the top 5% worldwide.
- ▾ NVRI staff were invited to present as major participants in Switzerland, Denmark and Korea.
- ▾ The Footscray Lions Club and the Clarinda Lions Club ran specific fundraising events for the NVRI.

NEUROTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Bionic Eyes

The NVRI continues to put its money, time and effort into research to develop prosthetic vision devices, often called bionic eyes. These devices take images from digital cameras and send a processed version direct to the retina via a grid of stimulating electrodes. The 2-D image projected into the camera is therefore translated into a 2-D image on the retina, which provides the signals in a spatial order that can be understood by the brain. After decades of complete blindness due to retinitis pigmentosa, patients retain about 30% of the retinal ganglion cells that send information to the brain and it is these cells that we target with electrical stimulation. From 2010 to 2014 we were part of Bionic Vision Australia (BVA), which was an organisation that brought together around 350 people in multiple institutions around Australia to develop prosthetic devices. This seed research has blossomed into the creation of several start-up companies, each advancing a particular device that grew from the original BVA project. In collaboration with colleagues from the physics and engineering schools at the University of Melbourne, along with a start-up company called iBionics, the NVRI is putting most of its effort into developing a novel diamond-based prosthetic device. While the materials engineers craft the actual device, we at the NVRI have been busy developing the most appropriate tissue-machine interfaces and stimulation strategies, which will allow the highest possible visual resolution in the final product. To this end, our team, lead by the University of Melbourne with support from iBionics won a \$1M Development Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council to assist with the work.

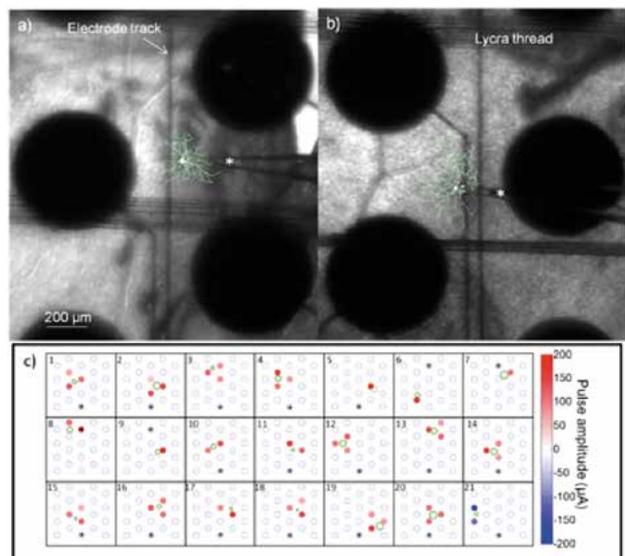
Why are we using a device made from diamond?

Diamond is very inert so it provides lifetime protection from the harsh biological environment inside the eye. A major advantage of our approach is that the electronics are sealed inside a diamond box and the microchip makes direct contact with the electrodes without the need for wires. This makes the design small and free from wires that would otherwise need to travel through the wall of the eye. By treating the diamond in special ways it is possible to craft the electrodes within the diamond itself, so no exotic metals need to make contact with the retinal tissue. In summary, the potential of diamond devices is enormous scientifically, medically and financially.

For more details, see:

Maturana MI, Apollo NV, Hadjinicolaou AE, Garrett DJ, Cloherty SL, Kameneva T, Grayden DB, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H (2016). A simple and accurate model to predict responses to multi-electrode stimulation in the retina. *PLoS Computational Biology*. 12(4): e1004849.

Ahnood A, Meffin H, Garrett DJ, Fox KE, Ganesan K, Stacey A, Apollo NV, Wong YT, Lichter SG, Kentler W, Kavehei O, Greferath U, Vessey KA, Ibbotson MR, Fletcher EL, Burkitt AN, Prawer S (2016). Diamond devices for high acuity prosthetic vision. *Advanced Biosystems* 1: 1600003.



This picture shows two recorded retinal cells (a and b, filled with dye), part of a stimulating array (large black discs) and glass recording electrodes (highlighted with a *). (c) The blue circles show the stimulating electrodes in a grid for 21 separate recordings. The green circle shows the area of retina occupied by the dendrites of the recorded retinal cells. The electrodes with stars above them show the location of the optic disc for each preparation. The intensity of the red dots covering certain electrodes indicates the ability of that electrode to activate the recorded cell during electrical stimulation. Each cell has a well-defined set of electrodes that activate it (an “electrical receptive field”), while most electrodes have no impact, thus giving us the opportunity to selectively stimulate particular regions of the retina with particular electrodes.

UNDERSTANDING VISUAL CORTEX

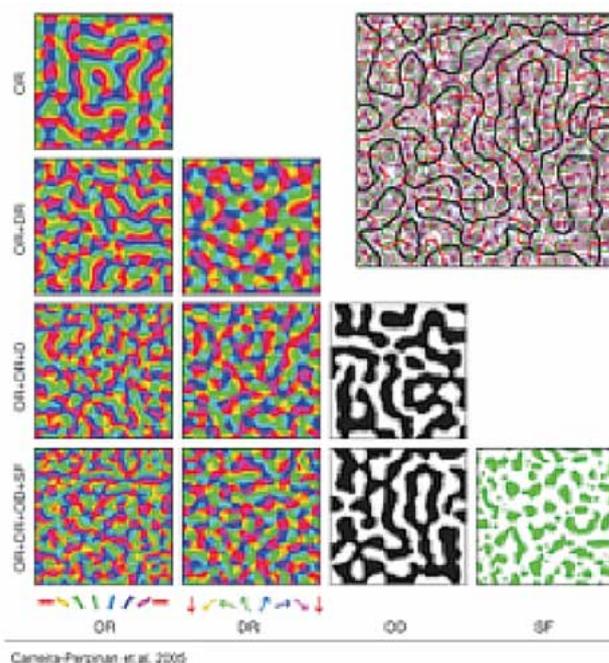
Visual Cortex

In the early days of the NVRI, researchers such as Don Mitchell and Jack Pettigrew put the institute on the international neuroscience scene through their ground breaking work on normal and abnormal brain development in the visual cortex. This work formed the seed for a great deal of work in subsequent decades around the world. Through a coincidence of circumstances, the NVRI today is conducting research in the same field, albeit with far more advanced techniques such as intrinsic optical imaging, multielectrode recording, multichannel spike extraction and complex computer modeling using the latest and fastest supercomputers. In 2016 the NVRI published a study that started at the NVRI in 2012, and had its origins even earlier when a grant was written on the topic in 2008. Going from idea to funding to final paper can be a lengthy and uncertain process. In this paper we built on some of Don's work, which showed that normal development of the visual cortex could be significantly disrupted by altering the input through one eye. In collaboration with scientists from the Queensland Brain Institute, we have developed a sophisticated model that can simulate many of the features of normal cortical development and also makes predictions about the disruptions generated by altering the visual input.

One of the things that has been discovered since Don did his work at the NVRI is that the visual cortex has multiple maps of sensory features, which code the location of the feature (retinotopic map), its orientation (orientation map), the direction in which its moving (direction map), its depth plane (disparity map), its spatial scale (spatial frequency map) and the eye of origin (ocular dominance map). All of these maps exist in the same region on the surface of the brain and need to develop during early life into a precise functional machine. Nobody knew how alterations in the visual input, created by such things as astigmatism, strabismus or cataract might influence multiple map formation during early life. We showed that by carefully controlling the visual environment to change two stimulus features simultaneously (orientation and eye of origin) we could warp the cortex in a highly predictable way. The experimental results matched our computational predictions very well, thus validating our computational models, which may have future medical use.

For more details, see:

Cloherty SL, Hughes NJ, Hietanen MA, Bhagavatula P, Goodhill GJ, Ibbotson MR (2016). Sensory experience modifies feature map relationships in visual cortex. *eLife* 5: e13911.



This picture shows a simulated topographic representation of four feature maps, as projected onto the cortical surface (top right). The diagonal set of maps show the structure of the orientation (OR) map, the direction map (DR), the ocular dominance map (OD), and the spatial frequency map (SF) when tested in isolation (i.e. with just one stimulus feature). The maps in the far left column show the complexity of the combined map structures, with the map at bottom left showing all four maps superimposed.

CLINICAL OPTOMETRY RESEARCH

The Clinic is committed to conducting research that focuses on public health optometry and health services evaluation. We participate in a variety of research projects in range of ways, conducting independent research, as well as working with collaborators. This research is lead by Associate Professor Sharon Bentley.

CLINICAL RESEARCH DATA

Project	Description	Partner
Glaucoma Initial Treatment Study (GITS)	This study compares the effectiveness of two different types of initial treatment for glaucoma, eye drops and laser (selective laser trabeculoplasty). Fifteen recruitment sites are involved in this study. The ACO is the sole optometry-led GITS site and finished the recruitment phase of this study ranked within the top three recruitment sites. GITS data collection will continue in the ACO clinic until the study is completed during 2017.	Centre for Eye Research Australia
The eyeDiP Project	This study aims to investigate the ocular health of geographically displaced persons and challenges to accessing eye care services.	Central Eye Research Australia and University of Melbourne
An Evaluation of Low Vision Aids: Usage and Impact	This study examines the effectiveness of providing magnifiers on loan for a period of three months to low vision patients who are disadvantaged. Funded by the Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Fund. Data has been collected and is in the process of being analysed.	Vision Australia
Residential Ocular Care Study	The aim of this study is to investigate the impact of eye care interventions on the quality of life of older patients living in residential facilities.	Centre for Eye Research Australia
Personalising eye consultations to improve outcomes in diabetic retinopathy	A three-arm RCT to investigate the clinical, cognitive, behavioural and cost-effectiveness of a novel personalised eye consultation model, using the individual's own retinal images and evidence-based strategies for behavioural change, to motivate and support patients with diabetic retinopathy and suboptimal HbA1c. The aim of this project is to show that the PEC will optimise diabetes management and reduce the risk of vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy.	Centre for Eye Research Australia
The ACO low vision clinic: A New Optometry-Lead Service in Metropolitan Melbourne	The aim of this project is to evaluate the demographics, clinical characteristics, and management of patients attending the Australian College of Optometry Low Vision Clinic in Carlton. This will facilitate planning of future low vision services.	
E-records in primary care: A comparative audit.	After recently introducing electronic records to a large public health oriented optometry clinic, the aim of this project is to compare the quality of electronic with paper record keeping and evaluate what tests are being completed in a comprehensive eye examination compared with guidelines.	
Impact of Supervised Student Consultations on Patient Satisfaction	A survey to ascertain the impact of supervised student consultations on patient acceptance and satisfaction in a public health eye clinic. Funded by Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust. There were no significant differences in satisfaction among patients seen in a teaching clinic compared with a non-teaching clinic. Over 87% of patients seen in a teaching clinic felt completely comfortable with a student examining them, 44% felt their care was better because a student was involved and 97% rated the student's overall performance as very good or good. 100% of all patients responding believe it is important for students to work with patients, although the extra time involved can be an issue for some patients. Overall, patients enjoy and see value in consultations involving students.	Deakin University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Neurotechnology Publications

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Publication Details
Kameneva T, Maturana MI, Hadjinicolaou AE, Cloherty S, Ibbotson MR, Grayden DB, Burkitt AN, Meffin H	Retinal ganglion cells: mechanisms underlying depolarization block and differential responses to high-frequency electrical stimulation of ON and OFF cells.	(2016). J Neural Eng. 13(1):016017 [Epub ahead of print].
Ahnood A, Simonov AN, Laird JS, Maturana MI, Ganesan K, Stacey A, Ibbotson MR, Spiccia L, Prawer S	Transient photoresponse of nitrogen-doped ultrananocrystalline diamond electrodes in saline solution.	(2016). Applied Physics Letters 108(10).
Maturana MI, Apollo NV, Hadjinicolaou AE, Garrett DJ, Cloherty SL, Kameneva T, Grayden DB, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H	A simple and accurate model to predict responses to multi-electrode stimulation in the retina.	(2016). PLoS Computational Biology. (Accepted, 11 March 2016)
Cloherty SL, Hughes NJ, Hietanen MA, Bhagavatula P, Goodhill GJ, Ibbotson MR	Sensory experience modifies feature map relationships in visual cortex.	(2016). eLife 5: e13911. DOI: 10.7554/eLife.13911
Hadjinicolaou AE, Cloherty SL, Hung YS, Kameneva T, Ibbotson MR	Frequency responses of rat retinal ganglion cells.	(2016). PLoS ONE 11: e0157676.
Wong YT, Halupuka K, Kameneva T, Cloherty SL, Grayden DB, Burkitt AN, Meffin H, Shivdasani MN	Spectral distribution of local field potential responses to electrical stimulation of the retina.	(2016). J. Neural Eng. 13(2), Art #036003
Garrett DJ, Tong W, Simpson D, Meffin H	Diamond for neural interfacing: A review.	(2016). Carbon 102: 437-454
Garret DJ, Saunders AL, McGowan C, Specks J, Ganesan K, Meffin H, Williams RA, Nayagam DAX	In vivo biocompatibility of boron doped and nitrogen included conductive-diamond for use in medical implants.	(2016). J.Biomed. Materials Res. B: Appl. Biomaterials. 104(1): 19-26
Apollo NV, Lau D, Ahnod A, Ganesan K, Lichter SG, Fox K, Forughhi J, Meffin H, Wallace GG, Baughman R, Prawer S, Garret DJ	Brazing techniques for the fabrication of biocompatible carbon based electronic devices.	(2016). Carbon (in press)
Tong W, Fox K, Zamani A, Turnley AM, Ganesan K, Ahnood A, Cicione R, Meffin H, Prawer S, Stacey A, Garrett DJ	Optimizing growth and post treatment of diamond for high capacitance neural interfaces.	(2016). Biomaterials. Oct;104:32-42. doi: 10.1016/j.biomaterials.2016.07.006
Ahnood A, Meffin H, Garrett DJ, Fox KE, Ganesan K, Stacey A, Apollo NV, Wong YT, Lichter SG, Kentler W, Kavehei O, Greferath U, Vessey KA, Ibbotson MR, Fletcher EL, Burkitt AN, Prawer S	Diamond devices for high acuity prosthetic vision.	(2016). Advanced Biosystems (accepted, October 20, 2016).
Ibbotson MR	Visual neuroscience: Hummingbirds have a unique neural system for flight stabilization.	(2016). Current Biology (CURBIO13343. Accepted, November 26, 2016)
Halupka KJ, Shivdasani MN, Cloherty SL, Grayden DB, Wong YT, Burkitt AN, Meffin H.	Prediction of cortical responses to simultaneous electrical stimulation of the retina.	(2016). Journal of Neural Engineering 14(1): 016006
Esler T, Burkitt AN, Grayden DB, Kerr RR, Tahayori B, Meffin H.	A computational model of orientation-dependent activation of retinal ganglion cells.	(2016). 38th Ann. Int. Conf. IEEE Eng Med. & Biol, 5447-5450

Clinical Research Publications

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Publication Details
Bentley SA, Cartledge A, Guest DJ, Cappuccio S, Woods CA	Practitioner perspectives on extended clinical placement programs in optometry.	Clinical Experimental Optometry, 2016; 99: 248-257.
Fenwick EK, O'Hare F, Deverell L, Ayton LN, Luu CD, McSweeney S, Bentley SA, Guymer RH, Finger RP	Rasch analysis of the independent mobility questionnaire.	Optometry and Vision Science, 2016; 93: 181-187.
Lombardi L, Bruce AS	Glaucoma without cupping.	Pharma Magazine, Optometry Australia, 2016; March: 2-3.
Muir C, Charlton J, Keefe J, Wood J, Bohensky M, Fildes B, Oxley J, Bentley S, Rizzo M	Medical review licencing outcomes in drivers with visual fields loss.	Clinical and Experimental Optometry 2016; 99: 462-468.
Finger RP, Ayton LN, Deverell L, O'Hare F, McSweeney SC, Luu CD, Fenwick EK, Keefe JE, Guymer RH, Bentley SA	Developing a Very Low Vision Orientation and Mobility Test Battery (O&M-VLV).	Optometry and Vision Sciences 2016; 93: 1127-1136.
Woods C, Bentley S, Fonn D	Temporal changes in contact lens comfort over a day of wear.	Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics 2016; 36: 343-348.
Chong MF, Jackson AJ, Wolffsohn JS, Bentley SA	An update on the characteristics of patients attending the Kooyong Low Vision Clinic.	Clinical Experimental Optometry, 2016; 99: 555-558.

Clinical Presentations

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting
Bruce AS	New Tricks With Minisclerals.	Southern Regional Congress, Sunday 6 March 2016
Deen N	Vision Therapy and Paediatric Overview.	University of Melbourne, Doctor of Optometry Student Conference (ODSC 2016), 22 September 2016.
Bruce AS	Wavefront Refraction.	University of Melbourne, Doctor of Optometry Student Conference (ODSC 2016), 22 September 2016.
Ibbotson M, Ng HW, Li CHJ	The ACO: Innovative Developments in Contact Lenses, Disability Services & Vision Research.	ACO National Conference 22-23 October 2016
Bentley SA, Chong MFA	Technological Updates In Devices & Applications.	ACO National Conference 22-23 October 2016
Malesic L, Green C, Clarke C, Siggins T, Bentley S, O'Keefe M, Escott C, Vocale J.	Eye and Ear Hospital and Australian College of Optometry Collaborative Clinic – New Model of Care for Low Risk Glaucoma Patients.	Orthoptics Australia Conference, November 2016

Community Engagement Reports, Presentations, Committees

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Publication Details
Taylor DT, Mander K, Davidson A, Packham D, O'Keefe M, Brookes A, Bethell S, Loh E, Rischin D.	A World-Leading Clinical Trials System for Victoria.	Report of the Consultative Council for Clinical Trial Research (May 2016)
ACO, DHHS, NMWMH, IEH, UofM, INWPCC, NWMPHN, RVEE, VACCHO, VAHS, VIV2020,	Strengthening Eye Care Pathways and Eye Care Access.	Koolin Balit, North and West Metropolitan Region Aboriginal Eye Health Project (July 2016)

Presentations By Clinic Staff (Academic And Teaching)

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting	Papers/Lectures
Bentley SA, Chong MFA	Low Vision Intensive Course.	Flinders University, 4th year Optometry students January 2016	Lectures (x6) Workshops and Tutorials (x3)
Serebrianik R	Ocular Anatomy and Histology Lecture Course.	Flinders University, 3rd year Optometry students 30 March 2016	Lecture series
Bruce AS	Speciality Contact Lens Fitting.	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 18 February, 23 February, 5 March, 4 May	Lectures (x4) and Practical classes (x2)
Bruce AS	New Tricks With Minisclerals.	Southern Regional Congress, Sunday 6 March 2016	
Chong MFA	Low Vision and Technology.	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 5 September	Lecture
Deen N	Vision Therapy and Paediatric Overview.	University of Melbourne, Doctor of Optometry Student Conference (ODSC 2016), 22 September 2016.	Presentation
Bruce AS	Wavefront Refraction.	University of Melbourne, Doctor of Optometry Student Conference (ODSC 2016), 22 September 2016.	Presentation
Ibbotson M, Ng HW, Li CHJ	The ACO: Innovative Developments in Contact Lenses, Disability Services & Vision Research.	ACO National Conference 22-23 October 2016	Presentation
Bentley SA, Chong MFA	Low Vision Technological Updates In Devices & Applications.	ACO National Conference 22-23 October 2016	Presentation
Malesic L, Green C, Clarke C, Siggins T, Bentley S, O'Keefe M, Escott C, Vocale J.	Eye and Ear Hospital and Australian College of Optometry Collaborative Clinic – New Model of Care for Low Risk Glaucoma Patients.	Orthoptics Australia Conference, November 2016	Presentation
Napper G, Lovett L, Anjou M, Fricke T, Bentley S.	Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme – Providing Successful Community Eye Health Outcomes.	14th National Rural Health Conference, Cairns, April 2017.	Presentation

Presentations to Community Groups and Professional Groups

Speaker	Title	Location	Type
Bentley SA	Charles Bonnet Syndrome in Retinitis Pigmentosa.	University of Melbourne Department Seminar, April 12th 2016	Presentation
Bentley SA	Strengthening eye care pathways and eye care access in the North and West Metropolitan Region.	RVEEH, April 14th 2016	Presentation
Deen N, Wong E, Fricke TR, Scalora D, Huang I, Sipos-Ori C	Paediatric Optometry.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 4 March 2016	Clinical Workshop
Caulfield JM	Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Scleral Indentation and Pre-corneal Fundus Lens Examination.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 19 March 2016	Clinical Workshop
Huang ISY	Gonioscopy, Pachymetry and Anterior OCT (T).	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 19 March 2016	Clinical Workshop
Bruce AS	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – Instruments and Technique.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 8 April 2016	Clinical Workshop

Presentations to Community Groups and Professional Groups contd.

