



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF  
**OPTOMETRY**

CLINICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION



NATIONAL VISION  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OF AUSTRALIA  
AN ACO DIVISION

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# ANNUAL REPORTS 2018

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# WHO WE ARE

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**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 wellbeing of the community.

## BUILD ON 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.

### **Clinical Learning Pathways:**

Over the past 79 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.

### **Focus on the disadvantaged:**

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 State Government made a key decision to establish an integrated, coordinated public health eye care program called the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES).

### **Victorian Eyecare Service:**

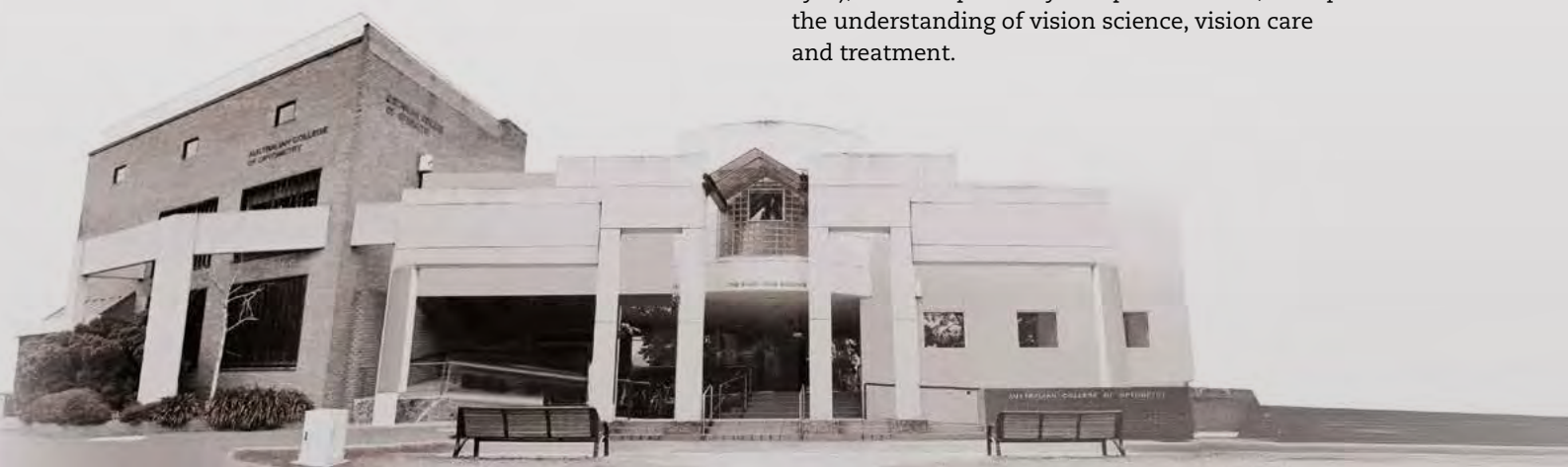
The ACO has been responsible for administering this important initiative on behalf of the Victorian State Government for over 30 years, over which time more than 2 million Victorians experiencing disadvantage and most vulnerable have benefited from quality eye care consultations and services aimed at correcting refractive error and preventing eye disease. In 2018, the ACO in partnership with rural practitioners provided 76,000 consultations and dispensed close to 50,000 spectacles or other visual aids to almost 62,000 patients across the state.

### **Victoria and beyond:**

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.

### **High impact research:**

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.





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## VISION

To achieve world leading eye health outcomes for all

## MISSION

To improve the eye health and well being of communities through innovation, partnership and leadership in:



*Clinical optometry services* providing high quality public health eye care for communities in need and leading best practice;



*Research* undertaking high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care; and



*Education* providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

## VALUES

We are led by the following values and principles:



We deeply *care* about eye health



Everything we do drives this *purpose*



Mutual *respect* guides our expectations



We foster excellence through *collaboration* with our patients, partners and teams



Our commitment to *innovation* pushes us to question and find better ways



We *deliver* what we promise to patients, partners and each other

# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

## *Clinical Optometry Services*

providing high quality public eye care for communities in need and leading best practice and standards.

## *Research*

undertaking high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care.

## *Education*

providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

## *Sustainable Organisation*

Our culture is innovative and collaborative and our people strive for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology, systems and processes. Our members and supporters are key to our success.

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Maureen O'Keefe

BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA WCLP CAICD

### **Company Secretary**

Clare Escott

BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

### **Director of Clinical Services**

Associate Professor Sharon Bentley *(until January 2018)*

BScOptom MOptom PhD MPH GAICD

Neville Turner *(from January 2018)*

BScOptom PGDipAdvClinOptom PGCertOcTher VACO

### **Director National Vision Research Institute**

Professor Michael Ibbotson

BSc (Hons) PhD

### **Executive General Manager Finance and Corporate Services**

Clare Escott

BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

### **Director of Education**

Marcel Mihulka

M.Ed MAICD



ACO Leadership Team (L-R): Clare Escott (EGM Finance & Corporate Services), Jane Trevaskis (Head of Teaching & Quality), Neville Turner (Director of Clinical Services), Piers Carozzi (Head of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services), Michael Ibbotson (Director National Vision Research Institute), Jennifer Caulfield (Head of Clinic Operations & Support Services), Roman Serebrianik (Head of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services), Maureen O'Keefe (CEO), Marcel Mihulka (Director of Education).