Speaker	Title	Location	Type
Michalova K, Serebrianik R	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – Interpretation Of Data.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 9 April 2016	Clinical Workshop
Serebrianik R, Chong MFA, Huynh V	Therapeutics weekend – Anterior segment.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 15 May 2016	Clinical Workshop
Bruce AS	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – Instruments and Technique.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 22 July 2016	Clinical Workshop
Michalova K, Serebrianik R	Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) – Interpretation Of Data.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 23 July 2016	Clinical Workshop
Serebrianik R	Working Eye to Eye with Optometry (Pharmacists).	Vision Initiative Parkville 10 May 2016	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Keeping and Eye on Eye Health (GPs).	Vision Initiative Dandenong 17 May 2016	Presentation
Deen N	Keeping and Eye on Eye Health (GPs).	Vision Initiative Dandenong 19 May 2016	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Keeping and Eye on Eye Health (GPs).	Vision Initiative Brimbank 12 July 2016	Presentation
Carozzi P	Keeping and Eye on Eye Health (GPs).	Vision Initiative Swan Hill 20 July 2016	Presentation
Carozzi P	Keeping and Eye on Eye Health (GPs).	Vision Initiative Echuca 21 July 2016	Presentation
Watt N	Eyes Wide Open: A Closer Look into Eye Health and Low Vision Care.	Vision Initiative Sunshine 7 June 2016	Presentation
Bruce AS	Fundamentals Of Modern Contact Lens Practice.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Bruce AS	Assessment of the Cornea.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Au S	Gas Permeable (GP) Spherical Lenses.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Bruce AS, Zheng D	Toric GP Lenses and Pellucid Marginal Degeneration.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Ng HW	Ocular Trauma And Aphakia.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Bruce AS	Orthokeratology and Children	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation
Caulfield JM, Li CHJ	Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Pre-corneal Fundus Lens Examination and Scleral Indentation.	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 27 August 2016	Clinical Workshop
Napper GA, Kharsas LM, Huang ISY	Gonioscopy	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 27 August 2016	Clinical Workshop
Liu L, Gatsos AL, Sipos Ori C, Horton P, Choi JCS, Trinh K	Glaucoma (Diagnostic Skills).	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 8 October 2016	Clinical Workshop
Huang ISY	Common Eye Disease and How to Look After You and Your Family's Vision.	Vision Initiative Preston 3 and 17 November 2016	Presentation
Huynh V	Caring For You and Your Family's Sight.	Vision Initiative, Springvale Indochinese Mutual Assistance Association Inc (SICMAA) 25 November 2016	Presentation
Choi JCS	Eye Health – Caring For You and Your Family's Sight.	Vision Initiative, Polish speaking Community 29 November 2016	Presentation
O'Keefe M	Speaker and chairing of sessions.	ACO National Conference	Presentation
O'keefe M	Eyecare to disadvantaged communities.	Speaker at DCWC 50th event	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Contact Lens Maintenance and Complications.	ACO Advanced CL Certificate. On-line PD Program, launched June 1st, 2016	Presentation

EDUCATION

EXPANDING OUR EDUCATION



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

To develop the knowledge and skills of optometry students and optometrists in practice by providing the best possible clinical teaching and education

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION of the Professional Development and Membership division is to provide members with outstanding and unique quality education and training that provides great value for their ACO membership. The team has embarked on a new journey that focuses on an increased and diversified offer of education. The focus for 2016 was to lay the foundations for the provision of structured educational pathways that will offer optometrists an opportunity to identify gaps in knowledge and provide targeted and in-depth learning opportunities, enabling a complete learning package that leads to best practice in optometry.

As can be glanced from the highlights below, this new challenge has been taken on board with gusto by the team. A significant number of new CPD workshops and postgraduate level courses in Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma and Advanced Certificate in Contact Lenses have been introduced and are supported by the already substantial suite of CPD events that offered almost 30 activities during the year. All activities are tailored to address learning in specific areas of optometry.

I am thrilled to see the continued success of the ACO Certificate of Ocular Therapeutics which saw record enrolments in April 2016, attracting candidates from Australia, New Zealand, UK and Canada.

The ACO National Conference is always a highlight of the year and we are very proud that 2016 saw the highest number of delegates to this important event.

Towards the latter half of 2016 our staff team expanded with the engagement of Dr Michelle Waugh and Dr Adrian Bruce, both ACO optometrists, whose expert knowledge in a great number of clinical areas of optometry has provided a valuable resource in the team. Both are working on an exciting new concept of skills testing, which will improve clinicians' abilities in defining their clinical strengths and weaknesses. Our first module in this new program is the Glaucoma Skills Module which will be launched in the first half of 2017.

I would like to acknowledge all staff members in the Professional Development & Membership team and the many ACO clinicians who provided support to our CPD activities, conference and courses. I also like to acknowledge the input from the course advisory committees who assisted in the development of curricula for our new courses and in many cases delivered lectures for the content of the courses.

Year Highlights

- Launched two new postgraduate level courses; **Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma and Advanced Certificate in Contact Lenses.**
- Record enrolments in the fifth intake (166 % on the previous intake) for the **Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics.**
- Launched a new clinical workshop in **Glaucoma diagnostic skills.**
- Record attendance at the **ACO National Conference** which has seen increases of 17% over the past three years.
- Relaunch of a **Paediatric Optometry Clinical workshop.**
- Introduction of a new award for the ACO – **Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics** acknowledging the outstanding graduate at an inaugural award night.
- The **Therapeutics Refresher Weekend in May** reached record numbers of attendees, with a 40% increase in participants from 2015.



Jolanda de Jong
GM Professional Development & Membership

Continuing Professional Development

The ACO delivers a variety of professional and accredited development events including face to face and online seminars, clinical workshops, the annual therapeutic refresher course, a national conference and live webinars to meet the varying needs of optometrists in Australia and New Zealand.

In 2016, all CPD and the newly developed post graduate level certificate courses provided by ACO were not only accredited for professional development points in Australia but also for continuous education points in New Zealand.

Of the 596 people who viewed/attended the Seminar Series, 39% viewed these online versus 61% who attended face to face. The Therapeutics Refresher weekend (along with its Certificate in Ocular



ACO Optometrist Vianh Huynh demonstrating on Wendy Dawson at the Therapeutics Refresher Course in May 2016

The webinar package offers great flexibility to optometrists wishing to improve their therapeutic learning

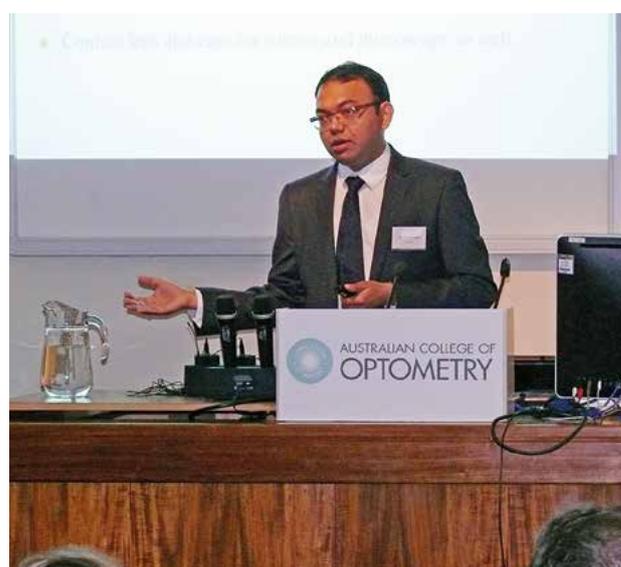
Therapeutics) continues to remain an opportunity for therapeutically endorsed optometrists to review both their theory and practical skills.

New to 2016 were two clinical workshops – Paediatric Optometry and Glaucoma Diagnostic Skills which were both very popular and well received. Attendees welcomed the provision of best practice practical examples and after the workshops, indicated a greater confidence and better preparedness for dealing with situations/conditions in real practice. Other workshops throughout the year covered OCT, Binocular Indirect Ophthalmology and Gonioscopy.

The webinar package offers great flexibility to optometrists wishing to improve their therapeutic learning. Optometrists dialled in from Hobart to Darwin and from countries further afield such as New Zealand, Fiji and Thailand to hear live webinars from highly recognised ophthalmologists on a range of therapeutic topics. The webinars are useful interactive learning opportunities as listeners have the chance to ask questions of the speaker as well as answer poll questions during the lecture. As with other ACO CPD events, listeners are also able to complete online assessments following the event for further points or if they missed the live lecture can view the podcast later.

With face to face points available for live participation in the webinars, 83% chose to join the webinars while 17% viewed them online at a later date.

The final face to face event for the CPD year is the ACO National Conference which again showed record attendance. 83% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the conference and 97% were either satisfied or very satisfied with the venue. 93% of the respondents thought the conference met or exceeded their expectations and 74% said they would definitely or likely return again in 2017.



Dr Nishant Gupta presenting at Therapeutics Course

NEW POST GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES 2016

New Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses (ACO-CACL)

In 2016 the ACO introduced a new post graduate level course in advanced contact lenses. The first cohort of optometrists to complete the program were from Australia, New Zealand and South-east Asia. In most cases the optometrists achieved the new qualification without having to leave their own town or city.

Known as the ACO-CACL, the Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses enables self-paced learning supported by online lectures, e-learning materials, demonstration videos and on-line discussion forums. The ACO also supported the candidates in arranging clinical placements and creating case-reports.

ACO CEO, Maureen O’Keefe says “The curriculum facilitates the development of appropriate knowledge, skills and competencies to ensure graduates meet contemporary standards of contact lens prescription and management. This program encourages independent learning and interaction amongst peers.”

Lecturer Dr Adrian Bruce believes the ACO-CACL offers unique features: “The ACO works collaboratively at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital Contact Lens and Keratoconus Clinic. Now, for the first time, we have brought that advanced contact lens experience to a graduate teaching program.

This certificate builds on existing knowledge to increase connections and confidence to improve clinical care.

An expert team of presenters from across Australia and the UK deliver a range of topics including current information on soft and rigid lenses, lens fitting and special lenses. The ACO was fortunate to have stellar contributions from Professor James Wolffsohn, Richard Vojlay and Jessica Chi.

“The most dynamic areas of contact lens practice are probably miniscleral lenses and orthokeratology for children,” said Dr Bruce. “We have great presentations on these two areas. Current corneal assessment technology such as Pentacam, Orbscan and Anterior OCT are also reviewed, as well as getting more out of topography.”

Dr Bruce notes that a part of everyday optometry practice is keeping up to date and the new certificate program will play a key role in this.

“Patients ask questions about things they have heard from “Dr Google”; Active industry partners are continuing to bring out new products; Optometry

practices need unique points of difference in order to stand out in a competitive marketplace. Even with existing patients; optometrists want a higher proportion of accurate first fittings, meaning less chair-time and happier patients. This advanced contact lens course will help optometrists stay “on top of the wave” in the modern era.”

Offering a flexible, remote learning syllabus the certificate features a practical local clinical experience placement within Australia and/or New Zealand. Optometrists from across Australia will be able to study at their own pace and complete it within the recommended six month time frame.

Graduates will receive post-nominals upon completion of the full course and it is accredited for 48 Australian CPD points (including 8 therapeutic points).

We acknowledge and thank the advisory committee and the lecturers who made the Advanced contact lens course possible.

Advisory Committee

- A/Prof Sharon Bentley
- Dr Adrian Bruce
- Mr Ho Wah Ng

Lecturers

- Miss Sandra Au, BScOptom and PGCertOcTher
- Dr Adrian Bruce, BScOptom PhD FAAO
- Ms Jessica Chi, BOptom
- Mr Ho Wah Ng, BOptom, PgDipAdvClinOptom Ophthalmic Medicines Prescriber
- Mr Roman Serebrianik, BOptom PGradDipAdv-ClinOptom PGradCertOcTher FAGO
- Mr Richard Vojlay, BSc Optom LOsc FAGO PGCertOcTher Therapeutically Endorsed ORBV, Dip Human (Music)
- Professor James Wolffsohn, BSc (Hons) PGCertHE PGDipAdvClinOptom MBA PhD FCOptom FHEA FSB FAAO (diplomat) FIACLE FBCLA
- Ms Danielle Zheng, B.Optom, PG Dip Adv Clin Optom

Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma

In 2016, the Professional Development Division developed and launched the inaugural Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma, the first of its kind in Australia. Enrolments for the online course were opened in 2016, with the first course to commence in January 2017.

This six-month postgraduate level course was developed to provide each optometrist with the opportunity to undertake comprehensive study in the area of glaucoma. An expert advisory committee worked throughout the year to establish and implement the syllabus, with the aim for registrants

to enhance their skills in glaucoma and to safely participate in collaborative care with ophthalmologists.

The ACO was pleased that the course was recognised by the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and met the Board’s pre-requisites for independent glaucoma prescribing in New Zealand.

A key feature of the course is the delivery of online lectures, videos and e-learning materials, making the theoretical part of the course accessible to optometrists across Australia and New Zealand and also overseas.

A broad range of experts presented the lectures. They included ophthalmologists, university lecturers and experienced optometrists who are currently engaged in the co-management of glaucoma.

Leanne Nguyen (Lead Optometrist, Ocular Disease and Hospital Services and Site Coordinator, Glaucoma Initial Treatment Study, ACO) notes that “Optometrists are well-placed to work closely with our colleagues in ophthalmology and general medical practice to facilitate optimal outcomes for patients. This certificate builds on existing knowledge to increase connections and confidence to improve clinical care.”

We acknowledge and thank the advisory committee and the lecturers who made the Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma course possible.

Advisory Committee

- Dr Brian Ang
- Dr James Armitage
- Dr Heather Connor
- A/Prof Ian Gutteridge
- Mr Roman Serebrianiuk

Lecturers

- Dr Brian Ang, FRCOphth, FRANZCO
- A/Prof James Armitage, MOptom, PhD

- A/Prof Michael Coote, MBBS, FRANZCO, GAICD
- Dr Heather Connor, BSc (Hons), PG Cert OcTher, PhD
- Ms Jane Duffy OAM BSc(Optom), LLB(Hons), PGCOT
- Dr Jennifer Fan Gaskin MBChB, FRANZCO, MD
- Dr Jesse Gale, MB, ChB, FRANZCO
- Dr Lance Liu, MBBS (Melb), FRANZCO
- Dr Raj Pathmaraj FRANZCO, FRCS, MRCOphth, MMed, DO, MBBS
- Dr Geraint Phillips, BSc, OD, DCLP Br. Coll. Optometrists, MCOptom
- Dr Simon Skalicky FRANZCO, BSc (Med), MPhil, MMed, MBBS (Hons 1)
- Dr Heathcote Wright, B. Sci (hons), MBBS, P.G.Dip. Ophthalmic Sci, PhD, FRANZCO

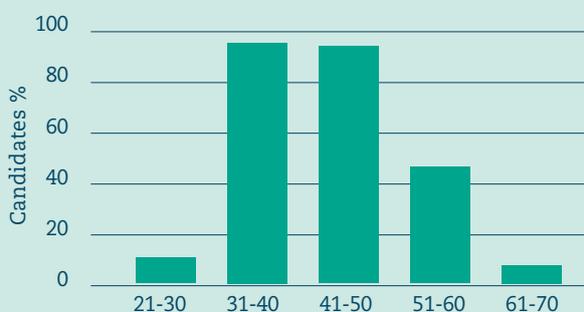
Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT)

In April 2016, the ACO Certificate of Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT) saw another great year with the highest number of enrolments since it started. Enrolments included candidates from Australia, New Zealand, UK and Canada. The majority of candidates undertook their studies in Australia and New Zealand; however a few candidates studied the theoretical component from overseas and came back to Australia to complete their clinical placement. Candidates from ACO-COT’s third and fourth cohorts graduated successfully in 2016.

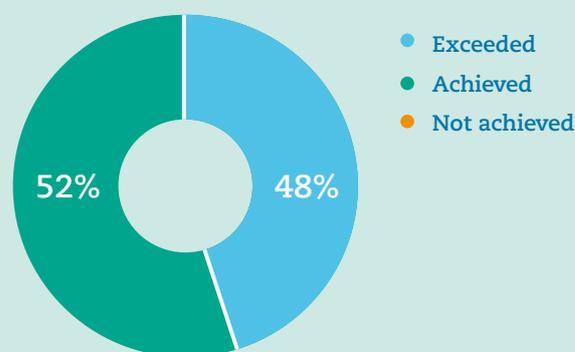
A survey conducted at the end of the course indicated that 90% of the candidates enrolled in the course because of its flexible learning and distance learning feature

- 100% of the candidates said that their course expectations were met
- 95% candidates said that they will recommend the ACO COT to others.

ACO-COT enrolments by age



ACO-COT course expectations



The ACO-COT is designed to suit the busy life of optometrists. Enrolments from varied age groups indicate that its flexible learning style attracts candidates across the optometry spectrum and this learning style has successfully supported candidates to achieve their therapeutic qualification.

ACO NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE reinforced ACO's reputation as a unique organisation in the optometric profession. A range of renowned national and international speakers enthusiastically addressed optometrists from Australia and overseas during the third weekend of October overlooking the grounds of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Delegates spoke very favourably about the content of the presentations, the value of the lectures in clinical practice and the excellent facilities for the conference. All indications and feedback reinforced a high level of attendee satisfaction with the event. It also provided a good opportunity for delegates to augment one's knowledge, exchange ideas, renew acquaintances, forge some new friendships and learn about new products in the ophthalmic industry.

Associate Professor Nitin Verma AM – a recipient of the 'Hobart's Citizen of the Year' award – challenged us to think beyond our borders about the provision of ophthalmic care, during his keynote address. Dr Heather Mack, the conference's second keynote speaker unravelled the esoteric topic of electrodiagnostic imaging and demonstrated how the procedure complements clinical observations.

A panel discussion was an ideal forum to showcase ways that the college significantly contributes to

clinical knowledge, public health and research. An elective session on low vision demonstrated innovative electronic visual aids and mobile phone applications. They certainly have revolutionised our perceptions of low vision care.

A symposium that featured a general practitioner, an optometrist and an ophthalmologist explored the theme of collaborative care during an interactive discussion with members of the audience. Rachel Holden, an optometrist who is also an accomplished comedienne, addressed the lighter side of optometry during Sunday's breakfast session. On a more serious note, Dr Joe Reich related stories about ocular emergencies that he has encountered.

The agenda featured topics from innovative research on stem cells to practical clinical advice on managing glaucoma, the anterior segment to the posterior segment, ocular immunology to sudden visual loss.

We appreciate the support of Moore Stephens who was the major sponsor of the 2016 conference and also all the sponsors who participated in supporting the national conference and other programs in 2016. A full list of all our sponsors in 2016 is at page 58 of this annual report.



A/Prof Sharon Bentley (Director of Clinical Services) presenting at the ACO National Conference



Breakfast presentation by Dr Rachael Sommer



Symposium presenters Mr Chris Katopodis, Dr Donald Collie and Assoc Prof Morton Rawlin



ACO National Conference

CLINICAL TEACHING

Clinical teaching is an integral part of the ACO and plays an important role in shaping our future optometrists. In 2016, 240 students from Deakin University, Flinders University, University of Melbourne and University of New South Wales undertook clinical placements in ACO clinics, in their final two years of clinical training.

With over 70 ACO optometrists involved in our clinical teaching program, students benefit from a very broad range of skills, knowledge and experiences. In addition to this, the ACO has a team of 10 or so young

optometrists that work in the Deakin pre-clinic as tutors.

Working closely with our teaching partner institutions is key to delivering a program that meets their needs. Regular communication and open feedback between the ACO and the Universities ensures that a continuous improvement process forms an ongoing part of our teaching program.

Looking to the future, we look forward to undertaking a review of our current clinical teaching program in 2017 to ensure we continue to respond to the changing needs of both the universities and the profession.



Education Staff

Professional development team: (L-R) Liz Salvatore (Events & Membership Coordinator), Ryan Rosario (Clinical Education Coordinator), Shazia Tahseen (Course Administration Coordinator), Linda Morton (Library & Office Administrator), Jolanda De Jong (GM PDM), Hannah Tosolini (PD & Marketing Coordinator). Absent: Josephine Battista (Course Program Director). Absent: Dr Adrian Bruce and Dr Michelle Waugh

MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING MEMBER VALUE



MEMBERSHIP 2016

To remain a strong, effective and sustainable membership organisation

THE ACO HAS BEEN OPERATING since 1940 as an independent education organisation. Founded by optometrists, it is the only not for profit member based organisation of its kind in Australia.

Our membership comprises of optometrists and students across Australia, New Zealand and Internationally. Membership continues to grow year on year and has grown by over 16% over the past three years. ACO graduate members have increased from 7% of total membership in 2015 to 13% in 2016 as a result of the introduction of new optometry courses at Deakin University and Flinders University. The proportion of overseas members increased in 2016 as did members from New South Wales. Non practising optometrists and those working less than 10 hours decreased by 4% in 2016, however the overall number of registered optometry members rose by 6.5% in the same period.

ACO membership entitles members to be part of a respectful optometry community organisation which provides service to underprivileged and disadvantaged communities. They can participate in ACO fellowships, ACO awards and travel grants and world class professional education programs in a range of formats.

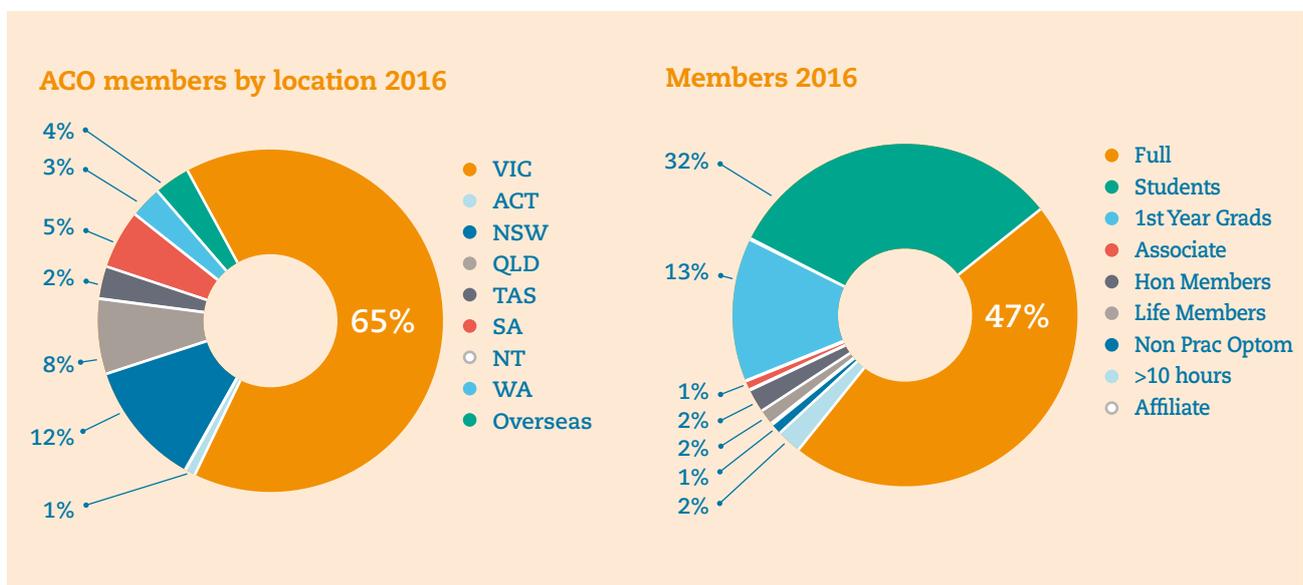
Members can access a large number of free education events, both in person and through the online learning platform and gain access to a variety of online resources and publications and also apply for fellowship, travel grants and access discounted post-graduate level courses, workshops, courses and the ACO National Conference. Refer to diagram of member benefits on page 44.

The ACO's national footprint continues to increase as interstate and overseas member participation in ACO online seminars and webinars continues to grow year on year.

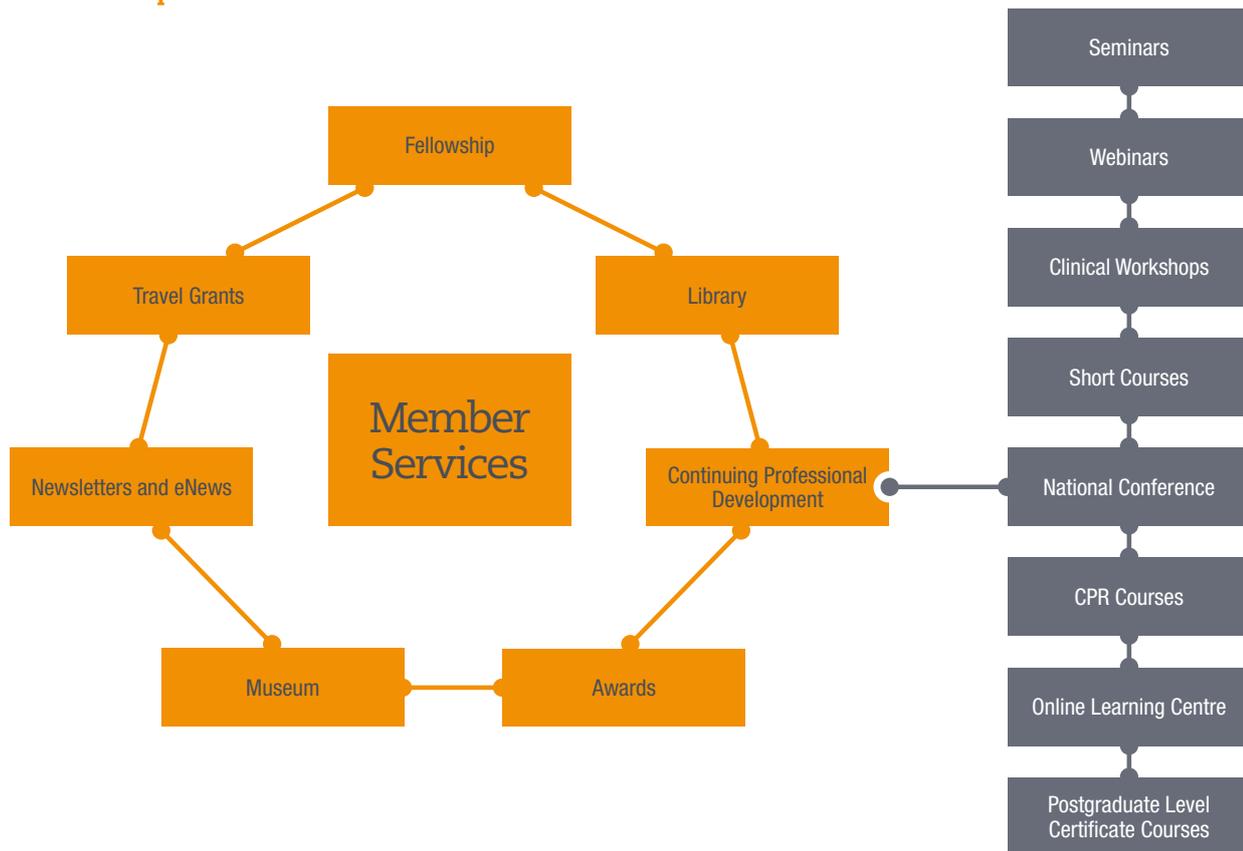
The following quotes indicate why members value ACO membership.

"I'm an ACO member because I want to be part of a respected optometry community. I wish to be connected to the latest news and work within best practice. ACO membership has allowed me to do that, I was amongst the first cohort to graduate from the COT course, which was just brilliant" Sophie Koh

"The ACO provides world class continuing education in many formats. The ACO provides invaluable service for our community especially the underprivileged and the disadvantaged" Sam Lauriola, FACO



Membership features and entitlements



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ACO Travel Grants

Travel grants are awarded to ACO members throughout the year. These grants support members by giving them the opportunity to contribute their skills and knowledge to the wider community. Travel grants are awarded to members to gain knowledge of national or international best practice or to contribute their time and skills to a disadvantaged community, either in remote Australia or overseas.

In 2016 ACO member Dr Bao Nguyen, (Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, The University of Melbourne) was awarded a travel grant to attend and present an abstract at the 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision (APCV) in July 2016. Held in Fremantle, Western Australia this international conference addressed all aspects of vision research, including visual psychophysics, physiology/anatomy, cognition, perception and attention, artificial and computational vision, brain imaging, eye movements, multisensory integration, visual development and reading.

Dr Nguyen's abstract was titled "Normal ageing affects visual contextual effects of orientation, contrast, flicker and luminance" and was given as an oral presentation.

Dr Nguyen's presentation explored how perception of a visual stimulus is altered by what immediately surrounds it (i.e. its context), and how that might be affected by the normal, healthy ageing process. Understanding these visual contextual effects under normal

circumstances can help us understand what happens in age-related ocular and brain diseases where visual perception can be altered. Dr Nguyen said "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian College of Optometry for my travel grant and for their continuing support of excellence in eye and vision research in Australia."



Dr Bao Nguyen (second from left) with colleagues at the conference

CYRIL W KETT OPTOMETRY MUSEUM

The Kett Optometry Museum acquires and preserves items of importance in the history of optometry. These include books, ophthalmic equipment, spectacles and lenses, photographs and videos, archival papers, works of art and ephemera. The Kett Museum is a member of Museums Victoria and was established in 1971. It has its foundation in the gift of an ophthalmic collection belonging to Melbourne optometrist, Cyril W Kett who was one of the founders of the College in 1940 and was Chairman of its Council from 1944 to 1947.

Honorary archivists

Michael J Aitken *LOSc*

Colin B Bates *BScOptom LOSc*

Prof Barry L Cole *AO PhD MAppSc BSc LOSc FAAO FACO*

Pamela R Sutton *BScOptom FACO*

Statistics	2016	2015
Total catalogued items at Dec 31	3133	2712
Items catalogued in 2016	421	219
Acquisitions in 2016	491	159
Number of donors of items in 2016	36	23

During 2016 record numbers of items were acquired including 41 items from the estate of William Cooper. Professor Nathan Efron AC and Suzanne Efron donated over 200 books on contact lenses and made a significant donation to support the collection and its growth. The first edition of Helmholtz Physiologival Optics was added to the Aitken collection and Pamela Sutton gifted 6 eyeballs and two opera glasses, one of which was made by Jean Lerebours (1761–1840) optician to Emperor Napoleon. A longstanding ACO member made a generous donation to the \$100,000 estimated cost of the new museum exhibition gallery which is to be developed in 2017.

New exhibition gallery for the Kett Museum

Plans for an exhibition gallery of the museum progressed in 2016 which will be located on the first floor of the ACO. The exhibition gallery is expected to be complete and open to visitors late in 2017. It will tell the story of optometry in Australia through the artifacts held by the museum and be built to modern museum standards for preservation and presentation. It will be open during ordinary working hours for self-guided visits by ACO members, students and the general public.

NATHAN LIBRARY AND MEMBERS LOUNGE

In 2016, the number of requests for resources through the Nathan library and members lounge exceeded the previous year with a large peak experienced in April when the 2016 intake of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics commenced their studies. The library was also pleased to support the candidates of the new post graduate level course ACO-Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses (ACO-CACL). Most of the requests received by the library supported candidates with their required reading and their preparation of case reports. In total 544 document delivery requests were received. A new resource, Clinicians Health Channel, which is available through the website to ACO members, has provided another invaluable source for retrieving full text journal articles.

The resources available through the Nathan Library make it possible for us to almost service all requests. However, if unable to source a book or article ourselves we are grateful that requests can be filled through the library's membership of the Association of Vision Science libraries (AVSL) and Gratisnet. In return the Nathan library has supported these channels with 95 requests for articles that were not available anywhere else, making us very proud to have such an outstanding and unique resource within our own College.

In addition to the Nathan Library's collection of specialist books in the fields of optometry, ophthalmology, vision science and optics we house the two significant archival collections, Aitken Rare Book and Hewett collection. These collections can be accessed through the Nathan Library's web catalogue as well as the Kett Museum and Archive's own catalogue.

A highlight for the Nathan Library is the new Nathan and Suzanne Efron Contact Lens Library, which comprises over 200 rare and comprehensive texts on contact lens books dating from 1902 to current years. This collection will be an invaluable resource for ACO members and optometry students.



Opera glasses (Lerebours, Paris, 1835)

IN MEMORIAM

Dr David Michael Cockburn OAM DSc (HG) MSc (Optom) JP FACO

Dr David Cockburn OAM, died peacefully on 26th September 2016 at the age of 91. A Fellow and Life member of the Australian College of Optometry, David Cockburn was an inspirational clinician, educator and innovator in optometry, who was committed to optometry development in Australia, initiating the use of retinal photography in Australia, and at the forefront of the introduction of both contact lenses and continuing education in this country.

David was also the founding Chairman of the National Vision and Research Institute. He practised optometry for 50 years in Hampton and taught optometry at the University of Melbourne and at the Australian College of Optometry for more than 4 decades, challenging students to think laterally and adopt new clinical practices. In 1982 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to Optometry. In 1987 he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Melbourne (the first awarded to an optometrist) for his services to education, research and optometry and later received the Lloyd Hewett Medal for his services to optometry.

Not only a great activist within the optometric world, David also had time for his great love sailing, was a Justice of the Peace, spent time as Mayor of Sandringham, as well as being a devoted husband to his wife Barbara (dec) and a loving father to Richard, Scott and Sally and their families.



Emeritus Professor Leon Garner NZOM

Emeritus Professor Leon Garner passed away on Wednesday August 31st 2016, aged 75 after a long battle with cancer. Leon was a diplomat and famous son of the ACO, having graduated with the LOSc in 1964 and as a member of the academic staff of the ACO/ University of Melbourne Department of Optometry from 1972 to 1975. He was appointed foundation professor of optometry at the University of Auckland in 1989 and became Professor Emeritus on his retirement in 2003. Leon was granted the Dignity of an Ordinary Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (NZOM) for his services to Optometry. He was unassuming with his achievements but never wavered in his determination to constantly strive for better outcomes in all areas of optometric education and research. After retiring from Academic life Leon and his wife Rosie returned to Australia where the last



11 years were spent developing their award winning Shiraz vineyard. Leon embraced this new life with all the energy, passion and perfection, which marked his successful academic career. Always the quiet achiever, he remained very humble about his achievements and was very proud of his 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

Hans Friend FACO

We received belated notification of the sad news that ACO Fellow and Honorary Member, Hans Friend, passed away on 20th August 2015. Hans was made a Fellow in 1995, and then awarded Honorary membership (after 30 loyal years) in 2000. His daughter, Timmy, passed on the message that Hans “really enjoyed the College of Optometry”, and that he had lectured at the ACO when he escaped from the Nazi regime in Germany to Australia (via England). Hans was secretary to the College from 1950 to 1953.



Trevor Spicer BBus CPA AFAIM MAICD

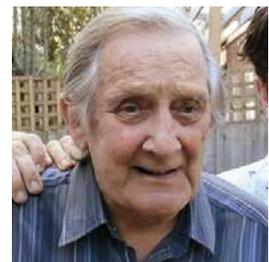
The ACO's highly respected Honorary Treasurer, Trevor Spicer, lost his long battle with illness on 19th February 2016, and passed away.

Trevor was on the ACO Council since July 2013, and during this time he made a very valuable contribution to both the ACO Council and the ACO Finance and Risk Committee.



John Strachan

Honorary ACO member John Strachan passed away on June 11th 2016 aged 91. He obtained his LOSc from the ACO in 1949 and was a member of the College for over 65 years. He was a pioneer in contact lens practice having obtained his Diploma of Contact Practice in London (from the British Optical Association) in 1953. He practiced exclusively in contact lenses in the CBD of Melbourne at a time when it was regarded as a specialist branch of optometry and when there were only a very small number who fitted contact lenses. He taught contact lenses at the ACO from 1954 to 1970. John was also a Councillor of the ACO from 1967 to 1973, and a Chairman of the Victorian Optometrists Registration Board for many years, from 1970. John was made a Life Member of (what is now) Optometry Victoria in 1978, after more than 25 years of service on their Council. His son Greg and daughter-in-law Sue, and now grandson, Daniel, are also optometrists and members of the ACO.



AWARDS

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE



RESEARCH AWARDS

Nicola Family Fund

Awardee

Matias Maturana

The recipient of the 2016 Nicola Family Fund travel grant award was Matias Maturana (NVRI Post Doctoral Fellow).

Matias used the travel grant award to travel to Brisbane in November to attend the Medical Bionics conference. Attendance at this meeting gave him a great opportunity to learn new techniques from the best in the industry and to meet potential collaborators.



Matias Maturana (NVRI Post Doctoral Fellow, ACO), left, receives his Nicola Family Fund Travel Grant award from John Nicola of Optique Line, at the ACO-NVRI AGM in May.

Kevin Cahill Award for Vision Science

Awardee

Prof Michael Ibbotson, Director NVRI

Michael was awarded the Kevin Cahill Award for Vision Science from the Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation. The award is linked to the successful high quality innovative research proposal that has secured \$23,000 to purchase a state-of-the-art electrode puller to assist with research on the visual cortex.

Mendelssohn Prize for Neuroscience

Awardee

Dr Matias Maturana (Post Doctoral Fellow NVRI, ACO)

Matias, won the very prestigious Mendelssohn Prize for Neuroscience for the best PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne, supervised by Michael Ibbotson (Director NVRI, ACO).

STUDENT AWARDS

Australian College of Optometry Student Awards Most Outstanding Graduate 2016

Ashley Chan (Deakin University, and now a Clinical Resident at the ACO)

Jose Estevez (Flinders University)

Emily Henry (Queensland University of Technology)

Simon Ngo (University of New South Wales)

Rebecca Nowaczek (University of Melbourne)

This award recognises outstanding graduating optometry students across Australia. Each university nominates a student based on the qualities of excellence and professional commitment. The award consists of a plaque to commemorate achievement, a two year ACO membership and \$250 in prize money.