Absent: Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager), Elda Rebecchi (Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager)

# ACO – A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Clinical Services

**Over 60,000**

services were provided by ACO clinical staff across Victoria.

Early in 2018 our service at Monash Health, Berwick was relocated to a stand alone facility in Dandenong, opposite the Dandenong hospital.



**32,000**

primary and advanced eye care services to Victorians at the Carlton Clinic.

## Research National Vision Research Institute

### Professor Rachel Wong

became a Fellow of the NVRI. She was an early career researcher at the NVRI in the 1980s and went on to an outstanding career, mainly in the USA.

The NVRI has revolutionised its cortical physiology laboratories with the development of a series of new, complex methods for understanding the visual cortex.



The NVRI initiated a new project working with cultured retinal cells, which is a completely new avenue for research.

## Education

The launch of the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision, a six-month online course with local clinical placements, case studies and interactive online forum.



More focus on diversity of presenters (age, gender, tenure) in education offerings, reflecting the diversity of the optometry profession.



## Membership

**2% increase** of ACO financial members.

**3% increase** of new graduate members.



Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC and Mrs Margaret Banks OAM

Implementation of a new digitised voting process to allow the ACO's Membership to vote in elections online.



## Corporate Services

Co-Lead for the Australian Commonwealth Government Department of Health funded project

### for Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project (PEHET)

which is being delivered across Australia by a consortium of 5 organisations; Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation, Australian College of Optometry, Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Centre for Eye Health NSW and Optometry Australia.



**76,000**

consultations and 47,665 visual aids were provided through the Victorian Eyecare Services to 61,845 patients across the state.

**Team based consulting at Dandenong Clinic.**



**2,476**

days of clinical education to pre-registration optometry students in 2018.

Members of the institute organised and hosted two international vision science events, in Berlin, Germany and Seattle, USA.



Fellow of the NVRI. Professor Emeritus David Vaney has published 4 of the top 5 best-cited papers produced to date by the NVRI over its 45 year history.



**A new collaboration**

for a Clinical Vision Research position was established in collaboration between the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at the University of Melbourne and the ACO (NVRI)

One student submitted a PhD thesis: Artemio Soto-Breceda.

The launch of our second Clinical Knowledge Evaluation which measures one's performance in key areas in diabetic retinopathy assessment.

Launch of a new early career optometry education and network evening.



Establishment of a voluntary Education Consumer Advisory Committee which assists the ACO Education Division.

**A record number**

of registrations for the ACO National Conference.



**Elisse Higginbotham**

was presented with the ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service for 2018.



**Associate Professor James Armitage**

was awarded an ACO Fellowship.

**The proportion of interstate memberships continues to increase.**



Working closely with the voluntary archivists and our externally appointed design team in the **development of the ACO Museum**



**Planning for the first ACO Clinic in Adelaide South Australia**

Completing capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure and technology enhancements and upgrade of fire detection alert systems





## COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2018 HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL year for the ACO and we are very proud of the significant progress that has been made towards rolling out our 5-year strategic plan towards achievement of the ACO's Mission of improving the eye health and wellbeing of communities, led by our organisational core Values: care, purpose, respect, collaboration, innovation and delivery.

***“The ACO will push the boundaries of our focus to lead, promote and deliver public eye health care for the PURPOSE of improving timely and affordable access to eye CARE for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community”***

In 2018, over 76,000 clinical eye care consultations and 47,665 visual aids were provided by the ACO clinical team to Victorians experiencing disadvantage. The ACO receives funding through the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES), an important state-wide comprehensive and targeted public health eye care program administered by the ACO for the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Commonwealth government funding further strengthens our valued public health eye care services both through provision of funding for travel to rural and remote communities through the Visiting Optometrists Scheme and through funding secured by the ACO from the Commonwealth Home Support program which extends our outreach eye care services to those in regional and rural Supported Residential Services and Older Persons High-Rise programs.

We continue to be known for providing quality outreach eye care services to some of the most vulnerable communities who have difficulty accessing eye care, including people who are homeless, refugees or asylum seekers.

The Victorian government also funds the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy's Scheme (VASSS), which is administered by the ACO. The VASSS is enable by both the VES program and Commonwealth funding through the Visiting Optometrists Scheme, collectively making an important contribution towards 'closing the gap' for vision in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people. The ACO is very proud of its work in partnership with more than 20 Aboriginal and Community Controlled Health Organisations, along with a number of community health services in urban and regional Victoria, as well as in border regions in South Australia and NSW.

Strong interest from South Australia in our expertise and experience in public health optometry eye care, along with significant unmet need in



disadvantaged communities, will see a strengthening of ACO's activity in South Australia in 2019.

***“The ACO achieves greater impact and benefits for its communities through partnership and COLLABORATION with like minded people and organisations”***

During 2018 the Australian government announced further funding of \$2.5M for the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training project, on top of the \$4.8M grant already announced in January 2018. This increased funding will enable a total of 155 retinal cameras to be installed in primary health care clinics across Australia. The announcement of an increase in funding from the Australian government is wonderful news for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health as it means many more communities across Australia will receive eye diagnostic equipment. It will also enable further workshops and training to be provided for primary health care workers to help support and embed basic screening for diabetic retinopathy as the project is rolled out to mid 2020. This initiative is important as diabetes related blindness in Aboriginal Australians is 14 times higher than in non-Indigenous populations, with 94% of vision loss in Aboriginal communities preventable or treatable.