Most Outstanding Graduate awardees (L-R) Ashley Chan, Rebecca Nowaczek and Simon Ngo. Absent: Jose Estevez and Emily Henry

ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics- Inaugural Outstanding Graduate

Awardee

Julie Purdie

In 2016 a new award was created to recognise commitment to the study of therapeutics by a graduate of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT). This award recognises the candidate who has achieved the highest score across all assessments for their graduating year. The inaugural "ACO Outstanding Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics 2015" was awarded to Julie Purdie (NSW) at the 2016 ACO-COT graduation ceremony.



Julie Purdie

STAFF AWARDS

Every year at our Themed End of Year Celebration we commend a number of ACO staff for their outstanding efforts during the year. There are three categories – Outstanding Team Contribution, Outstanding Individual Contribution and CEO Award. All ACO staff are invited to nominate colleagues or teams in the first two categories for the 2016 calendar year.

Outstanding Team Contribution

Professional Development Team

Team awardees

Josephine Battista

Adrian Bruce

Jolanda de Jong

Linda Morton

Elda Rebecchi

Ryan Rosario

Liz Salvatore

Shazia Tahseen

Hannah Tosolini

Michelle Waugh

Outstanding Individual Contribution

Awardee

Danielle Zheng

CEO Award

Awardee

Hamish Meffin

Australian College of Optometry – Staff service awards

Awardees

Neville Turner Diane Leaf Jean Walters

At the ACO-NVRI Annual General Meeting in May we recognised staff members who reached more than 20 years of service at the ACO.

In January 2016, Neville Turner (GM Business Systems & Development) completed 25 years working for the ACO. He has been a member of the ACO for all of that time and is also now a Fellow of the ACO.

We also celebrated a major milestone for two Clinical Services staff members, who have worked for the ACO for more than 20 years. Diane Leaf, is a key part of the VES Administration team, and has been with the ACO for almost 21 years celebrating 20 years in June 2015.

Jean Walters (Jean Lamont) has worked at the ACO as a sessional optometrist, for over 20 years. She has been an ACO member for more than 35 years and is also a Fellow.



L-R: Clare Escott (EGM Finance & Corporate Services), Maureen O'Keefe (CEO), Neville Turner (GM Business Systems & Development)



L-R: Jean Walters (Sessional Optometrist), Assoc Prof Sharon Bentley (Director Clinical Services) and Diane Leaf (Administration Assistant)

MEMBER AWARDS

Australian College of Optometry Honorary Life Membership

Awardee

A/Prof Rod Watkins AM

ACO Life Members are held in the highest of esteem for their work and contribution. Honorary Life Membership is the highest award granted by the ACO and recognises those that have been influential in their professional employment or community, having earned the respect and acknowledgement of their colleagues. The award distinguishes those that have served the Council in leadership positions over time and have been instrumental in bringing about positive change in terms of the Council's achievements.

A/Prof Watkins graduated from the ACO in 1966, the same year that he became an ACO member, later becoming a Fellow in 1986. A/Prof Watkins received a Masters from the University of Melbourne in 1968 as well as a Diploma of the Imperial College London

in applied optics, and then a PhD from Flinders University in 1973. A/Prof Watkins was a founding member of the NVRI Board of Administration in 1972 and has remained on the board for an incredible 44 years! He was its Chair from 1989 to 1997, Deputy Chair from 2006-2007 and Treasurer in 2012. A/Prof Watkins first became a Governor of the NVRI in 1993. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005 “For service to optics and optometry through the development and manufacture of ophthalmic equipment designed for use in remote locations throughout the world.”



A/Prof Rod Watkins AM FACO, left, receives his ACO Life Membership from Professor Nathan Efron AC at the 2016 ACO- NVRI AGM

Australian College of Optometry Fellowship Award

Awardee Janelle Scully

Fellowship of the College is awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to the practice and profession of optometry and to the community. Fellowship recognises outstanding leaders who are held in high esteem within the profession. There are four separate categories under which Fellowship can be awarded:

- Personal achievement in acquiring skill;
- Contribution to knowledge and learning;
- Acquisition of special clinical expertise and/or
- Professional leadership and/or service.

Janelle (Manager - Clinic Operations & VES Rural Clinical Services, ACO). was recognised with Fellowship for her further clinical qualification and contribution to knowledge and learning through clinical teaching.



Janelle Scully

Australian College of Optometry – Member Award for Outstanding Service

Awardee Erica Fletcher

This Award recognises the valuable contribution of ACO members who support the College in a voluntary capacity. This may be through governance of the ACO, either on a Committee and/or Council. The award may recognise the provision of support, time and advice; promotion of the principles and practices of the ACO in a positive and beneficial light; and the high regard of peers of the awardee, often over a lengthy period of time.

The ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service 2016 was awarded to Professor Erica Fletcher FACO. Erica is a Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne where she heads the Visual Neuroscience Laboratory. She is a clinically trained optometrist who holds both MSc and PhD degrees. She has been an ACO Member since 1988 and was on the ACO Council from 2007 to 2012, serving as Vice President for the latter two years. She has also been on multiple ACO committees over the years including the CVRA Committee, the Professional Development & Membership Committee, and the ACO-COT Curriculum Committee.



Professor Erica Fletcher FACO

Special Low Vision Service Award

Awardee Helen Robbins

In 2016, a unique Special Low Vision Service Award was bestowed to Helen Robbins to recognise the extraordinary contribution she has made to the field of Low Vision over the past 43 years.

Helen has a long-standing association with the ACO and her experience includes clinical practice, student teaching, research and management.

Helen also served on the Council of the Australian College of Optometry from 1996 to 2010. In addition, Helen was on the Victorian Council of Optometry Australia from 1979 to 2003, its first female President from 1990 – 1992 and was the Victorian delegate to the National Council of Optometry Australia from 1999 to 2002. Helen was also National President from 1999 to 2002.



Helen Robbins

ENGAGEMENT

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



Victorian Eyecare Service Participating Practices and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Subsidy Scheme Practices

Anglesea FRANCIS J DENAHY	Edenhope WIMMERA EYE CARE	Maryborough D P HARE
Ararat RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS	Euroa GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES	Mildura EYECARE SUNRAYSIA EYECARE SUNRAYSIA – PLAZA MILDURA OPTICAL
Bacchus Marsh DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS NWO GROUP PTY LTD	Foster FOSTER MEDICAL CLINIC	Moe MOE OPTICAL
Bairnsdale EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE	Geelong FRANCIS J DENAHY GMHBA EYE CARE – GEELONG OPHTHALMOLOGIST – DR B J LANSDSELL GEELONG EYE CENTRE, DR N B MUNRO, DR P LOCKIE	Mooroopna GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
Ballarat EYE Q OPTOMETRIST GMHBA EYECARE - BALLARAT	Gisborne J.C. MERRINGTON OPTOMETRY SIMON LEONG OPTOMETRIST	Mornington 20/20 SIGHT 'N STYLE MAIN STREET EYECARE
Belmont GMHBA EYE CARE – BELMONT ROBINSON FAMILY OPTOMETRISTS	Hamilton GLENN HOWELL PTY LTD	Morwell LATROBE EYECARE
Benalla FOCUS ON LAURIMAR	Healesville HARRIS, BLAKE AND PARSONS	Murchison GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
Bendigo CARTWRIGHT & ASSOCIATES EYECARE PLUS BENDIGO OPHTHAMOLOGIST- DR A J GIBSON	Hopetoun WIMMERA EYE CARE	Myrtleford BRENDAN NORDEN & ASSOCS
Broadford BROADFORD OPTICAL	Horsham WIMMERA EYE CARE	Nathalia HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS
Camperdown PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS	Kerang KERANG OPTICAL OPHTHAMOLOGIST – DR A J GIBSON BOX	Newcomb VOGUE VISION
Castlemaine EYEWORKS CASTLEMAINE	Kilmore IAN J WOOD	Nhill WIMMERA EYE CARE
Charlton OPHTHAMOLOGIST – DR A J GIBSON CHARLTON HOSPITAL	Kyabram HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS	North Geelong WINKS EYECARE
Cobram COBRAM OPTICAL	Lakes Entrance LAKES ENTRANCE OPTOMETRISTS	Ocean Grove GREG SLY OPTOMETRIST
Corio GMHBA EYE CARE - CORIO	Lang Lang LANG LANG EYECARE	Orbost EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE
Daylesford DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS	Leongatha LEONGARTHA OPTOMETRISTS MCGARTIN STREET OPTOMETRISTS	Pakenham PAKENHAM OPTICAL
Dromana EYES ON DROMANA	Lorne DEAKIN OPTOMETRY	Portland PORTLAND EYECARE
Drysdale GMHBA EYE CARE - DRYSDALE	Mallacoota DYSON & LONG OPTOMETRISTS	Robinvale VISION WISE OPTICS
Echuca HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS		Rosebud EYES ON ROSEBUD ROBERT P ZENT
		Sale B W PETTTTT

Seymour
FOCUS ON LAURIMAR

Shepparton
GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
SHEPPARTON OPTICAL SERVICES

Somerville
EYES ON DROMANA
EYES ON ROSEBUD

St Arnaud
RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS

Stawell
BLIZZARD OPTOMETRISTS

Swan Hill
OPHTHAMOLOGIST – DR A J GIBSON
SWAN HILL OPTICAL
SWANHILL WARBURTON OPTICAL

Torquay
GMHBA EYE CARE – GEELONG

Traralgon
KAY STREET EYECARE PTY LTD

Wangaratta
WANGARATTA EYECARE

Warracknabeal
WIMMERA EYE CARE

Warmambool
PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS
SOMER TOPRAK OPTOMETRIST
WARRNAMBOOL EYECARE

Wendouree
DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS

Wodonga
MICHAEL SMITH OPTOMETRY
PEACHEY OPTOMETRY CLINIC
WODONGA EYECARE

Wonthaggi
AKERS EYEWEAR

Yarram
B W PETTITT

Yarrowonga
SANDRA HEANEY OPTOMETRIST

Outreach Sites

Homeless Persons Program Sites

Partner: Royal District Nursing Program Homeless Persons Program

coHealth First Response Footscray

Drill Hall, Central City Community Health (CoHealth) Melbourne

Eastcare Gateways (Salvo Care) Croydon

Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation (Salvation Army) West Melbourne

Frankston Community Support Frankston

Frontyard, Melbourne City Mission, Melbourne

Hosier Lane, Youth Projects, CBD

Launch Housing, South Melbourne

Merri Health, Glenroy

Merri Outreach Support Service, Northcote

Ozanam Community Centre (Vincent Care), North Melbourne

Sacred Heart Mission Clinic, St Kilda

Salvo Care Rosebud, Rosebud

St Kilda Drop In (Pahran Mission Uniting Care), St Kilda

St Mary's House of Welcome, Fitzroy

The Cornerstone Centre, Dandenong

Community Outreach Program

IPC Health (formally ISIS Primary Care)
 – Hoppers Crossing

coHealth – Kensington & Niddrie

Inspiro Community Health – Lilydale

Eastern Access Community Health (EACH)
 – East Ringwood

The Wellington Centre – Collingwood

Maribrynong Immigration Detention Centre

Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation

Certificate of Ocular Therapeutics Graduates 2016

Al-Shadidi, Hossein
 Andrew, Carmel
 Andrews, Dianne
 Atzemakis, Constantine
 Bell, Adrian
 Bentley, Sharon
 Besley, Mark
 Boshoff, Marie
 Brown, Andrew
 Callahan, Susan
 Chen, Belinda
 Dabb, Grant
 D' Agostini, Alyse
 Davis, Conor
 Dini, Katherine
 Dini, Paul
 Eastaugh, Andrew
 Fouz, Nuzula
 Galloway, Carolyn
 Girgenti, Cameron
 Gouliaev, Katherine
 Gregory, Suzanne
 Griffiths, Amanda
 Hallissy, Susan
 Hammond, David
 Harris, Linda

Hastings, Genevieve
 Herring, Lauren
 Ho, Huy Quoc
 Hogan, Philip
 Holzheimer, Meghan
 Horn, Ashlee
 Ingram, Kenneth
 Jamieson, Rebecca
 Jansen, Lisa
 Jayamanne, Dilini
 Jedwood, Michelle
 Jones, Kris
 Kaushik, Gunjan
 Kim, Hanna
 Kwong, Sherman
 Kwong, Stephen
 Lauriola, Sam
 Lee, Alvin
 Lee, Hie Rin
 Lotay, Jivan
 Ly, Hue Kim
 McCreath, Margaret
 McKenna, Gregory
 McNeel, Bruce
 Melrose, Anna
 Mildenhall, Paula

Milford, Philip
 Ng, Richard
 O'Loughlin, Rebecca
 O'Neill, Margaret
 Ong, Katrina
 Pease, Matthew
 Popovski, Steven
 Prentice, Jackelyn
 Rosella, Gennaro (Jim)
 Roth, Peter
 Shin, May
 Sobolewski, Andrew
 Sweeney, John
 Tiong, Y. Teng
 Thompson, Tracy
 Thrush, Nigel
 Tong, Marcy
 Truong, Thanh
 Twaddell, Joanne
 Vidor, Elizabeth
 Watt, Natalie
 Yeo, Stephanie
 Yu, Mitasha
 Zammit, Michael



Certificate of Ocular Therapeutics graduates. Not all graduates are present.

FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS & DONORS

OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS



John Nicola of Optique Line, a long term supporter of the NVRI, competed in the Marathon des Sables

Government, Trusts & Foundations, Industry, Community Organisations, Donors & Bequests

CLINICAL SERVICES

Government

Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria



Victoria State Government



Victorian Eyecare Service (VES)



The AGO is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health



Bequests

Beresford Cambridge Fund (Bequest)

Trusts & Foundations

Beresford Cambridge Fund

Perpetual



VOTE Trust

Optometry Board of Australia



Community

Commonwealth Bank Australia



Donald Cant Watts Corke



Lions Club Vermont



Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal



The Australian College of Optometry is extremely grateful for the support of the following organisations and bodies, which make it possible for us to continue our important work in preserving sight and preventing blindness.

EDUCATION

Professional Development Conference, Workshops & Seminar Series

Designs for Vision



Pacific Vision



Device Technologies



Good Optical



Optimed



Guide Dogs Victoria



Ellex Australia



Experien



Zeiss Australia



Vision Australia



Rimoptics



Moore Stephens



Opticare



Tomato Glasses



RESEARCH – NATIONAL VISION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Government

Australian Research Council



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Australian Government



Australian Government

National Health & Medical
Research Council



Australian Government
National Health and
Medical Research Council

Bequests

Schultz Laubman Schultz
Endowment Fund



Industry

Essilor



Optiqueline



Kevin O'Brien Optometrists



Optometry Australia



Trusts & Foundations

Schultz Laubman Schultz
Endowment Fund



Equity Trustees (ANZ Trustees)



Victoria Lions Foundation



Lions Vision Research Fund



NVRI Governors Endowment Fund



LEW Carty Charitable Fund



Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research
Foundation



L.E.W. CARTY CHARITABLE FUND AND THE VICTORIAN LIONS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY thanks the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation for their generous support in jointly funding a new post-doctoral research fellowship at the National Vision Research Institute.

The outstanding total contribution of \$360,000 over 3 years, jointly funded by the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation will make a significant difference to people affected by blindness.

The new LEW Carty-Lions Victoria Research Fellow will design the next generation of bionic eye devices and investigate taking visual prosthetics (bionic eyes) from the current prototype stage to something offering true functional vision, where wide-field images can be formed. This will allow a profoundly blind person to experience a more independent quality of life.

Sustainable high quality research in Australia is increasingly reliant on philanthropic funding, especially for early career researchers. The vision of the trustees of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation is the creation of a philanthropic partnership through co-funding. This has enabled the establishment of a new postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Vision Research Institute at the Australian College of Optometry, through provision of matching funding of \$180,000 each over three years.

The National Vision Research Institute (NVRI) is a partner in the Bionic Vision Australia consortium and works closely with the physics and engineering departments at the University of Melbourne. Dr Molis Yunzab was awarded this position, having completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2015. Molis will work on projects associated with the development of the next generation of a bionic eye.



(L-R): Dr Sue Forrest (Trustee, L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund), Rod Jackson (Victorian Lions Foundation), Professor Konrad Pesudovs (Council President, ACO) and Maureen O'Keefe (CEO, ACO) at the announcement of the new Fellowship

PROFESSOR NATHAN EFRON AC

PROFESSOR NATHAN EFRON AC, had been our esteemed President of the ACO for the last 4 years. Nathan completed his Bachelor of Science (Optometry) and his PhD at the University of Melbourne, and has been associated with the ACO since those formative days of his career. Nathan became a member of the ACO in 1977 and served on the Board of Continuing Education at the ACO from 1977 to 1989, and actively participated in many courses. Nathan joined the ACO Council in 2011, and served as Chair of the NVRI Board of Administration from 2011 to 2012, then being elected as ACO President in 2012. In 2015 he was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in the general division of the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List for "eminent service to medicine in the field of clinical optometry, particularly to vision correction and corneal physiology, as an academic, researcher and author, to the treatment of juvenile diabetes, and through executive roles with national and international professional organisations". This is the highest level of Queen's Birthday Honour aside from Knights and Dames.



Professor Nathan Efron AC

In 2015 he was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in the general division of the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List for "eminent service to medicine in the field of clinical optometry"

Professor Efron has worked in optometry education and research throughout his career, working in the United States, England, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and holding leadership roles in many national and international professional bodies and associations. He has published over 800 scientific papers, abstracts and textbook chapters, and has written/ edited 7 books, not counting the History of Australian Optometry by Prof Barry Cole, which the ACO published in 2015. Nathan's efforts as ACO President were tireless, his advice and support was always balanced and unwavering. We will greatly miss those amazing bow ties at future Council meetings but we hope that Nathan will join us at many future ACO events as a highly valued member, and now elder, of the ACO.

DONORS

Individuals

Alexander, Dr Karl	Lakkis, Dr Graham	Skalicky, Dr Simon
Baker, A/Prof Rod	Leong, Mr David	Spurling, Mr Robert
Bastiaan, Ms Janice	Lin, Dr Ming Lee	Stabe, Mr Doug
Bates, Mr Colin	McDonald, Ms Andrea	Tai, Mr Todd
Bearzi, Mr Jamie	McIntosh, Mr Paul	Tan, Dr Mei Hong
Bodnaruk, Ms Vira	McPherson, Mr Jarrod	Thomas, Mr Paul
Booth, Mr Peter	Mackenzie, Mr Ian	Thomson, Mr Christopher
Bryant, Mr Michael	Maddes, Prof Ted	Tobias, Mr Irwin
Case, Dr Kathryn	Mathews, Mr Philip	Tran, Son
Chan, Dr Colin	Merrin, Mrs Gaylene	Troski, Dr Mark
Chandler, Mr John	Mildren, Peter	Vallis, Mr George
Chay, Bun Mang	Moran, Ms Daria	Vo, Tam
Cheung, Ms Everlid	Napper, Dr Genevieve	Vorlicek, Mr Peter
Christou, Mrs Andreana	Nathan OAM, Dr Jonathan	Walsh, Mr Paul
Close, Ms Linda	Nguyen, La Khai	Webster, Mr Robert
Collin, Emer Prof H Barry	Nguyen, Ly	Willis, Mr Bruce
Dyer, Mr Daryl	Nicola, Mr Con	Wolfe, Dr Rick
Eagle, Mr Mark	Nicola, Mr Nick	Yap, Yen
Efron AC, Prof Nathan	Nicola, Mr Stephen	Yates, Mrs Wendy
Graham, Mr Bob	O'Keefe, Mrs Maureen	
Green, Mr David	O'Shea, Ms Denise	Organisations
Gregoriou, Mr Greg	O'Shea, Mr Harry	Bill Wilkinson Optical
Grunert, A/Prof Ulrike	O'Shea-Korbut, Ms Nicola	Beyond 2000 Autocare
Gyaw, Mr Htin	Pagonis, Mr George	ExSighting Vision
Hall, Mr John	Papasergi, Mr Vincenzo	EyeQ Optometrists
Haman, Mr Peter	Peden, Mr Grant	Eyes Right Optical
Hardy, Dr Thomas	Petzierides, Ms Marie	Greg Hocking Elly Partners
Hogan, Mr Anthony	Petzierides, Mr & Mrs Paul and Lucy	I-Care Lilydale
Jacobs, Robert	Pocknee, Ms Elisse	Lions Club of Footscray
Jessop, Mr Donald	Quach, Miss Loan	ODMA
Johnston, Mr Steven	Reich, Dr Joe	Optique Line
Joyce, Mrs Sue	Ricci, Ms Nicola	Tamworth Pines
Karabagega, Innocent	Rooney, Mr Kevin	Thu Pham Media P/L
Kingshott, Mr John	Russell, Mrs Anne	Wenzel Pty Ltd
Kingshott, Ms Lisa	Scully, Ms Kristin	Wicks Eye care
	Semerli, Dr Hakki	

NICOLA FAMILY FUND

THE ACO IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE that John Nicola of Optique Line, a long term supporter of the NVRI, competed in the Marathon des Sables (or Marathon of the Sands) in April 2016. The Mds is an ultra marathon through the Sahara Desert, also known as the “toughest foot race on earth” – an extraordinary race for extraordinary people, run for 6 days over 254km. Competitors endure temperatures of up to 120 degrees carrying all that they need for the week long journey in their backpacks, with the exception of the 120,000 litres of water consumed by the competitors, which is provided along the route by the 100 on course support staff. The 2016 event was the 31st year that the run has taken place.