A project of this magnitude would not be possible without strong sector collaboration, with the successful project team comprising of 5 eye health organisations:



Australian College of Optometry (co-lead), Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation (co-lead & contractor), Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Centre for Eye Health NSW, and Optometry Australia.

Another successful collaboration is the ACO's strong partnership with the Royal Flying Doctors Service which has resulted in an announcement in late 2018 of 7 additional rural communities, a total now of 14, that the ACO will be providing with eye care services. This will be in addition to the ACO's existing outreach services to rural and remote communities across Victoria. The ACO and RFDS are committed to partnering with local communities and works to tailor services to meet local needs.

Other eye health collaborators include Vision2020 Australia, with ACO playing a key role in delivery of the Vision Initiative, a Victorian government eye health promotion program.

**“INNOVATION in Research, Education and Clinical Services”**

**NVRI research:** innovative, cutting edge research continues to be carried out by the ACO's National Vision Research Institute across two main inter-related neurotechnology areas - bionic eye development and understanding the visual cortex. In 2018 a new funding collaboration between the ACO/NVRI and the University of Melbourne enabled the establishment of a new clinical vision research position, to drive innovation in clinical vision research, with a strong focus on public health.

**Education:** At the 2018 ACO national conference, futurist Charles Brass highlighted the importance of putting strategies in place to prepare for any future, and this is what the ACO education team have focussed on during 2018, with changes in technology, workforce, models of care and regulatory oversight all possible. A key highlight during the year was the launch of the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision, with local clinical placements, case studies and interactive online forum, our second innovative Clinical Knowledge Evaluation, which measures an optometrist's performance in key areas in diabetic retinopathy assessment, and our ongoing success with the Ocular Therapeutics Course. The establishment of our first voluntary Education Consumer Advisory Committee has also been of great assistance. A high priority is providing quality clinical training in partnership with universities to meet the changing needs of the optometry profession, with more than 250 tertiary students attending the ACO for clinical placements in our metro clinics and outreach services each year.

Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic: the capacity of our ophthalmology workforce in Australia to meet the demand for glaucoma management within the public hospital system is being challenged, with considerable difficulty providing services to glaucoma and glaucoma suspect patients at the recommended intervals, with many waiting for a new or review appointment. The

Eye and Ear Hospital (E&E) and ACO were funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to implement and trial an effective new model of collaborative care for low-risk glaucoma patients in a public hospital system. Patients from the E&E were triaged for appropriateness to be seen at the glaucoma collaborative clinic, which operated from the ACO. The approach was an integrated team-based one with ophthalmologists, optometrists and orthoptists. Following evaluation it was concluded that the collaborative clinic for low risk glaucoma patients provided effective patient centred care, facilitated community based follow up, reduced hospital glaucoma waitlists, improved access

to hospital care for higher risk patients and had the potential to reduce public patient waiting time, preventing unnecessary vision loss, reducing economic and social costs.

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*We continue to be known for providing quality outreach eye care services to some of the most vulnerable communities who have difficulty accessing eye care, including people who are homeless, refugees, and asylum seekers.*

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**“Driving positive change will DELIVER great outcomes for the communities we serve”**

We continue to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the ACO, and made further progress in 2018 towards achieving both growth & diversification of income. Our corporate services division made significant progress with planning and working closely with other divisions in supporting continuous improvement in efficiency, effectiveness, productivity and expenditure management. Significant new initiatives, including business process improvements aimed at enhancing KPI management reporting, improving service delivery and supporting staff were also implemented during the year. We began development of our first online HR, time management and rostering system, implementation of an online voting system for Members, planning for an upgrade of fire detection and alert systems at our Carlton premises and business development and planning for our new clinic in Dandenong Victoria and in Adelaide South Australia.

We have been committed, during this period of significant change, to living our values and continuing

to build our culture. This is informed by our staff culture survey and development of a new online feedback tool to receive great ideas from staff in real time. A new online performance development review for all staff including, for the first time, sessionals was trialled in late 2018 for full implementation, following training, in mid 2019. Regular opportunities have been developed for celebrating achievements and acknowledgement of staff nominated by colleagues for 'living the ACO Values'.

A major project led by the corporate services team and the ACO's Honorary Archivists was the planning and development of a new exhibition gallery for the Kett Optometry Museum and Archive, which will be launched in 2019.

Significant progress was also made on development of the new ACO website, which will be launched in 2019

**“Membership of ACO – a collegial community of RESPECTED like-minded optometry students and practitioners”**

Our ACO membership comprises of optometric practitioners and students from across Australia, New Zealand and internationally. ACO membership entitles members to a range of benefits including education (CPD), awards, fellowships and grants, library resources, as well as the opportunity to belong to a collegial community of respected optometrists. Members play an important role in supporting the ACO's valued public health eye care services for people experiencing disadvantage.