More than 70 people generously sponsored John, including members of the Nicola family, their friends, members of the optometry community - both nationally and internationally – and supporters in the wider community. John generously committed his fundraising efforts to the NVRI towards the preservation of sight and the prevention of blindness.

John is passionate about running and has completed several marathons including the “ultra”

run, the Marathon Des Sables. In fact John was to compete in the run in 2015 however was forced to withdraw from the race for personal reasons. The funds raised by John, during the run up to the 2015 event, were used to establish the Nicola Family Fund, a capital fund that exists in perpetuity to be a permanent reminder of the family’s support of vision research to support young researchers as they begin their career in vision research. Each year a member of the Nicola family will be invited to present the award.

The Nicola Family Fund will always be open to accept further contributions, which can be through a direct donation or sponsorship of an event as John did with the Marathon de Sables. This will allow the fund to grow over time, to further support and encourage the next generation of researchers. We are very grateful to John, his wife Sammy and his family for their support of the ACO and its research through the NVRI.

The inaugural award of the Nicola Family Fund grant is significant as the Nicola family, John, his wife Sammy and children Nicholas and Helen, requested that the award be made in the memory of their beloved son and brother Christopher, who very sadly passed away in March 2015 at the age of 25 years.



John Nicola photographed with wife Sammy and children Nicholas and Helen at the 2016 AGM.

CORPORATE SERVICES & GOVERNANCE

A STRONG, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Continuously improving and developing our people, resources and infrastructure, and effectively communicating and building relationships with our key stakeholders

THE CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION is made up of a team of staff dedicated to providing central support services across the whole of the ACO. The services delivered by the Division include the provision of technical and administrative support and advice to the ACO's operational divisions in relation to:

- Building Services
- Business Systems & Development
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Marketing & Communications
- Projects & Administration

Corporate Services is also responsible for providing governance support to the ACO Council through the ACO Company Secretary. During the year, the team worked closely with the operational divisions to ensure that we continue to contribute to the development and improvement of the ACO's services, supporting the process for continuous improvement across the organisation.

The audited concise financial statements of the Consolidated Group are set out on pages 76 to 90 of this annual report. The balance sheet position remains strong and the net assets of the Consolidated Group (ACO and Trust Funds) at 31 December 2016 were \$21,757,681 (2015: \$21,317,880).

Year Highlights

- ▾ Planning and supporting business process improvements, aimed at enhancing and supporting service delivery arrangements.
- ▾ Completion of capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure leading to a reduction in our carbon footprint, technology enhancements and commencement of a rolling program of facility upgrades at our metro clinics.
- ▾ Implementation of full offsite recovery measures to protect the ACO in the event of technology disruption.
- ▾ Involvement in business and contract development for new and renewed service areas.
- ▾ Delivery of a successful audit outcome for the year.
- ▾ Progress with the development of a new NVRI constitution that meets the current requirements of the ACO and NVRI.
- ▾ Successful development and completion of inaugural ACO Culture Survey and development of Action Plan.

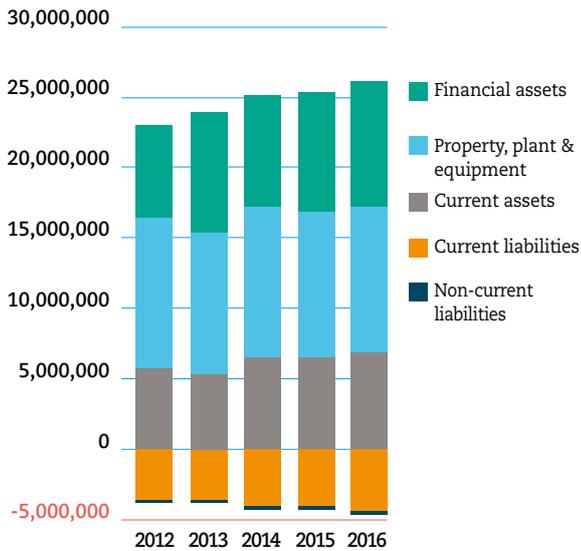


Clare Escott,
EGM Finance &
Corporate Services

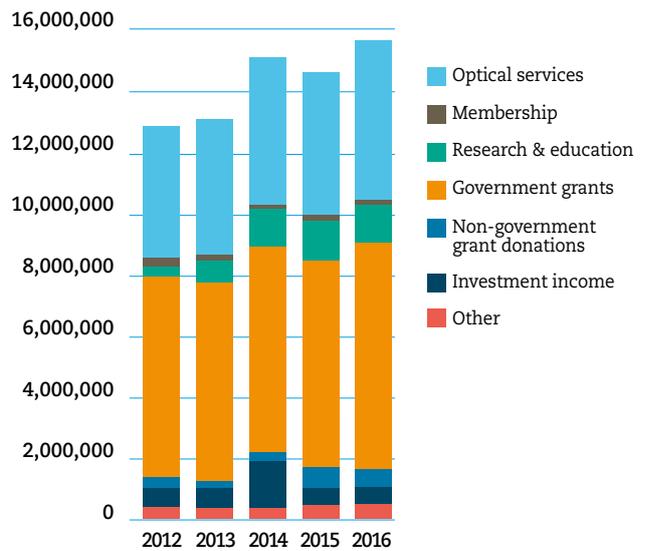
RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

	Consolidated Group		College	
	2016 \$	2015 \$	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	15,629,383	14,583,626	15,536,350	14,375,331
Expenses	(15,544,712)	(14,569,696)	(15,503,828)	(14,494,052)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	84,671	13,930	32,522	(118,721)
Other comprehensive income	355,130	43,632	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income	439,801	57,562	32,522	(118,721)

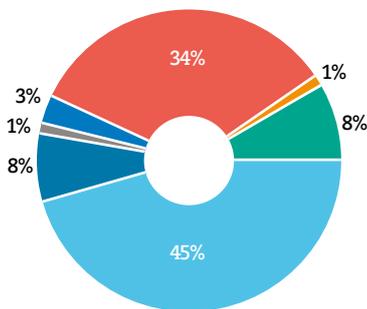
Balance Sheet Breakdown \$
(2012 – 2016) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



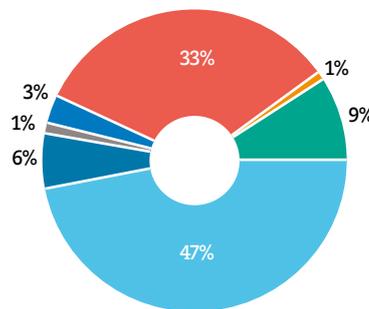
Income from Operating Activities \$
(2012 – 2016) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



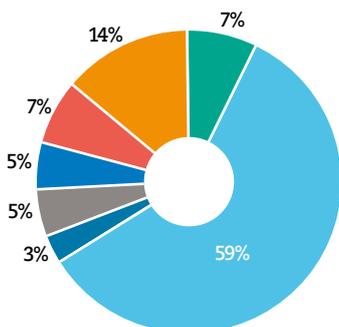
Income from Operating Activities (2016) ACO



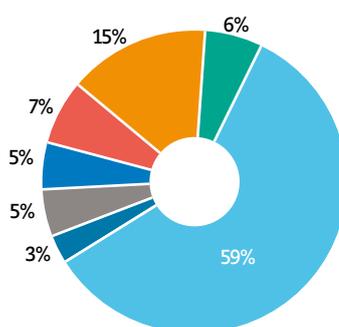
Income from Operating Activities (2015) ACO



Expenses (2016) ACO



Expenses (2015) ACO



Council & Committees

The ACO would like to thank all Councillors and Committee members for their dedication and commitment in 2016.

Council

Professor Konrad Pesudovs *President*
(from June 2016)

Professor Nathan Efron AC *President*
(until May 2016)

Professor Alex Gentle *Vice President,*
Acting President (from 2016)

Mr Mark O'Sullivan *Honorary*
Treasurer (from February 2016)

Mr Mitchell Anjou

Ms Sarah Byrne

Ms Melissa Downing (from May 2016)

Ms Denise Gronow (until January
2016)

Mr Benjamin Hamlyn (from May 2016)

Mr Andrew Harris (until May 2016)

Hon Paul Lucas

Professor Geoffrey McColl

Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Mrs Clare Escott *Company Secretary*

NVRI Board of Administration

Professor Alex Gentle *Chair* (from
June 2016)

Professor Konrad Pesudovs *Chair*
(until June 2016)

Professor Michael Ibbotson

Mr Rodney Jackson

Mr Richard Lindsay

Mr Ted Maddess

Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Mr Paul Takac

Associate Professor Rod Watkins *AM*

Professor Trichur Visyasagar

Mrs Clare Escott *Secretary*

Finance & Risk

Mr Mark O'Sullivan *Chair*

Mr Mitchell Anjou

Professor Nathan Efron AC (until
May 2016)

Ms Denise Gronow

Ms Pat Huen

Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Mr Joseph Pannuzzo (from August 2016)

Professor Konrad Pesudovs (from
June 2016)

Associate Professor Rod Watkins

Ms Clare Escott *Secretary*

Human Research Ethics Committee

Ms Sarah Byrne *Chair* (from June
2016)

Mrs Elizabeth Anderson (until
December 2016)

Mrs Mary Archibald

Mr Frank Lavorico

Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Mr Geoffrey Poliness

Dr Cheryl Reed

Ms Kerryn Rosely

Dr Rasa Ruseckaite

Mr Adam Walker

Ms Jenny Wilkins

Ms Tenille Ryan *Secretary*

Victorian Eyecare Service Advisory Committee

Associate Professor Sharon Bentley
Director Clinical Services

Jane Canaway

Piers Carozzi

Emma Fitzsimon

Graham Hill

Levi Lovett

Rosie Maddick

Kaye McCraw

Lyn Morgain

Catherine Noone

Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Nicholaus Rittinghausen

Sundram Sivamalai

Janelle Scully

Catherine Thompson

Senior Leadership Team

Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*

Clare Escott *EGM Finance & Corporate Services*

Sharon Bentley *Director Clinical Services*

Michael Ibbotson *Director NVRI*

Jolanda de Jong *GM Professional Development*

Neville Turner *GM Business Systems & Development*

Sue Jeffreys *HR Manager*

Elda Rebecchi *Communications & Marketing Manager*

Jane Trevaskis *Head of Teaching & Quality*

Piers Carozzi *Head of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services*

Jennifer Caulfield *Head of Clinic Operations & Support Services*

Roman Serebrianik *Head of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services*

GEO's Office

Maureen O'Keefe *Chief Executive Officer*

Arwen Bardsley *Executive Assistant to CEO (until Dec 2016)*

Elda Rebecchi *Communications & Marketing Manager*

Chelsey Seamer *Executive Assistant to CEO (from Dec 2016)*

Clinical Services

Sharon Bentley *Director Clinical Services*

Jane Trevaskis *Head Of Teaching & Quality*

Piers Carozzi *Head Of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services*

Jennifer Caulfield *Head Of Clinic Operations & Support Services*

Roman Serebrianik *Head Of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services*

Adrian Bruce *Lead Optometrist Contact Lens*

Mae Chong *Lead Optometrist Low Vision*

Nelofar Deen *Lead Optometrist Paediatric Services*

Genevieve Napper *Lead Optometrist Aboriginal Services*

Leanne Nguyen *Lead Optometrist Ocular Disease*

Carla Abbott *Sessional Optometrist*

Emily Alessi *Receptionist*

Yiota Anastasopoulos *Receptionist*

Anna Angelodemou *Administration Assistant*

Carole Anjou *Sessional Optometrist*

Suba Arunasalam *Staff Optometrist*

Angeliki Arvanitis *Site Manager*

Sandra Au *Staff Optometrist*

Carol Bramich *Receptionist*

Megan Bridges *Receptionist*

Maria Bui *Sessional Optometrist*

Eddie Burgin *Staff Optometrist*

Jillian Campbell *Sessional Optometrist*

Mabel Ceballos *Dispensing Assistant*

Ashley Chan *Clinical Resident*

Kuong Chang *Sessional Optometrist*

Lauren Chang *Sessional Optometrist*

Helen Cho *Clinical Resident*

Joseph Choi *Manager Of Primary Care & Clinical Teaching*

Lee Yin Chong *Executive Assistant to the Office of Director of Clinical Services*

Timothy Chung *Sessional Optometrist*

Hazel Corry *Administration Assistant*

Lynn Cupido *Receptionist*

Ricardo D`Cruz *Dispensary Services Assistant*

Lesley Dacion *Staff Optometrist*

Carla Dinardo *Sessional Optometrist*

Aiden Deane *Senior Optical Technician*

Ian Douglas *Sessional Optometrist*

Anthony Dowling *Sessional Optometrist*

Bozana Dusanovic *Receptionist*

Zeinab Fakh *Staff Optometrist*

Michelle Foo *Staff Optometrist*

Angela Fornaro *Administration Assistant*

Hayley Fraser *Receptionist*

Timothy Fricke *Sessional Optometrist*

Anna Gatsios *Clinical Resident*

Abbie Guy *Dispensing Assistant*

Michelle Haddrell *Receptionist*

Rosemary Haikal *Site Manager*

Angela Hall *Manager Of Clinical Research*

Kerryn Hart *Sessional Optometrist*

Melinda Heap *Receptionist*

Elisse Higginbotham *Sessional Optometrist*

Li Ting Hoo *Sessional Optometrist*

Peregrine Horton *Staff Optometrist*

Iris Huang *Site Manager*

Vianh Huynh *Staff Optometrist*

Nilmini John *Staff Optometrist*

Anagha Joshi *Staff Optometrist*

Jun Jung *Sessional Optometrist*

Katrina Kalff *Sessional Optometrist*

Michael Kalloniatis *Sessional Optometrist*

Lauren Kharsas *Site Manager*

Masumi Kobayashi *Sessional Optometrist*

Katrina Koenig *Staff Optometrist*

Sophie Koh *Sessional Optometrist*

Can Komser *Staff Optometrist*

Jeremy Lau *Sessional Optometrist*

King Li *Lay Receptionist*

David Leeming *Optical Technician*

Josephine Li *Manager Of Community Eye Care Services*

Michael Li *Staff Optometrist*

Steffanie Liang *Sessional Optometrist*

Jasmine Lichtenstein *Sessional Optometrist*

Amanda Lim *Staff Optometrist*

Shuli Liu *Staff Optometrist*

Lisa Lombardi *Site Manager*

Jivan Lotay *Staff Optometrist*

Hue Kim Ly *Sessional Optometrist*

Sharon Ly *Sessional Optometrist*

Alice McLennan *Sessional Optometrist*

Vicki McSweeney *Manager Clinic Administration*

Justin Maher *Sessional Optometrist*

Theo Markos *Sessional Optometrist*

Tessa Mihailou *Optical Technician*

Elizabeth Montgomery *Dispensing Assistant*

Ho Wah Ng *Manager Visual Functions Services*

Dung Nguyen *Staff Optometrist*

Lisa Perri *Dispensing Services Assistant*

Quyen Pham *Senior Receptionist*

Danielle Raiti *Senior Receptionist*

Kay Read *Receptionist*

Heidi Saheed *Receptionist*

Daniela Scalora *Sessional Optometrist*

Janelle Scully *Manager Of Clinic Operations & VES Rural*

Chelsey Seamer *Receptionist*

Stella Shin *Staff Optometrist*
 Christa Sipos-Ori *Staff Optometrist*
 Jessica Sloan *Receptionist*
 David Southgate *Sessional Optometrist*
 John Sweeney *Sessional Optometrist*
 Lyn Taylor *Senior Receptionist*
 Angela Thomson *Receptionist*
 Linda Toban *Sessional Optometrist*
 Dzung Tran *Staff Optometrist*
 Mary Travis *Sessional Optometrist*
 Karen Trinh *Staff Optometrist*
 Leonidas Vlahakis *Sessional Optometrist*
 Kevin Vo *Sessional Optometrist*
 Pam Vorias *Senior Optical Dispenser*
 Jean Walters *Sessional Optometrist*
 Joseph Waterman *Staff Optometrist*
 Natalie Watt *Staff Optometrist*
 Michelle Waugh *Skills Testing Program Developer*
 Matthew Wells *Sessional Optometrist*
 Eva Wong *Sessional Optometrist*
 Katrina Wong *Staff Optometrist*
 Jianing Yan *Staff Optometrist*
 Vin-Lin Yang *Sessional Optometrist*
 Michael Yen *Staff Optometrist*
 Hee Wei Yii *Staff Optometrist*
 Danielle Zheng *Staff Optometrist*

National Vision Research Institute

Michael Ibbotson *Director NVRI*
 Priscilla Gross *PA & Senior Research Technician*
 Shaun Cloherty *Lions Senior Research Fellow*
 Yan Wong *Post Doctoral Fellow*
 Markus Hietanen *Research Fellow*
 Hamish Meffin *Research Fellow*
 Nakita Fullerton *Research Technician*
 Ali Almasi *Research Student*
 Matias Maturana *Research Student*
 Kevin Meng *Research Student*
 Susmita Saha *Research Student*

Artemio Soto-Breceda *Research Student*
 Scott Sun *Research Student*
 Molis Yunzab *Research Student*

Professional Development & Membership

Jolanda de Jong *GM Professional Development & Membership*
 Josephine Battista *Course Program Director*
 Linda Morton *Library & Office Administrator*
 Ryan Rosario *Clinical Education Coordinator*
 Liz Salvatore *Events & Membership Coordinator*
 Shazia Tahseen *Course Administration Coordinator*
 Hannah Tosolini *PD & Marketing Coordinator*
 Barry Cole *Honorary Archivist*
 Michael Aitken *Honorary Archivist*
 Pamela Sutton *Honorary Archivist*
 Colin Bates *Honorary Archivist*

Corporate Services

Clare Escott *EGM Finance & Corporate Services*
 Neville Turner *GM Business Systems & Development*
 Pat Huen *Finance Manager*
 John Dascoli *Building Services Manager*
 Sue Jeffreys *HR Manager*
 Tenille Ryan *Senior Projects Officer*
 Maria Carlos *Finance Officer*
 Peta Coats *Administration Officer*
 Stacey Atkinson *Administration Assistant*
 Bob Tobin *Technical Officer*