We would like to thank and celebrate both our ACO and NVRI members for their support, through

membership fees and donations; participation in ACO and NVRI fellowship programs, involvement in continuing professional education; as advisors and examiners on our course curriculum committees; as lecturers and presenters. As a not for profit organisation we could not achieve what we do for our members and the communities we serve without your generous support.

**“Thank you”**

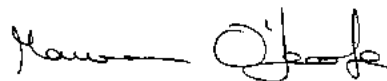
We are immensely proud of the Australian College of Optometry's achievements over the past year and sincerely thank all staff, committee members, volunteers, VES practitioners, collaborators, donors, philanthropic supporters, university partners, students, and the Victorian and Commonwealth governments. We are grateful for the valuable leadership and expertise of our Board of Directors and note that three new directors commenced during 2018, Sophie Koh, Rodney Hodge at the AGM, and in October 2018, Tim Powell. Two Directors retired during the year, Alex Gentle at the AGM and Mitchell Anjou AM in August 2018. Thank you all for your dedication and significant contributions.

Thank you to everyone for your support in 2018 and the commitment you have shown to supporting and/or 'living the values' of the ACO. We could not have had such a successful year without your valuable contribution.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2018 achievements in the ACO and NVRI Annual Reports as we look forward to continuing to roll out and embed our ACO 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and living our Values.



**Professor Konrad Pesudovs**  
President  
Australian College of Optometry  
National Vision Research Institute



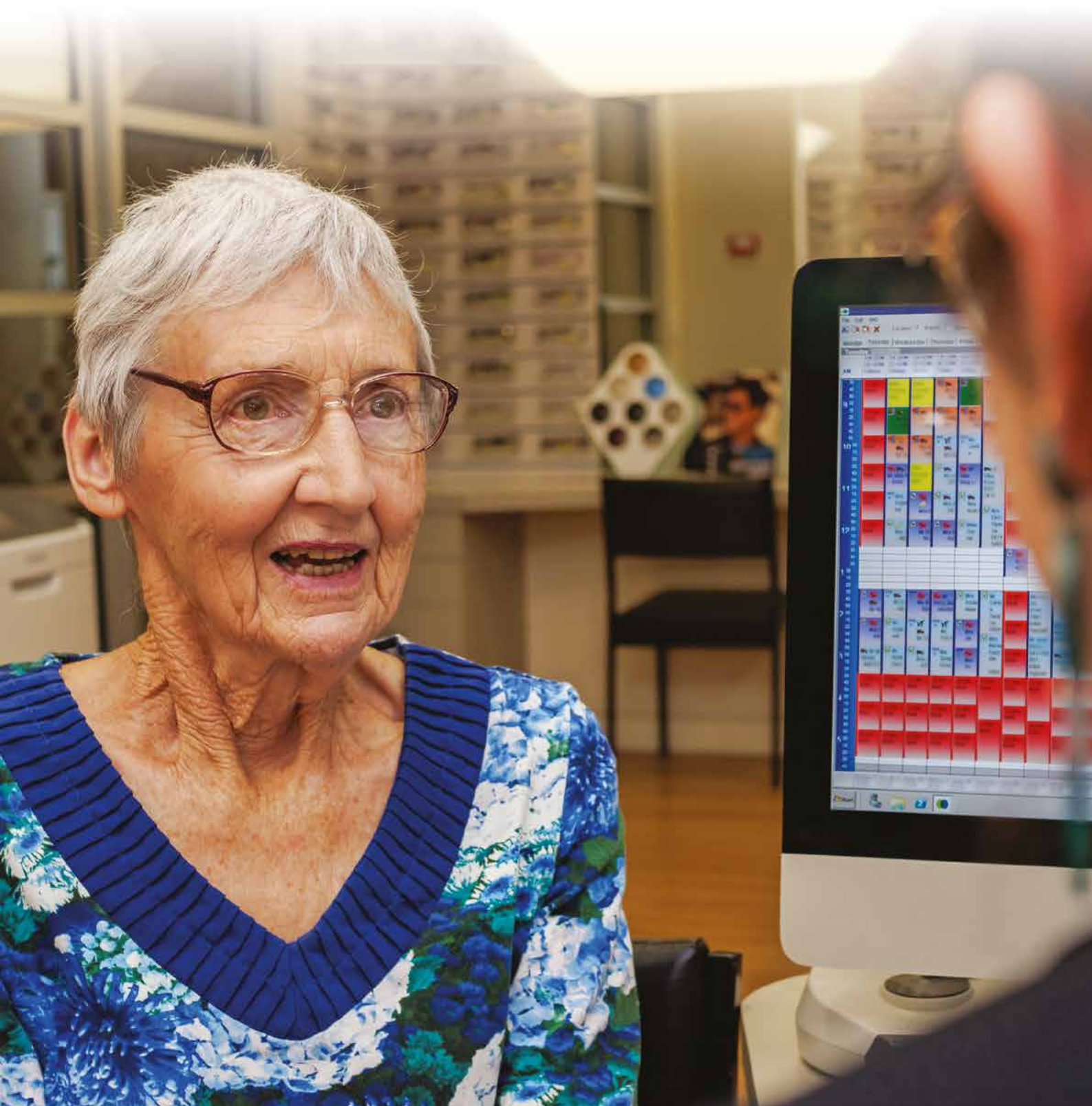
**Maureen O'Keefe**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian College of Optometry  
National Vision Research Institute

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## CLINICAL SERVICES

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# QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EYE CARE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES





## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Providing high quality public health eye care for communities in need and leading best practice and standards

**I AM PROUD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY** to report on the efforts and achievements of the Clinical Services Division in 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Bentley, who left the position of Director of Clinical Services and the ACO in January 2018, for her work and leadership in the Clinic.