Casual Staff

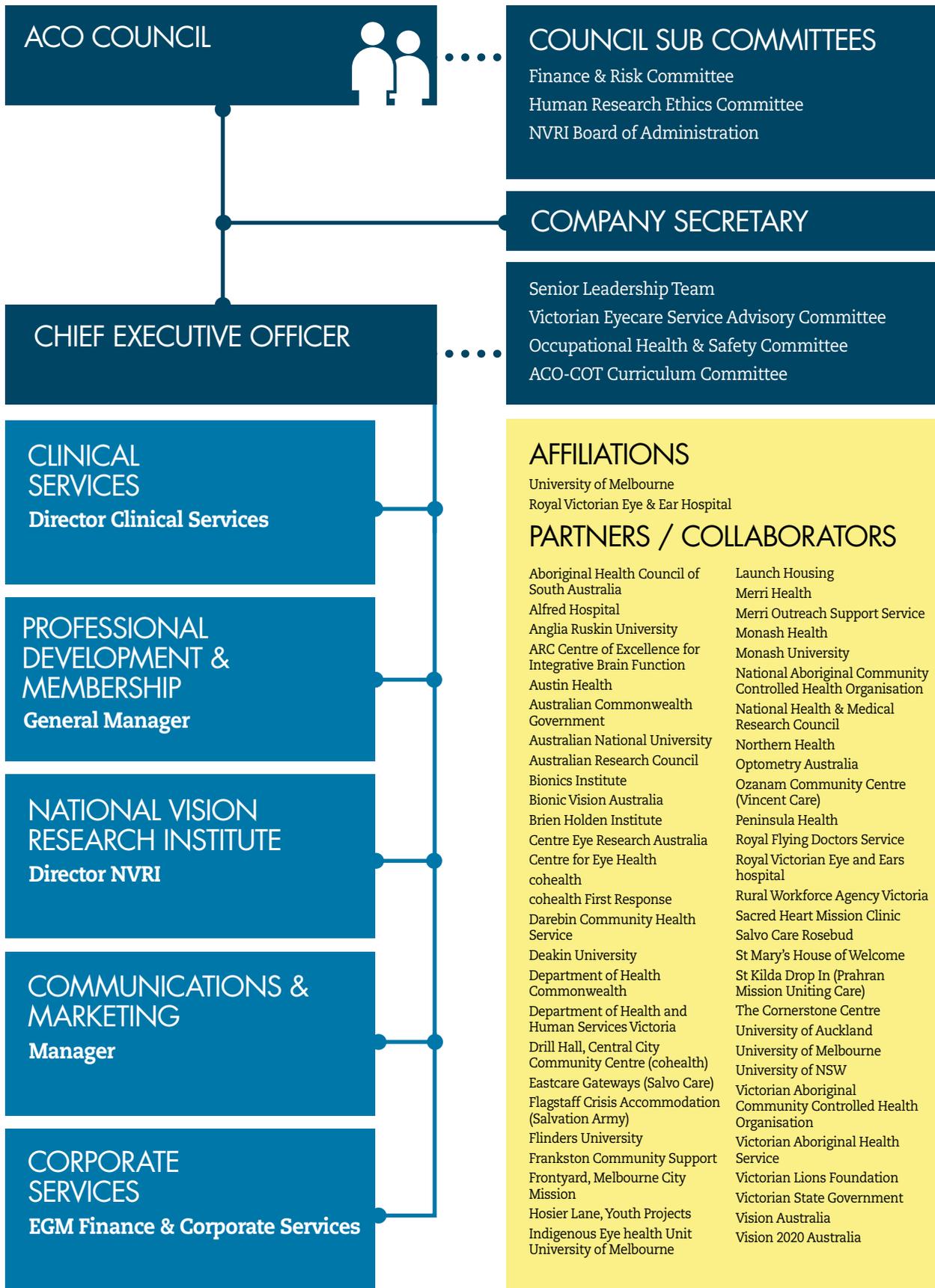
James Anders *Casual Administration Assistant*
 William Anders *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Jordan Carozzi *Casual Receptionist*
 Margaret Chan *Casual Receptionist*

Jeremy Chan *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Isaac Curkpatrick *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Peter Escott *Casual Technical Assistant*
 Tara Gray *Casual Receptionist*
 Addie Jiang *Casual Finance Officer*
 Diane Leaf *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Rai Nguyen *Casual Finance Officer*
 Courtney Turner *Casual Receptionist*
 Chloe Turner *Casual Technical Assistant*

People Who Departed in 2016

Arwen Bardsley
 Kathryn Case
 Lucy Doan
 Ashleigh Flynn
 Nakita Fullerton
 Jean Gador-Whyte
 Dean Garnett
 Linda Gibson
 Carrie Keegan
 Rebecca Kotsakidis
 Michelle Li
 Lucy Liu
 Robert McIlroy
 Annika Maurice-Stuckey
 Nathalie Michel
 Rebecca Nowaczek
 Markus Ochsenbein
 Adela Park
 Essen Poon
 Helen Robbins
 Geoffrey Sampson
 Michelle Winberg

Organisation Chart



Members ACO

Life Members

1961 Lady Meriel Wilmot-Wright
1963 Dr Alan Isaacs AM
1965 Dr Jonathan Nathan OAM FACO
1981 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM FACO
1990 Prof Barry Cole AO FACO
1994 Ms Jean Colledge PSM
2007 Mr John Pettit FACO
2011 Mr Graham Hill FACO
2012 Mr Ross Harris FACO
2012 Prof Hugh Taylor AC
2013 Mr Wolfgang Gartner FACO
2013 Mr Anthony Gibson OAM FACO
2013 A/Prof Ian Gutteridge FACO
2013 Dr Anthony Hanks OAM
2014 Prof Ian Bailey
2014 Prof Janette Lovie-Kitchin
2015 Emer Prof Kenneth Bowman AM
2016 A/Prof Rodney Watkins AM FACO

ACO Fellows

Dr Carla Abbott FACO
 Mr Han-Peter Abel FACO
 Rev Douglas Allen FACO
 Mr Nicholas Anderson FACO
 Mr Michael Andrews FACO
 Mr Mitchell Anjou AM FACO
 Mr Max Astri FACO
 Mr Dimitrios Athanasakis FACO
 Dr Lauren Ayton FACO
 Ms Nicole Baines FACO
 A/Prof Rod Baker FACO
 Mrs Margaret Banks OAM FACO
 Mrs Kristina Barnhill FACO
 A/Prof Sharon Bentley FACO
 Mr Terence Blake FACO
 Mr Ian Bluntish FACO
 Mr Antony Bolton FACO

Mr Ian Bouchier FACO
 Mr Ian Breadon FACO
 Dr Adrian Bruce FACO
 Miss Susan Callahan FACO
 Mr Giorgio Campanella FACO
 Mr Brian Carney FACO
 Mr Piers Carozzi FACO
 Dr Kathryn Case FACO
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 Mr Kuong Chang FACO
 Miss Jessica Chi FACO
 Mr Jeffrey Chibert FACO
 Mr Joseph Choi FACO
 Mr Christopher Chong FACO
 Mr Luke Chong FACO
 Ms Mae Chong FACO
 Dr Gillian Cochrane FACO
 Prof Barry Cole AO FACO
 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM FACO
 Ms Jenny Cooke FACO
 Mr Norman Corbett FACO
 Mr Darren Couch FACO
 Mr Jeffrey Coulson FACO
 Mrs Sandra Coulson FACO
 Mr Peter Craven FACO
 Mr Paul Croucher FACO
 Ms Jennifer Currie FACO
 Dr Paris Deliyannis FACO
 Ms Rachel Denham FACO
 Mr Paul Donaldson FACO
 Mr Ian Douglas FACO
 Mr Anthony Dowling FACO
 Dr Laura Downie FACO
 Ms Sally Doyle FACO
 Mr Robert Drewitt Smith FACO
 Ms Jane Duffy FACO
 Prof Nathan Efron AC FACO
 Mr Clifton Egarr FACO
 Mr John Farmer OAM FACO
 Prof Erica Fletcher FACO
 Mr Timothy Fricke FACO
 Mr Bryan Fuller FACO
 Mr Wolfgang Gartner FACO
 Ms Sonja Gaulke FACO
 Prof Alexander Gentle FACO
 Mrs Anne Gibson FACO

Mr Anthony Gibson OAM FACO
 Mr Malcolm Gin FACO
 Mr Kenneth Gregory FACO
 A/Prof Ian Gutteridge FACO
 Mr David Hare FACO
 Mr Michael Hare FACO
 Mr Andrew Harris FACO
 Mr Ross Harris FACO
 Dr Leo Hartley FACO
 Ms Tania Hartung FACO
 Ms Elizabeth Hatfield FACO
 Dr Charlotte Hazel FACO
 Mr Graham Hill FACO
 Dr Suit May Ho FACO
 Mr Andrew Hogan FACO
 Mr Robert Holloway FACO
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 Mr Glenn Howell FACO
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 Mr Rodney Jackson FACO
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 Dr Alan Johnston AM FACO
 Mr Stephen Jones FACO
 Mrs Susan Kalff FACO
 Mr Chris Katopodis FACO
 A/Prof Peter Keller FACO
 Mr Ian Kent FACO
 Mr John Kingshott FACO
 Mr Michael Knipe AM FACO
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 Dr Graham Lakkis FACO
 Mr Sam Lauriola FACO
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 Mr Peter Martin FACO
 Mr Andrew Maver FACO
 Mr Christopher McDonald FACO
 Mr Ross McDowell FACO
 Mr Kurt Mechkaroff FACO
 A/Prof Andrew Metha FACO
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 Dr Margaret Squires FACO
 Mr Gregory Strachan FACO
 Mrs Susanne Strachan FACO
 Mrs Hayley Supple FACO
 Mrs Pamela Sutton FACO
 Mr Kenneth Thomas FACO
 Mr Neville Turner FACO
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 Dr Stephen Vincent FACO
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 A/Prof Richard Vojlay FACO
 Ms Jean Walters FACO
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 A/Prof Rodney Watkins AM
 FACO
 Dr Harrison Weisinger
 FACO
 Mrs Carolyn West FACO
 Mr David West FACO
 Dr Anne Weymouth FACO
 Mr Darryl Wilson FACO
 Mr David Wilson FACO
 Ms Rosemary Wilson FACO
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 A/Prof Craig Woods FACO
 Dr Yota Yoshimitsu FACO
 Mr Konstantinos Zagoritis
 FACO
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 Ms Sarah Augenstein
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 Miss Meesha Babhoota
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 Mrs Lucinda Bailey
 Mr Raman Bains
 Mr Tarek Bakri
 Mrs Kirsty Banfield
 Mr Bassil Bardan
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 Mr Thomas Bennett
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 Mr Satya Bhasale
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 Miss Grace Brennan
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 Ms Sonja Brock
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 Mrs Elaine Bryant
 Mr Evan Bryant
 Mr Matthew Buckis
 Mr John Buckley
 Miss Natalie Buckman
 Miss Katie Bui
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 Mr Kai Cao
 Miss Virginia Carlton
 Miss Laura Carson
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 Mr David Chatman
 Miss Diana Chau
 Ms Catherine Cheah
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 Miss Yu-Li Chen
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Mr Matthew Dang	Ms Rayan El Haouli	Miss Victoria Grimsey	Ms Claire Jackson
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Miss Devina Daniel	Mr Javierr Elisan	Miss Natalie Guillon	Mr John Jalowicki
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Mr Jacob Davydov	Miss Tsz Ying Fa	Miss Alice Hall	Ms Anne-Marie Jayatilake
Miss Wendy Dawson	Ms Haroula Fantaoutsakis	Miss Madeleine Hall	Mrs Michelle Jedwood
Mr Michael De Felice	Mr Daniel Farrugia	Ms Susan Hallissy	Miss Hannah Jeffcott
Miss Bethany De Jong	Ms Anne Fernandez	Mr Peter Haman	Mr Robert Jenkinson
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Miss Joanna Del Rosario	Miss Emma Flynn	Mr Yunus Hassan	Ms Nilmini John
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Ms Laura Delnema	Miss Jessica Foong	Miss Mahsa Hassanpour	Miss Evelyn Jolayemi
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Mr Scott Dennett	Mrs Michele Foster	Mr David Hendry	Miss Daeun Jung
Mr Mark DePaola	Miss Nuzula Fouz	Mr Aaron Henry	Ms Julia Kabov
Miss Dilani Dewage Dona	Ms Nicole Franklin	Ms Emily Henry	Miss Katrina Kalff
Miss Vaishali Dhanji	Miss Katrina French	Miss Jacqui Henwood	Prof Michael Kalloniatis
Mr Salvatore Di Falco	Miss Miranda Friend	Miss Alissa Hermann	Miss Pauline Kang
Miss Danielle Di Pasquale	Mr Cheng-Li Fu	Mr Scott Hetheron	Mr Lawrence Yu-Lin Kao
Miss Renee Di Pietro	Miss Rowena Fuller	Ms Elisse Higginbotham	Mr Chris Karanasio
Miss Charndpreet Dillon	Miss Olivia Furlan	Mr Luke Higgins	Dr Ritika Kataria
Ms Carla Dinardo	Mr Laurence Fusillo	Mr Cayden Hill	Ms Manleen Kaur
Miss Huyen Dinh	Miss Heshani Gajaweera	Mrs Julia Hill	Mrs Bahar Kayali
Mr Stuart Dinnison	Mr Christopher Gale	Mrs Carol Hinch	Mr Alex Kaye
Miss Fatima Dirani	Ms Carolyn Galloway	Miss An-Thien Ho	Miss Marijka Keane
Miss Belinda Do	Miss Melanie Galloway	Mr Huy Ho	Mr Phillip Kearney
Ms Jacinta Do	Miss Ani Galoyan	Mr Richard Ho	Mr Dominic Kelly
Miss Jenny Do	Miss Meri Galoyan	Miss Sharon Ho	Ms Danielle Keogh
Mr Kieren Do	Miss Jayami Ganepola	Miss Melissa Hoang	Mr John Khalil
Ms Lan-Nhi Do	Mr Dean Garnett	Miss Sally Hoang	Miss Lauren Kharsas
Mr David Dohee Kim	Ms Lori Gaterell	Miss Sao Mai Hoang	Ms Hana Khoo
Mr Lawrance Dove	Ms Melissa Genovesi	Miss Silvie Hoang	Ms Lee Peng Khor
Mr Rory Dowdall	Miss Jessica Gerges	Mr Rodney Hodge	Miss Chan Mi Kim
Mrs Melissa Downing	Mr Stephen Giacon	Miss Sophie Holmberg	Mr Daegy Kim
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Miss Jacqueline Xuan Duong	Mr Russell Glasser	Mr Zhiying Hu	Miss Nicky Kiparissis
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Mr John Duong	Miss Emily Glover	Mr Jamie Hua	Mr Gordon Kirk
	Ms Sena Gocuk	Ms Rose Huang	Miss Jacqueline Kirkman

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Mrs Katrina Koenig	Miss Yi Li	Mr Timothy Martin	Mr Clifton Ng
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Mrs Louise Kowalski	Mr Ian Liley	Ms Lori Matthews	Miss Simon Ngo
Mr Henry Kruszewski	Miss Amanda Lim	Mrs Michelle McCambridge	Miss Van Phuong Kim Ngo
Mrs Catherine Kubale	Miss Amy Lim	Mr Paul McCann	Mr Andrew Nguyen
Mr Andre Kupfer	Mr Bing Sheng Lim	Miss Kate McCarthy	Catherine Nguyen
Miss Diana Kurne	Mr Ching Lim	Mr Stewart McConnell	Miss Diana Nguyen
Mr Yu Chen Kwek	Mr James Lin	Ms Kaye McCraw	Ms Hong Tuyet Thi Nguyen
Miss Rachael Kwok	Mr Jui-Chieh Lin	Ms Hayley McDonald	Miss Jennifer Nguyen
Miss Bianca Kwong	Miss Katie Lin	Ms Janet McDonald	Miss Julie Nguyen
Miss Ngoc La	Mr Rui Lin	Mr Robert McIlroy	Mr Kenneth Nguyen
Ms Isabella La Rocca	Miss Wan Ching Lin	Ms Jeanine McKenzie	Mr Kevin Nguyen
Mr John Lacey	Miss Jade Lindsay	Mr Robert McQualter	Miss Lanchi Nguyen
Miss Katrina Lacy	Miss Yien Yien Ling	Ms Afsaneh Mehrabkhani	Miss Lieu Nguyen
Mrs Bao Minh Lam	Miss Lu Liu	Ms Anna Melrose	Miss Linda Nguyen
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Miss Erin Lam	Mr Simon Liu	Dr James Merrington	Miss Nga Nguyen
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Mr Steven Lam	Ms Yuqian Liu	Mr Youssef Messiha	Mr Nhon Nguyen
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Miss Annie Lee	Ms Hue Ly	Miss Jessica Moore	Ms Muna Nor
Mr David Lee	Mr John Ly	Mr Thomas Moore	Mr Brendan Norden
Ms Helen Lee	Mr Richard Ly	Mr Thomas Morton	Dr Rebecca Nowaczek
Miss Helen Gihee Lee	Miss Tuyet Quan-Sharon Ly	Ms Anna Moss	Miss Jenning Nuguid
Mrs Hie Rin Lee	Mr Bruce Ma	Mr Christopher Mouser	Mr Paul Obedoza
Miss Tiffany Lee	Miss Karen Ma	Ms Rosalyn Moyle	Mr Kevin O'Brien
Mrs Julianne Lehmann	Ms Wendy Ma	Mr Soumya Mukherjee	Mrs Mary O'Brien
Mr Richard Lenne	Miss Rebecca MacAllan	Mrs Felicity Mullette	Miss Sally O'Brien
Mrs Suzanne Lenne	Mr Graeme Mackenzie	Ms Nelly Munckhof	Mr David Olver
Mr David Leong	Miss Elena-Marie Macris	Mrs Rahaf Murad	Ms Margaret O'Neill
Mr Simon Leong	Mr Ashley Madeira		Miss Edith Oporek
Miss Anne Le-Pham	Miss Sofia Mahmood		

Mrs Sabine Ostrowski	Mr Simon Routson	Miss Samantha Sturgess	Miss Melissa Ung
Miss Ambhruni Padhye	Miss Linda Rozitis	Miss Anna Su	Mrs Rajinder Uppal
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Mr Peter Roth	Miss Kyra Stretton		

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 Mr Kien Wong
 Mr Kin Wong
 Mr Thomas Wong
 Miss Marguerita Worm
 Miss Ching Yi Wu
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 Mr Ruo Bing Wu
 Mr William Wu
 Mr Ian Wynn
 Mr William Xiao
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 Mr Hee Sung Yang
 Miss Sarah Yang
 Ms Yutong Yang
 Miss Sarah Yassine
 Mr Michael Yen
 Mr Chun Peng Yeow
 Mr William Yip
 Mr Ju Youn
 Ms Catherine Young
 Ms Dorline Young
 Miss Elaine Yu
 Mr Matthew Yu
 Miss Janet Yuen
 Mrs Maya Zakzouk
 Mr Michael Zammit
 Miss Estelle Zhao
 Mr Xiaolin Zhou
 Miss Yingqiu Zhu
 Ms Lei Alice Zhuang

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 Mr Tim Connell
 Ms Jolanda de Jong
 Hon Paul Lucas
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe
 Mr Mark O'Sullivan
 Mr David Polonsky