The strategic priorities and values of the ACO informed the activities for 2018 with highlights including the teamwork and collaboration required to successfully move our clinic from Berwick to Dandenong with minimal impact to the delivery of services, as well as increased service provision through partnership with Royal Flying Doctors (Vic) and support through the Commonwealth Home Support Program. These services allow care to be provided to communities and people who have had limited or no access to eyecare and have a significant impact on their quality of life.

Over 60,000 services were provided by the ACO clinical team across Victoria in 2018, while maintaining the productivity and efficiency measures implemented over previous years required to ensure future sustainability. These services continue to lead best clinical practice with collaborations with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, as well as other public hospitals across Melbourne. In addition, innovative models of care were investigated and trialled, to support a team-based approach to care and with a view to ensure quality, efficient services and patient centred care can be provided sustainably in the future. The value of the services we offer can be seen from the feedback we receive from patients, both through patient feedback

and comments, and from more formal surveys.

The Clinic strives to support the provision of best possible education to optometry students and the profession. Staff optometrists have been involved in delivering 2,476 days of clinical education to pre-registration optometry students in 2018. Additionally, our highly skilled optometrists have provided clinical workshops and presentations to the profession, as well as supported the development of new certificates in contact lenses, glaucoma, paediatrics vision, public health and clinical teaching.

I have found my first year as Director to be personally rewarding and inspirational working alongside a dedicated team in the provision of quality eyecare services to people experiencing disadvantage. The Clinic team have overcome many challenges and worked collaboratively to ensure we are well positioned to expand service delivery in the future. I have the privilege of this opportunity and would like to thank the whole team for their hard work and dedication.



Neville Turner  
Director Clinical  
Services

### Neville Turner

BScOptom PGDipAdvClinOptom PGCertOcTher FACO  
Director of Clinical Services



## Clinic Management Team

### Head

Piers Carozzi, *Community and Outreach Eye Care Services*  
 Jennifer Caulfield, *Clinic Operations and Support Services*  
 Roman Serebrianik, *Primary and Specialist Eye Care Services*  
 Jane Trevaskis, *Teaching and Quality*

### Lead Optometrists

Adrian Bruce, *Contact Lenses*  
 Mae Chong, *Low Vision*  
 Nellie Deen, *Paediatrics*  
 Genevieve Napper, *Aboriginal Services (until May)*  
 Leanne Nguyen, *Janelle Scully (Acting), Ocular Diseases and Hospital Services*

### Optometrist Managers

Angeliki Arvanitis, *East Reservoir Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Joseph Choi, *Primary Care and Clinical Teaching*  
 Lesley Dacion, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Rosemary Haikal, *Broadmeadows Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Angela Hall, *Clinical Research*  
 Iris Huang, *Frankston Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Lauren Kharsas, *Dandenong Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Nilmini John, *Aboriginal Services*  
 Josephine Li, *Community Eye Care Services*  
 Lisa Lombardi, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic, Clinic Operations and VES*  
 Ho Wah Ng, *Visual Functions*  
 Janelle Scully, *Clinic Operations and VES*  
 Karen Trinh, *Frankston Metropolitan Clinic*  
 Danielle Zheng, *Dandenong Metropolitan Clinic*

### Managers

Colette Davis, *Aboriginal Services*  
 Vicki McSweeney, *Clinic Administration*



Clinic Management Team (L-R) Roman Serebrianik, Jennifer Caulfield, Neville Turner, Jane Trevaskis, Piers Carozzi

## NEW DANDENONG CLINIC

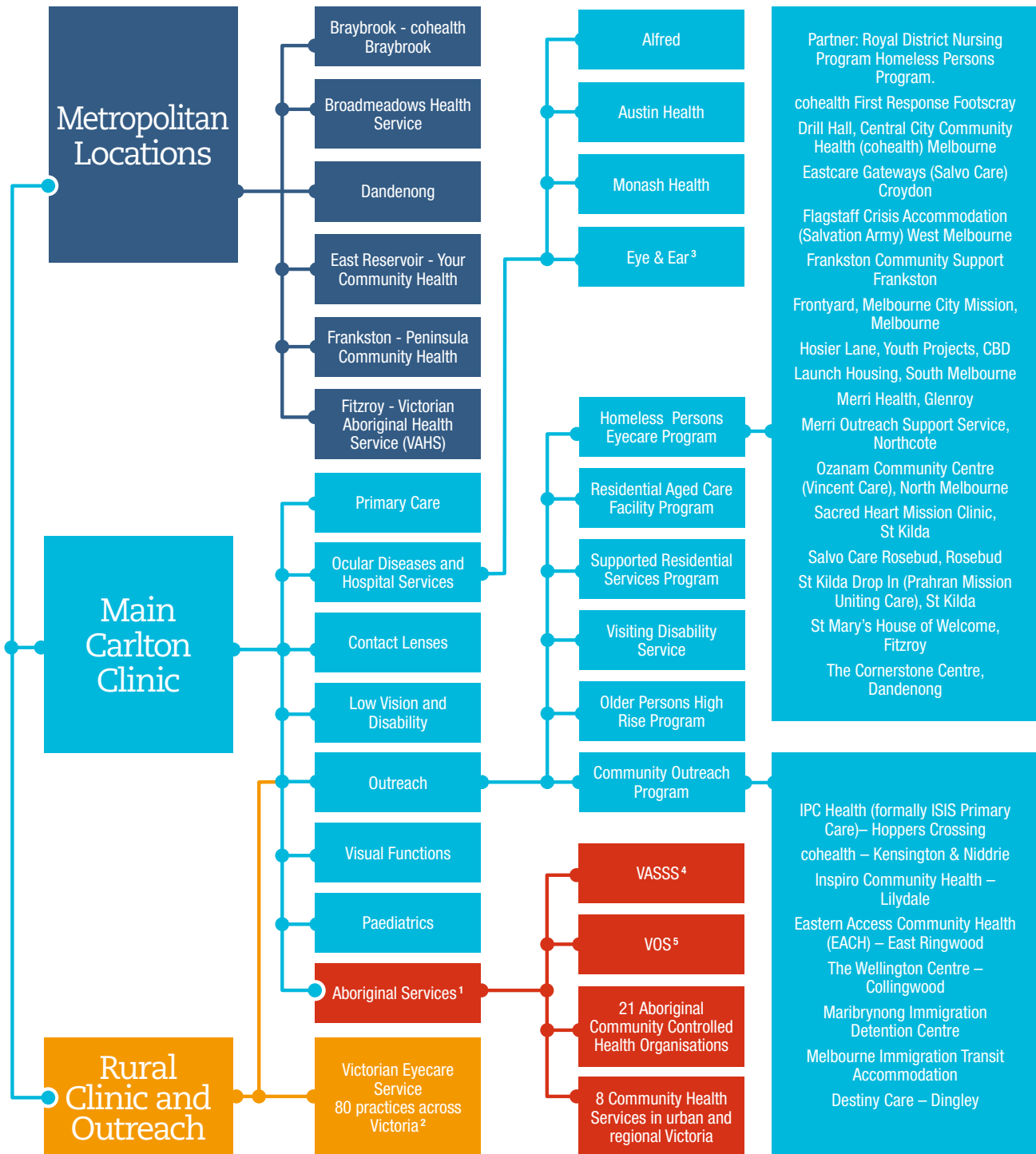
Early in 2018 our service at Monash Health, Berwick was relocated to a stand alone facility in Dandenong, opposite the Dandenong Hospital. This move happened quickly and successfully through the hard work of a dedicated team from the Clinical Services and Corporate Services divisions. This collaboration ensured a successful move with minimal disruption to the provision of patient care.

The new facility has allowed us to increase our capacity to provide care in Dandenong and the surrounding areas, as well as improve links to local public health and refugee support services in Dandenong.

Further changes at the site have allowed us to introduce a new team-based care approach, ensuring patients see the most appropriate person at the right time in their patient journey of care.



## NETWORK OF CLINICS



1 Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) also under this heading  
 2 Complete list of VES providers on pages 19 – 20  
 3 Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital  
 4 Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the Victorian State Government)  
 5 Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the Australian Commonwealth Government)



## Carlton Clinic

The ACO's largest clinic and hub is located in Carlton, with more than 25 consulting rooms and state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment. In 2018 we provided more than 32,000 primary and advanced eye care services to Victorians at this location. The Carlton site also plays a key role in our provision of clinical placements for optometry students from around Australia.

## Metropolitan Clinics

The ACO has six metropolitan clinics that are a critical part of our network in providing eye care in the community. These clinics mostly 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. In 2018, our Berwick clinic was relocated to a standalone facility in Dandenong.

- **Braybrook** – cohealth Braybrook
- **Broadmeadows** – Broadmeadows Health Service
- **Dandenong**
- **East Reservoir** – Your Community Health
- **Frankston** – Frankston Community Health
- **Fitzroy** – Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

## Paediatric Services

The ACO has a dedicated paediatric eye care service at Carlton providing comprehensive age-appropriate assessments for children aged 0-18, as well as evidence-based myopia management and vision therapies to children who need them. Good vision and eye health are imperative for the education and development of children and the ACO works in partnership with Maternal and Child Health Nurses, teachers, behavioural psychologists, other optometrists and the Royal Children's Hospital to provide these important services.

## Contact Lens Services

We offer a comprehensive contact lens service, ranging from daily soft lenses to more complex presentations requiring mini-scleral and prosthetic contact lenses. ACO optometrists work in partnership with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to provide contact lenses and care to patients with advanced corneal pathologies, post-surgical and therapeutic needs. We welcome referrals and receive many from optometry and ophthalmology colleagues.

## Low Vision and Disability Services

The ACO leads an integrated holistic service for people with vision impairment in partnership with Vision Australia. The low vision clinic at Carlton 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 and work to maximise people's ability to perform their activities of daily living.



Mae Chong, Low Vision and Disability Clinic

## Ocular Diseases and Hospital Services

We offer anterior eye disease, diabetes, retina, cataract, and glaucoma assessment and management at our Carlton location. 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 collaborative glaucoma clinic. ACO optometrists also provide eye care services at the Austin Hospital and Dandenong Hospital for patients with diabetes. Our optometrists are endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines for the treatment of many eye conditions.