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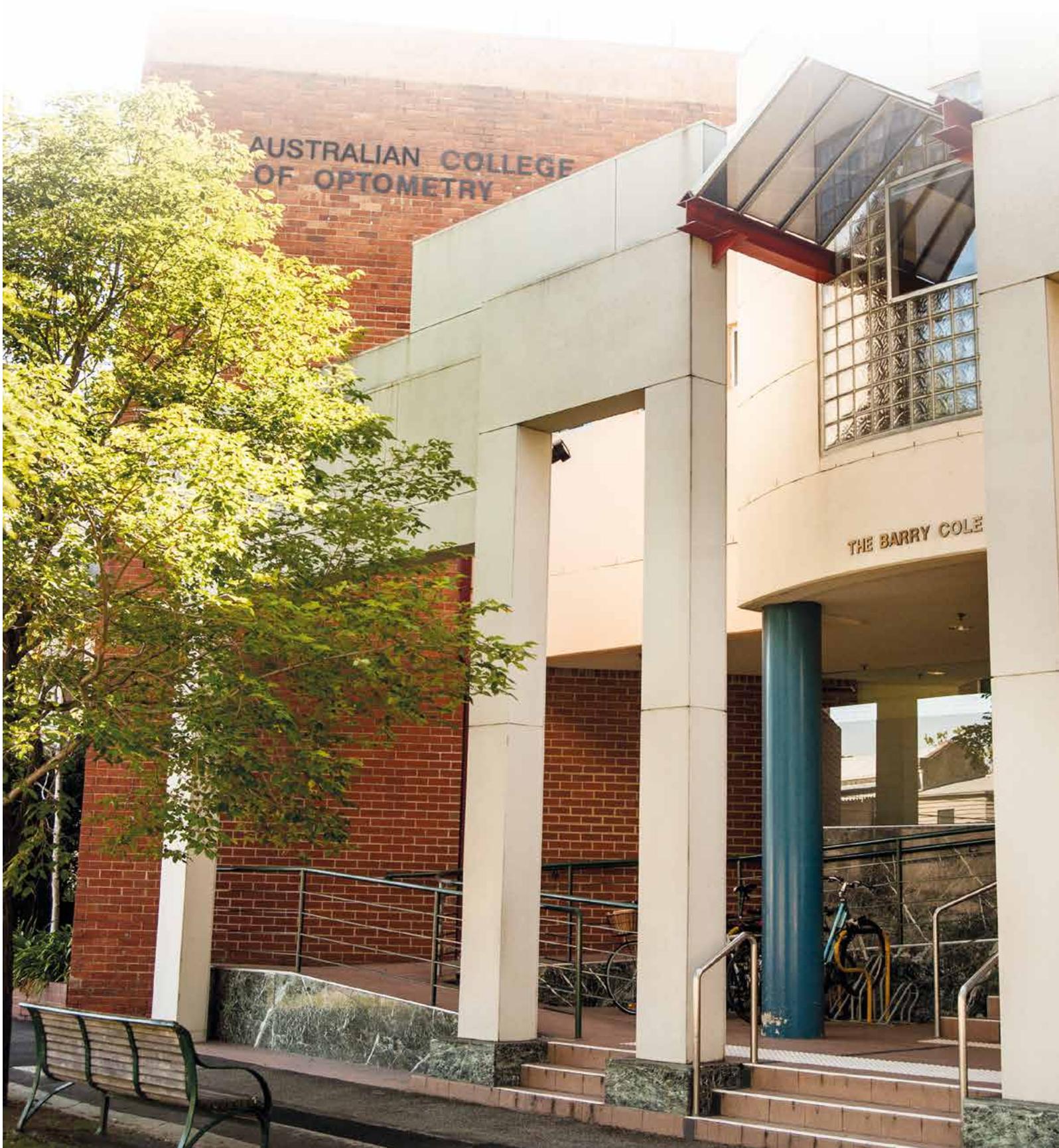
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 Ms Kirily Bowen
 Mr Ian Breadon FACO
 Mr John Buckley
 Miss Susan Callahan FACO
 Mr Christopher Chong FACO
 Mr Philip Clem
 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM FACO
 Mrs Jennie Cooke
 Ms Jenny Cooke FACO
 Mr Bill Cutler
 Dr Paris Deliyannis FACO
 Ms Rachel Denham FACO
 Mr Ian Douglas FACO
 Mr Lawrance Dove
 Ms Sally Doyle FACO
 Prof Nathan Efron AC FACO
 Mr John Farmer OAM FACO
 Mr Daniel Farrugia
 Mr Bryan Fuller FACO
 Mr Malcolm Gin FACO
 Mr Kenneth Gregory FACO
 A/Prof Ulrike Grunert
 Ms Tania Hartung FACO
 Ms Elizabeth Hatfield FACO
 Ms Sandra Heaney
 Mr Anthony Hogan
 Mr Mark Hornitzky
 Mr Glenn Howell FACO
 Mr Bassam Issa
 A/Prof Robert Jacobs FACO
 Mr Stephen Jones FACO
 Mr Chris Katopodis FACO
 Mr Michael Knipe AM FACO
 Mr Josef Krusche
 Dr Graham Lakkis FACO
 Mr Sam Lauriola FACO
 Mr Mark Letts FACO
 Mr Peter Lewis OAM
 Mr Richard Lindsay FACO
 Prof Ted Maddess
 Mr Ashley Madeira
 Ms Julia Mainstone
 Mr Ian McBeath
 Mr Paul McCann
 Mr Christopher McDonald FACO
 Mr John McGibbony
 Mr Robert McIlroy
 Mr Bruce Mellick
 Mr Peter Mildren
 Ms Paula Monaco FACO
 Mr James Moran FACO
 Mrs Joanne Pathe
 Prof Konrad Pesudovs FACO
 Ms Elise Pocknee
 Mr Lloyd Preston
 Mr David Pye
 Miss Loan Quach
 Mr Neil Roche FACO
 Mrs Anne Russell FACO
 Mr Stephen Ryan
 Ms Daniela Scalora
 Mrs Jenni Sorraghan FACO
 Mr David Southgate
 Mrs Jennifer Spicer
 Dr Margaret Squires FACO
 Mr Murray Stanley
 Mrs Pamela Sutton FACO
 Mr Andrew Thomas
 Mr Christopher Thomson
 Mr Anthony Van Aalst
 A/Prof Richard Vojlay FACO
 Mrs Rosalyn Voullaire
 Mr Stephen Wakeling
 Mr Richard Watt
 Mr Robert Webster
 Mr Matthew Wells
 Mrs Carolyn West FACO
 Mr David West FACO
 Miss Faye Whelan
 Mr Bruce Willis
 Mr Thomas Wong
 Dr Yen Yap
 Dr Steve Zantos
 Mr Robert Zent FACO

AUDITED CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The Responsible Persons (the Councillors) present their report on the Australian College of Optometry (the College) and its controlled entities (collectively the consolidated group) for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

Councillors

The names of the Councillors of the College in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial year are:

K Pesudovs
 P Lucas
 M Anjou
 G McColl
 S Byrne
 M O'Keefe
 M Downing (from 25 May 2016)
 N Efron (until 25 May 2016)
 A Gentle
 A Harris (until 25 May 2016)
 D Gronow (until 31 January 2016* and from 27 February 2017)
 M O'Sullivan (from 17 February 2016 until 13 February 2017)
 T Spicer* (until 7 February 2016)
 B Hamlyn (from 25 May 2016)

* At its meeting in June 2015, the Council granted a leave of absence to Trevor Spicer. As permitted under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), Trevor Spicer appointed Denise Gronow to act as an alternate director from 1 August 2015 to 31 January 2016.

The Councillors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Consolidated Group

The Australian College of Optometry is appointed as Trustee to the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust and the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust. The Councillors of the College are appointed as Trustees to the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The Councillors of the College consider it is a reporting entity as defined by AASB 1053 and the general purpose financial statements of the Australian College of Optometry have been prepared under Section 60-95 of the ACNC Act. In preparing these financial statements, the ACO has included controlled entities that are part of the 'ACNC reporting group' consolidated in these financial statements as follows:

- The Trustee for Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust;

- The Trustee for NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust; and
- The Trustee for the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The College holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Principal Activities

The object of the College is to undertake public charitable activities in Australia to promote the prevention and / or the control of disease in human beings.

The principal activities of the consolidated group in the course of the year have been the provision of affordable eyecare services, principally to communities experiencing disadvantage; the advancement of eye and vision care through research; and to support the education of current and new generations of optometrists."

"There were no significant changes in the nature of the consolidated group's principal activities during the financial year. In addition, the operations of the College remained essentially unchanged in 2016.

The income and property of the College must be used and applied solely in promotion of its objects and no portion will be dismantled, paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or by way of profit to Members. The assets and income of the Trust Funds must be used solely for the furtherance of its' objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Funds.

Short-term and Long-term Objectives

The ACO Council has approved the College's strategic plan for 2015 – 2019.

The entity's short-term objectives are to:

- stabilise the College's surplus position to enable reinvestment in projects and services
- continue to strengthen and develop the Victorian Eyecare Service in partnership with the Victorian Government
- strengthen the national reach of the College, including the provision of services to communities most in need
- work constructively and collaboratively with other public health eye care providers
- enhance engagement with Commonwealth and Victorian primary health care networks
- strengthen and diversify research through the National Vision Research Institute
- engage with our members, supporters and donors

The entity's medium to long-term objectives are to:

- **lead clinical best practice** by promoting and demonstrating leading practice in the provision of clinical eye care services
- **deliver valued public health eye care services** aimed at improving patients' lives through the provision of general and specialised optometric care to communities most in need
- **deliver world class research**, advancing knowledge in vision sciences and the diseases and disorders that impact on vision to improve patient care and health outcomes
- **deliver a high quality programme of education**, aimed at developing the knowledge and skills of optometry students and optometrists to practice
- **maintain a strong, effective and sustainable organisation** by continuously improving and developing our people, our resources and infrastructure, and effectively communicating and building relationships with our key stakeholders

Strategies

Business plans and operational budgets for each Division are in place which set out the specific strategies adopted to support the achievement of the overall short-term and long-term objectives.

Key Performance Measures

The College measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks, including benchmarks relating to patient numbers, clinic occupancy and productivity, membership and key financial indicators. The benchmarks are used by management and the Council to assess the financial sustainability of the College and whether the College's short-term and long-term objectives have been achieved. The Council has not identified any additional actions that need to be taken arising from this process.

This work continues to be supported by a range of management committees, with oversight of risk and financial performance issues by the Finance and Risk Committee which is scheduled to meet at least four times during each year.

Operating Results and Review of Operations

The results for the year for the College and the Consolidated Group are summarised as follows:

	Consolidated Group		College	
	2016 \$	2015 \$ (Restated)	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	15,629,383	14,583,626	15,536,350	14,375,331
Expenses	(15,544,712)	(14,569,696)	(15,503,828)	(14,494,052)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	84,671	13,930	32,522	(118,721)
Other comprehensive income	355,130	43,632	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	439,801	57,562	32,522	(118,721)

The consolidated group surplus for the year was \$84,671 (2015: surplus \$13,930).

The net assets of the consolidated group at 31 December 2016 were \$21,757,681 (2015: \$21,317,880).

The College is exempt from income tax and therefore no provision for income tax has been made.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the consolidated group's state of affairs during the financial year.

Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the consolidated group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the consolidated group in future financial years.

Likely Events and Expected Results of Operations

Likely developments in the operations of the consolidated group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the consolidated group.

Environmental Regulation

The operations of the consolidated group are not subject to any significant environmental regulation under the laws of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territories.

Information on Councillors

PRESIDENT
Professor Konrad Pesudovs

BScOptom PhD
PGDipAdvClinOptom MCOptom
GAICD FACO FAAO FCCLSA



Professor Pesudovs was elected to Council in 2010 and was appointed to the position of President in June 2016. He is the Foundation Chair of Optometry and Vision Science at Flinders University and a Director on the Flinders University Council. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His past governance experience includes roles as a Councillor of the SA Division of the Optometrists Association of Australia from 1992-1996, as Vice President from 1993. Professor Pesudovs was also on the committee of the SA Chapter of the Contact Lens Society of Australia from 1993-2000, President between 1994-1996. Professor Pesudovs is a member of the editorial boards of three professional journals having previously sat on another five.

the University of Melbourne. Mitchell served for over 10 years on the Optometrist Registration Board of Victoria, including five as Deputy Chair, and was subsequently an appointed member of the Registration and Notifications Committee of the Optometry Board of Australia for six years. He is a Director of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand and founding member of the Public Health Optometry Group (PHOG). His other professional involvements include Optometry Australia and Vision 2020 Australia Aboriginal eye health committees and Optometry Victoria Optometric Sector Advisory Group. Mitchell is co-author of the Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision, the policy framework nationally adopted to achieve equitable vision and eye care outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. He publishes, presents, advises and advocates in support of this work. Mitchell's many contributions to optometry and public health, particularly the eye health of Indigenous people, were recognised in the 2013 Australia Day honours when he became a Member of the Order of Australia.

Mitchell Anjou AM

MScOptom BScOptom FACO



Mitchell Anjou was elected to Council in 2015 and holds a position on the College's Executive Committee. He is also a member of the College's Finance & Risk Committee. He has been a member of the Australian College of Optometry since 1982 and a Fellow since 1985. He worked at the ACO for over 22 years as a clinician, educator and manager up to 2010. Since then he has been employed at The University of Melbourne as an Academic Specialist, Senior Research Fellow in Indigenous Eye Health in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. After initial training as an optometrist at the University of Melbourne, Mitchell was awarded his Master's degree for research undertaken at the National Vision Research Institute of Australia. After a period of overseas travel, he took up a position as staff optometrist in the Melbourne Optometry Clinic at the ACO. He was appointed Director of the Clinic in 1991 and was also a senior fellow and coordinator of the clinical school for the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences in

Sarah Byrne

PRI NMAS GAICD BA LLB



Sarah Byrne is the Principal of First Degree Legal and has over 25 years' experience in public law, health law, corporate governance, and related policy development. Positions she has held include General Counsel for the Australian Medical Association and two Commonwealth Government Departments, ACT Public Advocate, Deputy CEO of the ACT Justice & Community Safety Department, and Executive Director with responsibility (inter alia) for Research Integrity and Corporate Governance for the National Health & Medical Research Council. She has served on the boards of several non-profit arts organisations and three NHMRC Partnership Centres, and is the lawyer on the Commonwealth Department of Health's Human Research Ethics Committee, having been an in-house lawyer in that Department for some years. She is an accredited mediator, and has particular interest and expertise in information law, health and medical research law and ethics, employment law and governance in the public and non-profit sectors. She is currently also Chair of the College's Human Research Ethics Committee.

Melissa Downing

B.Sci. B. Optom (Hons)
GradCertOcTher
(from 25 May 2016)



Melissa Downing was elected to the ACO Council in 2016. Melissa studied her undergraduate science and optometry degrees, and attained therapeutic endorsement through the University of Melbourne. Melissa has worked in a wide range of independent and corporate optometry businesses including in regional locations. From 2003 Melissa was involved with education committees for both OA Victoria and the ACO, highlighting her passion for pertinent continuing education for optometrists. Melissa is also passionate about developing quality graduate optometrists and was a Clinical Instructor for the University of Melbourne for several years. Melissa's 6 years on the OA Victoria Board including 4 years as President and range of sub-committees, gives her the governance skills and experience to contribute to the ACO council in shaping the next generations of optometrists and providing accessible eye care for the community.

and, most recently, the SMAC of the OBA. He was appointed to Deakin University in 2012, where he currently holds the Chair in Vision Science and is Associate Head of School for Teaching and Learning in the School of Medicine. He played an integral role in conceiving, designing and delivering Deakin's new Optometry Program.

Denise Gronow

CA (to 31 January 2016 and from
27 February 2017)



Denise Gronow was appointed as Honorary Treasurer and as Chair of the College's Finance & Risk Committee in February 2017, having held the position of independent member of the Finance & Risk Committee since March 2014. Denise previously acted as an alternate director on ACO Council between August 2015 and January 2016. Denise is a qualified chartered accountant with significant experience working at a senior level in both in the professional practice and banking sectors.

**VICE PRESIDENT
Professor Alex Gentle**

BSc GCertUniTeach
PGCertOcTher PhD FAAO FAGO
FCOptom



Alex Gentle was elected to Council during 2012 and, as well as holding the position of Vice President, has held the position of Chair of the College's Human Research Ethics Committee and is the current Chair of the NVRI Board of Administration. He obtained his optometry degree at City University and completed pre-registration training at Moorfields Eye Hospital, in London. His PhD studies, at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and his post-doctoral research, at the University of Melbourne, reflected his broader interest in the mechanisms of ocular and refractive development and a specific interest in scleral biochemistry. In 2014, he was part of the research team honoured with the American Academy of Optometry's Garland W. Clay Award. Alex underwent ocular therapeutics training at the University of Melbourne and, since then, his teaching duties have spanned the ocular biological sciences, ocular disease and therapeutics, and clinical optometry. His overarching interest in optometric education has led him to deliver continuing education to practising optometrists and other health professionals. A continuing interest in ocular therapeutics also led Alex to serve on the PPAC of the ORBV

Ben Hamlyn

BOptom (Hons), GradCertOcTher
(from 25 May 2016)



Ben Hamlyn was elected to Council in 2016. Mr Hamlyn studied his undergraduate optometry degree in Queensland and attained therapeutic endorsement through the University of New South Wales. Ben has spent much of his professional life working in regional and remote locations across the Northern Territory and South Australia. In this time he has worked with the Fred Hollows Foundation, Brien Holden Vision Institute and the outreach ophthalmology service in Central Australia. He is passionate about ensuring quality eye care is available to all. Ben was first appointed to the board of Optometry South Australia (then Optometrists Association Australia, SA) in 2011 and continues in this role. He has been a member of a number of committees and working groups both regionally and nationally for the OA. In 2014 he became a lecturer at Flinders University, Discipline of Optometry where he has a key role in developing students' skills in the course. Ben recognises the importance of quality graduate optometrists in ensuring a vibrant profession into the future.

The Honorable Paul Lucas

BEcon LLB MBA MURP Prof Cert
Arb FAICD CMILT



Paul Lucas is a non-executive director and consultant. He has held Board positions with and consulted to public and private sector transport and infrastructure related corporations including Airservices Australia and Powerlink. He is Deputy Chair of the Queensland Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and a Board member at the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the Australian College of Optometry. He lectures at a postgraduate level in Strategic Metropolitan and Transport & Infrastructure Planning. He is an Adjunct Professor at Australian Catholic University and Bond University and a Governance, Infrastructure and Public Policy Consultant with University of Queensland International Development. He is a Solicitor by profession and was Deputy Premier for 4 years and a Minister in the Queensland State Government for 11 years. His Ministerial responsibilities included Infrastructure & Planning; Transport & Main Roads; Local Government; Energy; Health; and Attorney-General. He was involved in many large transport infrastructure projects in South-East Queensland including: Springfield Rail Line; Varsity Lakes Extension; Salisbury-Kuraby Duplication; Inner-Northern Busway; Northern Busway; Boggo Road Busway; Eastern Busway; Tugun Bypass; AirportLink; & Gateway Upgrade Project. He was also Minister responsible for the South-East Qld Regional Plan. He was responsible for managing the State's relationship with the Federal Government and Local Government on many of these projects.