## Visual Functions Clinic

Our visual functions clinic provides advanced diagnostic colour vision and occupational testing for patients working in, or wishing to enter, a range of specialised professions (including pilots, electricians, railway and defence force personnel). Following a strong working relationship with Victoria Police, the ACO Visual Functions Clinic has now become the referral point for police applicants with abnormal colour or binocular vision. ACO has also partnered with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to develop a referral pathway for screening patients at risk of retinal drug toxicity. In 2018, we commenced specialised testing for applicants for the railway industry and continue to provide pilot medical examinations for CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority).

### Outreach Services

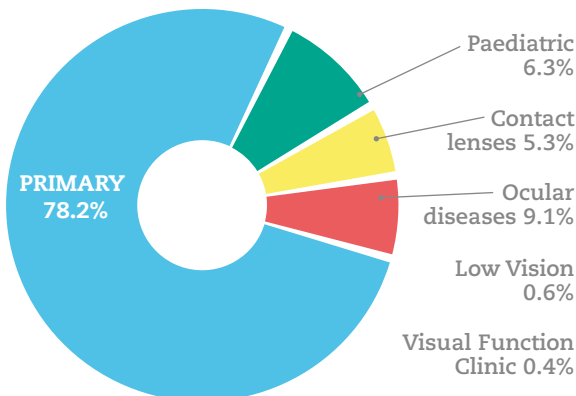
The ACO provides outreach services to members of the community who have difficulty accessing mainstream eye clinics across both metropolitan and regional Victoria. The services are targeted at people experiencing significant disadvantage through homelessness; people living in residential aged care, supported residential services; older person's high rise; people with a disability; and refugee and asylum seekers. These programs are supported through funding from the Victorian State and Australian Commonwealth Governments.

In addition to these initiatives, we expanded our services with Royal Flying Doctors (Vic) to provide eye care to an additional 6 remote locations, servicing 14 townships across Victoria in partnership with local communities.

### Services to Aboriginal Communities

The Aboriginal Services team at the ACO continues to work towards "closing 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 more than 20 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and a number of community health services in urban and regional Victoria, as well as in border regions in NSW and SA. The ACO's work with Aboriginal communities is supported by the Victorian Eyecare Service (funded by the Victorian State Government), the Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the Australian Commonwealth Government) and the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the Victorian State Government).

ACO type of service provided 2018



## OUTREACH SERVICES

THE REASONS THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCE DISADVANTAGE or are vulnerable are often complex, and inter-related. The ACO Outreach Services aims to provide care in partnership with local agencies that is accessible, affordable and appropriate for people who may be socially isolated, and who may find it difficult to access mainstream health services. Providing a visiting service, targeting people who experience disadvantage in appropriate community settings, is an effective model for improving access to eye care.

We visited a rural supported accommodation site for the first time in 2017. The site houses people with mental illness who need additional support. An example of our work in this sector is the eye examination we conducted on a 70-year-old lady who reported she had not had an eye exam since she was in her 20's. She had visually significant cataract, reducing her uncorrected vision to 6/60 (legally blind). She was referred to the local ophthalmology service for cataract surgery. At our follow up visit to the site in 2018 she was seen again, where she reported having had both cataracts removed, and her unaided vision was now better than 6/9 in each eye, significantly improving her quality of life by enabling her to use glasses for reading and better deal with her daily activities.



Outreach Administration Team; Larissa Rae and Anna Angelodemou

## PROVISION FOR EYE HEALTH EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROJECT

The ACO continue to work in partnership on the implementation of the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project, an Australian Commonwealth Government Department of Health funded initiative. A consortium of five organisations from across Australia are working in partnership to deliver this project based on their existing links and experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care. These organisations are: Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation (contractor, co-lead), Australian College of Optometry (co-lead), Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Centre for Eye Health and Optometry Australia.

The project is responsible for the procurement and distribution of up to 155 retinal cameras to primary health care clinics, who provide care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The project incorporates training on the use of the camera to primary health care workers and general practitioners, with the aim to support increased primary-level access to retinal photography for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes.

As of 31 December 2018:

- Canon CR-2 AF retinal cameras have been delivered and installed, with training on its use completed, for 76 recipient locations;
- 371 primary health care workers have received retinal camera training via online modules plus face-to-face training. A range of primary health care staff were trained, including nurses (34.7%), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers (15.6%), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (14.8%), and general practitioners (14.2%);



Retinal camera training with the team at Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Fitzroy, Melbourne.