Professor Geoff McColl

BMedSc BS MB PhD Med



Geoff McColl is Head of the Melbourne Medical School and Professor of Medical Education and Training. Since 2008 he has led the development and implementation of the new Melbourne MD. He has previously held the positions of Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and Clinical Dean of the Royal Melbourne Hospital/Western Hospital Clinical School. His undergraduate medical training was completed at the University of Melbourne including a BMedSc at the Repatriation General Hospital. After internship and residency at the Austin and Repatriation General Hospitals

he completed advanced training in rheumatology attaining his FRACP in 1992. He completed a PhD examining antigen-specific immune responses in patients with recent-onset rheumatoid arthritis at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 1996 and a Master of Education in 2008 describing the methods used by clinician educators to improve diagnostic reasoning skills in medical students. Professor McColl is a visiting rheumatologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and past president of the Australian Rheumatology Association. He has also been a member of Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee since 2005 and Chair of the Drug Utilisation Subcommittee since 2013. Professor McColl's current research interests are related to the teaching and assessment of diagnostic reasoning skills in medical students.

Ms Maureen O'Keefe

BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA GAICD



Maureen O'Keefe was appointed as CEO of the Australian College of Optometry in March 2013, having spent the previous seven years as COO at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. Maureen holds a Masters in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours and a Diploma in Education. In addition, Maureen is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Williamson Community Leadership Program and an Executive Education Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Maureen has spent her career in higher education, research and health organisations and has more than fifteen years experience in senior executive roles. Maureen was previously a member of the Council of the Victorian Cancer Agency for 6 years, including two years as a member of the VCA Clinical Trials Working Group. Maureen is currently a Board member of the BioMelbourne Network (since 2011), Vision2020 Australia (since 2013) and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science and Technology Governance Board (since 2015). Maureen was appointed to the Victorian Department of Health's Clinical Trial Research Consultative Council for a 2-year term from July 2014 to June 2016.

**Professor Nathan Efron
AC**

BScOptom PhD DSc FAAO (Dip
CCLRT) FIACLE FCCLSA FBCLA
FACO (until 25 May 2016)



Nathan Efron has had a long association with the College, having joined in 1977. He was appointed as a Fellow of the College in 1989, soon after the Fellowship scheme was introduced. Professor Efron served on the then Board of Continuing Education of the College from 1977 to 1989, and actively participated in many courses. Professor Efron joined the Council of the College in 2011. He served as Chairman of the Board of Administration of the National Vision Research Institute of Australia from 2011 to 2012, and was President of the College from 2012 until May 2016.

Mr. Andrew Harris

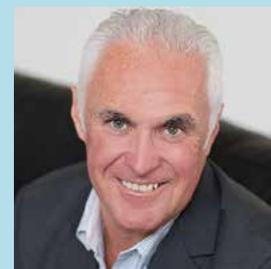
BScOptom FACO GradCertOT
(until 25 May 2016)



Mr. Harris was elected to Council in 2010 and held the position of President until January 2012. Mr. Harris was President of the Optometrists Association of Australia (OAA) from 2007 to 2010 and late 2011 to 2014. Mr. Harris has served on the boards of both the National and State Divisions of Optometry Australia from 1995 until late 2014. Mr. Harris has also been a board member of the National Vision Research Institute from 2006 until 2012. Mr. Harris's career highlights include working as a Senior Clinician at the University of Melbourne Department of Vision Sciences, as a Consultant at the Royal Melbourne Hospital eye clinic and in Aboriginal communities in outback NSW. Mr. Harris has run his own private optometry practice in North Melbourne for the past 25 years.

Mark O'Sullivan

BEC FICAA FFin MAICD
(from 17 February 2016 until
13 February 2017)



Mark was appointed to Council in February 2016 and was re-elected in May 2016. He was partner at a global professional services firm for 17 years until mid 2014 when having spent 3 weeks a month of the last 10 years overseas, he decided to have period of time at home with his family. Mark's career has focused solely on the financial services industry specialising in asset management. Mark was also responsible for several ASX listed clients and has deep, extensive experience on risk, corporate governance and operations. Mark is a member of the NSW Department of Financial Services & Innovation main Audit and Risk Committee as well as that Department's Property and Housing Group's Audit & Risk Management Committee. Mark held the positions of Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the College's Finance & Risk Committee from February 2016 until February 2017.

Mr Trevor Spicer

BBus CPA AFAIM MAICD
(until 7 February 2016)



Mr Spicer was appointed to Council in 2013 and held the position of Honorary Treasurer of the College until his resignation in February 2016.

Meetings of Council

During the financial year, seven (7) meetings of Council were held. Attendance by each Councillor during the year was as follows:

	Councillor meetings	Meetings attended
K Pesudovs	7	6
M Anjou	7	6
S Byrne	7	7
M Downing (from 25 May 2016)	4	4
A Gentle	7	5
D Gronow (until 31 January 2016 and from 27 February 2017)	-	-
B Hamlyn (from 25 May 2016)	4	3
P Lucas	7	5
G McColl	7	5
M O'Keefe	7	7
N Efron (until 25 May 2016)	3	3
A Harris (until 25 May 2016)	3	3
M O'Sullivan (from 17 February 2016 until 13 February 2017)	6	4
T Spicer (until 7 February 2016)	-	-

In addition, the Council also met on one (1) other occasion for a strategic planning event.

Guarantee by Members

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 31 December 2016, the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$39,350 (2015: \$36,550).

Indemnification and Insurance of Officers and Auditors

The College provides insurance cover to Councillors and Officers against loss for which they may not be indemnified by the College arising from any claim by reason of any wrongful act committed by them in their capacity as a Councillor or Officer. This policy also covers the College against any legal payment which is made arising out of a claim by reason of any wrongful act committed by any Councillor or Officer of the College. The amount of the premium paid in respect of this insurance contract is not included as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

The Auditors of the College are not indemnified out of assets of the College.

Proceedings on Behalf of the College

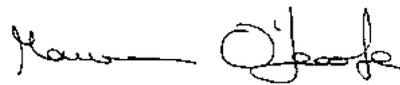
No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the College or intervene in any proceedings to which the College is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the College for all or any part of those proceedings.

The College was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.



Konrad Pesudovs
President



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 26th day of April 2017

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

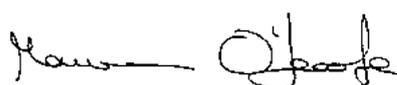
The Responsible Persons (the Councillors) of the Australian College of Optometry declare that the concise financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities (Consolidated Group), comprising the consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity, consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements set out herein for the financial year ended 31 December 2016:

- a. complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports; and
- b. is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2016 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.



Konrad Pesudovs
President



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 26th day of April 2017

Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Statements

Information on the Australian College of Optometry Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report is an extract of and is derived from the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the financial year ended 31 December 2016. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report from which this is derived will be sent to any member, free of charge, on request. This discussion and analysis is provided to assist members in understanding the concise financial report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

The consolidated surplus from ordinary activities, including income from Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund, NVRI Governors Fund and Beresford Cambridge Bequest, was \$84,671 (2015: \$13,930). The total comprehensive income of the consolidated group for the year is \$439,801 (2015: \$57,562).

Revenue for the Consolidated Group increased by 7.2% to \$15,629,383. However, these income figures included one-off grants of \$30,160 (2015: \$20,206) to fund capital expenditure projects. Excluding these capital expenditure grants results in underlying operating income of \$15,599,223 (2015: \$14,563,420). Consolidated income in 2016 included a surplus from sale of the investments in the trust funds of \$78,380 (2015: \$43,576). Key factors to note are as follows:

ACO

- The College saw income increase by 8.1% to \$15,536,350 and expenditure grew by 7.0% to \$15,503,828.
- During 2016, the College continued to be supported in delivery of its services through the Victorian Government Department of Health (Ageing & Aged Care Branch) and the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, with Government grants forming 44.8% of its income (2015: 46.4%).
- Within the Professional Development Division, a focus on ensuring a quality continuing professional development program and annual conference, resulted in an income from these activities of \$710,662 during 2016 (2015: \$689,778).
- The National Vision Research Institute ('NVRI') continued to receive support from the Victorian Lions Foundation during 2016.

Trust funds

Total Trust Fund investment income was \$423,472 (2015: \$424,811) and, after distribution to the NVRI, the funds returned a surplus of \$52,149 (2015: \$132,651).

Statement of Financial Position and Changes in Equity Net assets of the consolidated group, including the Trust Fund, increased by 2.1% to \$21,757,681. Details of the net assets of the consolidated group are set out on page 87.

Within its Statement of Financial Position, the consolidated group maintains a strong financial position, with total property, plant and equipment of \$9,936,488 (2015: \$9,959,509) and cash and total financial assets of \$14,997,766 (2015: \$14,200,842). At 31 December 2016, the consolidated group retained surpluses stood at \$16,338,511, a 0.5% increase from the previous year. The Reserves stood at \$5,419,170 a 7% increase from the previous year. A full analysis of changes in equity is set out on page 88.

Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash outflow during 2016, as set out on page 89, was \$883,568 (2015: inflow \$183,048), comprising a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$726,258 (2015: inflow \$235,987). A cash outflow from investing activities of \$1,609,826 (2015: outflow \$52,939).

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Australian College of Optometry



Report on the concise financial report

We have audited the accompanying concise financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities (the consolidated group), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, derived from the audited financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2016, as well as the discussion and analysis. The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and accordingly, reading the concise financial report is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report.

Responsible Persons' responsibility for the concise financial report

The responsible persons are responsible for the preparation of the concise financial report in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the concise financial report.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the concise financial report based on our procedures which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810: Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements. We have conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 26th April 2017. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the concise financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the concise financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control

relevant to the entity's preparation of the concise financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Our procedures included testing that the information in the concise financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of audit evidence supporting the amounts, discussion and analysis, and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion on whether, in all material respects, the concise financial report complies with AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and whether the discussion and analysis complies with the requirements laid down in AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the ACNC Act. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the responsible persons of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities, would be in the same terms if given to the responsible persons as at the time of this auditor's report.

Opinion

In our opinion, the concise financial report including the discussion and analysis of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2016 complies with Accounting standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES

PO BOX 82 BALWYN
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3103
ABN 26 028 714 960

McBain McCartin & Co
Chartered Accountants

123 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 26th April 2017

Simon Aukstin (CA)
Partner

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Optical services	5,235,069	4,727,695	5,235,069	4,727,695
Membership	172,664	172,616	172,664	172,616
Property services	136,417	127,240	136,417	127,240
Research and Education	1,270,724	1,297,463	1,274,660	1,297,463
Government grants	6,994,908	6,761,080	6,994,908	6,761,080
Non-government grants, trusts and donations	967,765	648,988	1,282,866	857,879
Capital grants	30,160	20,206	30,160	20,206
Dividends and distribution	332,368	358,739	–	–
Interest revenue	133,248	152,264	122,524	137,393
Other	356,060	317,335	287,082	273,759
TOTAL REVENUE	15,629,383	14,583,626	15,536,350	14,375,331
EXPENSES				
Cost of goods sold	(1,146,381)	(952,563)	(1,146,381)	(952,563)
Reimbursements to optometrists	(2,247,631)	(2,172,190)	(2,247,631)	(2,172,190)
Other divisional costs	(1,017,167)	(830,523)	(1,026,569)	(830,523)
Employee expenses	(8,870,022)	(8,387,392)	(8,873,958)	(8,387,392)
Provision for employee benefits	(119,059)	(206,196)	(119,059)	(206,196)
Operating charges	(526,831)	(522,731)	(526,831)	(522,731)
Depreciation and amortisation	(778,167)	(709,557)	(778,167)	(709,557)
Insurance	(80,393)	(80,625)	(80,393)	(80,625)
Bad and doubtful debts	(23,978)	(55,107)	(23,978)	(55,107)
Other expenses	(735,083)	(652,812)	(680,861)	(577,168)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(15,544,712)	(14,569,696)	(15,503,828)	(14,494,052)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	84,671	13,930	32,522	(118,721)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ITEMS THAT MAY BE RECLASSIFIED SUBSEQUENTLY TO PROFIT OR LOSS				
Fair value gains/(losses) on available-for-sale financial assets	355,130	43,632	–	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARENT ENTITY	439,801	57,562	32,522	(118,721)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2016

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,860,147	2,743,715	1,049,980	2,450,333
Financial assets	4,405,706	2,976,421	4,405,706	2,676,421
Trade and other receivables	580,746	923,465	798,347	1,044,877
Inventories	255,370	277,031	255,370	277,031
Other assets	93,376	89,120	93,376	89,120
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	7,195,345	7,009,752	6,602,779	6,537,782
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Property, plant and equipment	9,936,488	9,959,509	9,936,488	9,959,509
Intangible assets	51,013	–	51,013	–
Financial assets	8,731,913	8,480,706	–	–
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	18,719,414	18,440,215	9,987,501	9,959,509
TOTAL ASSETS	25,914,759	25,449,967	16,590,280	16,497,291
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	1,073,989	819,745	1,117,090	827,370
Provisions	1,683,301	1,540,160	1,683,301	1,540,160
Other current liabilities	1,200,414	1,559,167	1,200,414	1,559,167
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,957,704	3,919,072	4,000,805	3,926,697
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Provisions	199,374	213,015	199,374	213,015
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	199,374	213,015	199,374	213,015
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,157,078	4,132,087	4,200,179	4,139,712
NET ASSETS	21,757,681	21,317,880	12,390,101	12,357,579
EQUITY				
Reserves	5,419,170	5,064,040	118,118	118,118
Retained surplus	16,338,511	16,253,840	12,271,983	12,239,461
TOTAL EQUITY	21,757,681	21,317,880	12,390,101	12,357,579

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	Reserves				Total \$
	Asset Revaluation- Investments \$	Contributed Equity \$	Development Fund \$	Retained Surplus \$	
CONSOLIDATED GROUP					
Balance at 1 January 2015	994,471	3,907,819	118,118	16,239,910	21,260,318
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	13,930	13,930
Other comprehensive income					
Net movement in market value of listed investments	43,632	-	-	-	43,632
Balance at 31 December 2015	1,038,103	3,907,819	118,118	16,253,840	21,317,880
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	84,671	84,671
Other comprehensive income					
Net movement in market value of listed investments	355,130	-	-	-	355,130
Balance at 31 December 2016	1,393,233	3,907,819	118,118	16,338,511	21,757,681
Total Reserves at 31 December 2016					5,419,170
COLLEGE					
Balance at 1 January 2015	-	-	118,118	12,358,182	12,476,300
Deficit for the year	-	-	-	(118,721)	(118,721)
Balance at 31 December 2015	-	-	118,118	12,239,461	12,357,579
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	32,522	32,522
Balance at 31 December 2016	-	-	118,118	12,271,983	12,390,101
Total Reserves at 31 December 2016					118,118

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts from government grants	7,299,772	7,693,380	7,299,771	7,693,380
Receipts from patients, other funding sources and members	8,653,172	7,161,269	8,920,090	7,788,960
Payments to suppliers and employees	(14,609,236)	(13,911,406)	(14,587,097)	(14,123,964)
Net GST paid	(617,450)	(707,256)	(617,450)	(707,256)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	726,258	235,987	1,015,314	651,120
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Dividends received	328,026	373,917	–	–
Interest received	134,598	155,940	123,808	137,393
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	2,772	–	2,772	–
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(756,247)	(478,979)	(756,247)	(478,979)
Purchase of intangible assets	(56,715)	–	(56,715)	–
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	6,731,322	4,920,729	5,860,489	3,384,136
Purchase of financial assets	(7,993,582)	(5,024,546)	(7,589,774)	(3,421,439)
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(1,609,826)	(52,939)	(2,415,667)	(378,889)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(883,568)	183,048	(1,400,353)	272,231
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,743,715	2,560,667	2,450,333	2,178,102
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,860,147	2,743,715	1,049,980	2,450,333

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Concise Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

Note 1: Basis of Preparation of the Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2016. The concise financial report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports, and the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The financial statements, specific disclosures and other information included in the concise financial report are derived from and are consistent with the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to any member, free of charge, upon request.

The financial report covers the Australian College of Optometry, Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust, NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust and Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust ("Controlled Entities") as the "Consolidated Group" or "Group".

The accounting policies have been consistently applied in the preparation of the Consolidated Group financial statements and are consistent with the policies of the previous financial year. The Consolidated Group financial statements were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Note 2: Presentation Currency

The concise financial statements have been prepared in Australian dollars.

Note 3: Events Subsequent To Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the consolidated group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the consolidated group in future financial years.

Consolidated Detailed Income Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2015 and 2016

CONSOLIDATED GROUP	Professional Development	Clinical Services	National Vision Research Institute	Corporate Services	Trust Funds	Intersegment Eliminations	Total
2016	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE							
External Revenue	902,351	13,185,520	1,043,083	2,965,085	423,472		18,519,511
Other Segment Revenue						(2,890,128)	(2,890,128)
	902,351	13,185,520	1,043,083	2,965,085	423,472	(2,890,128)	15,629,383
Net surplus/ (loss)	107,272	(87,211)	12,461	-	52,149	-	84,671
ASSETS							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							25,914,759
							25,914,759
LIABILITIES							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							(4,157,078)
							(4,157,078)
2015							
REVENUE							
External Revenue	879,085	12,305,950	826,606	2,657,107	424,811		17,093,559
Other Segment Revenue						(2,509,933)	(2,509,933)
	879,085	12,305,950	826,606	2,657,107	424,811	(2,509,933)	14,583,626
Net surplus/ (loss)	140,675	(236,227)	(23,169)	-	132,651	-	13,930
ASSETS							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							25,449,967
							25,449,967
LIABILITIES							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							(4,132,087)
							(4,132,087)

This Consolidated Detailed Income Statement is prepared by management and does not form part of the audited financial statements

Trust Funds Financial Position

The financial statements for the Consolidated Group include the results and net assets of:

- the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust;
- the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust; and
- the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The ACO or the ACO Council members act as the Trustees of these three internally-managed funds.

In accordance with the terms of their Trust Deeds, income from two of the internally-managed funds (Schultz

Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust and the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust), together with income from one externally-managed fund (Lions Vision Research Fund), is designated to fund vision research delivered through the National Vision Research Institute of Australia, a division of the ACO. Income for the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust is designated to fund research in to visual impairment.

The financial position and results for the Trust Funds as at 31 December 2016 is summarised as follows:

	INTERNALLY MANAGED FUNDS						EXTERNALLY MANAGED FUNDS	
	Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust		Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust		NVRI Governor's Endowment Fund Trust		Lions Vision Research Fund	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE								
(Loss) / Profit on ordinary activities	14,768	7,129	38,335	123,093	(954)	2,427	10,302	(10,873)
Net increase / (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	22,566	8,827	301,235	19,249	31,331	15,556	1,566	783
Total Changes in Equity	37,334	15,956	339,570	142,342	30,377	17,983	11,868	(10,090)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION								
Current Assets	39,807	20,300	801,472	602,024	78,013	73,787	487,749	458,084
Non Current Assets								
Shares in listed companies and units in listed trusts at market value	496,105	478,277	7,527,601	7,331,934	708,207	670,495	10,266	8,700
Total Assets	535,912	498,577	8,329,073	7,933,958	786,220	744,282	498,015	466,784
Current Liabilities	5,000	5,000	248,663	193,118	29,962	18,401	38,362	18,999
Net Assets	530,912	493,577	8,080,410	7,740,840	756,258	725,881	459,653	447,785
EQUITY								
Contributed equity	–	–	3,600,153	3,600,153	307,666	307,666	173,867	173,867
Asset revaluation reserve	45,707	23,141	1,264,465	963,230	83,062	51,731	435	(1,131)
Retained profits	485,205	470,437	3,215,792	3,177,457	365,530	366,484	285,351	275,049
Total Equity	530,912	493,578	8,010,410	7,740,840	756,258	725,881	459,653	447,785

This information is prepared by management and is extracted from the financial records of the ACO and controlled entities and of the Lions Vision Research Fund for the year ended 31 December 2016 and does not form part of the audited financial statements.



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
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