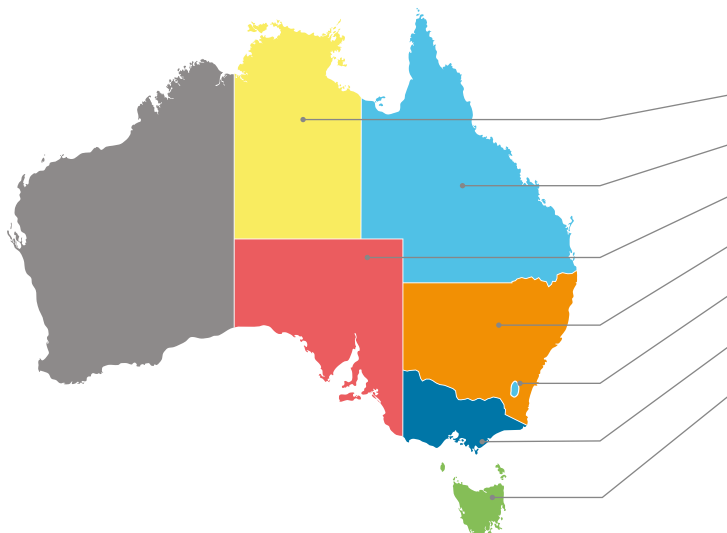
### Project Expansion

The Australian Commonwealth Government has granted additional funding for the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training project, extending the program for an additional year until June 2020, with the roll out of a total of 155 cameras and additional training.

This is wonderful news for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health as it means many more communities across all states and territories in Australia will receive eye diagnostic equipment. Provision has been made for training and mentoring for primary health care workers who will be using the equipment to support basic screening for diabetic retinopathy within primary care settings.

In addition, the program extension will also fund the design and delivery of directed efforts to support embedding of retinal photography into primary health care processes. This will include workshops with key stakeholders and health service staff who play a role in integrating the new process into their practice.

### Retinal Camera Training for Primary Health Care Workers



NT	19 sites	107 trainees
QLD	14 sites	52 trainees
SA	4 sites	27 trainees
NSW	23 sites	101 trainees
ACT	1 site	5 trainees
VIC	13 sites	73 trainees
TAS	2 sites	6 trainees
<b>Australia wide</b>	<b>76 sites</b>	<b>371 trainees</b>

As at 31 December 2018



## VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE (VES)

**THE VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE (VES)** is a key public eyecare service in Victoria, ensuring access to eyecare and visual aids to Victorians experiencing disadvantage, and is funded by Victorian State Government Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The ACO is responsible for the administration and management of the VES, and through the VES the ACO is able to offer eye care services targeted to Victorian people 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 an exemplar, coordinated program of eye care and subsidised 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.

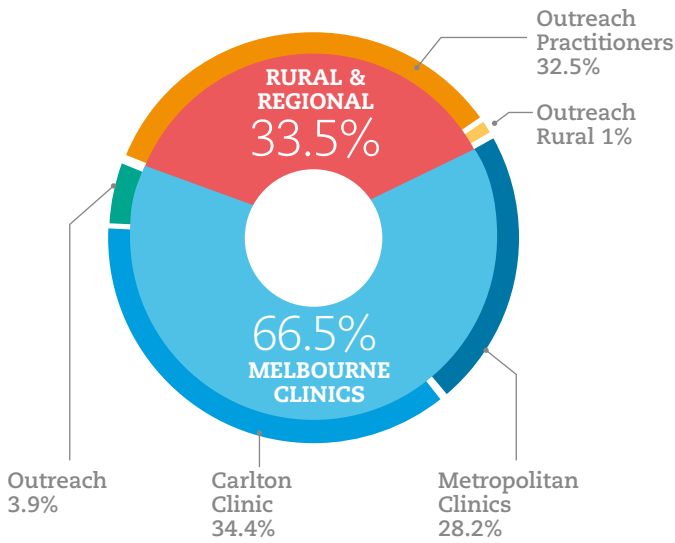
The VES is delivered by ACO staff in the metropolitan area and by more than 80 dedicated partner private practices in regional and rural areas across the entire state, supported by outreach services provided by the ACO. Metropolitan services are provided through a network of clinics, consisting of our main clinic at Carlton, six smaller satellite clinics based in community health centres and mobile outreach clinics.

In 2018, more than 76,000 consultations and 47,665 visual aids were provided through the VES to 61,845 patients across the state. Consistently, the VES is delivered to within  $\pm 3\%$  of set targets. Two-thirds of services are provided in our Melbourne clinics.

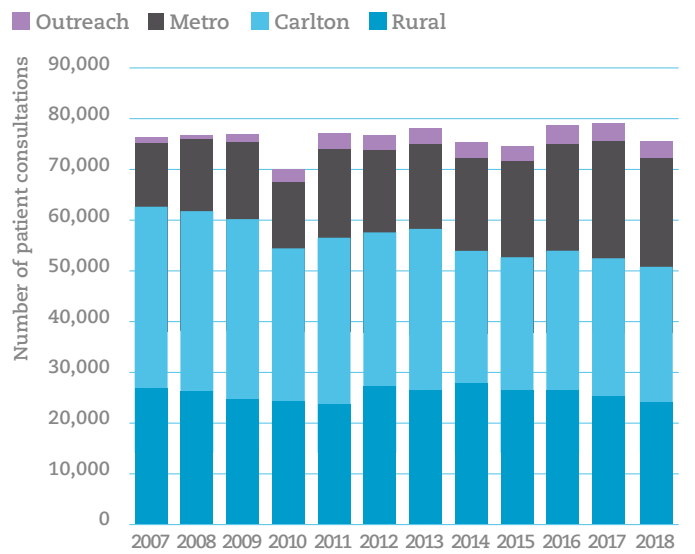


Optometrist Steffanie Liang with Patient

VES consultations by location

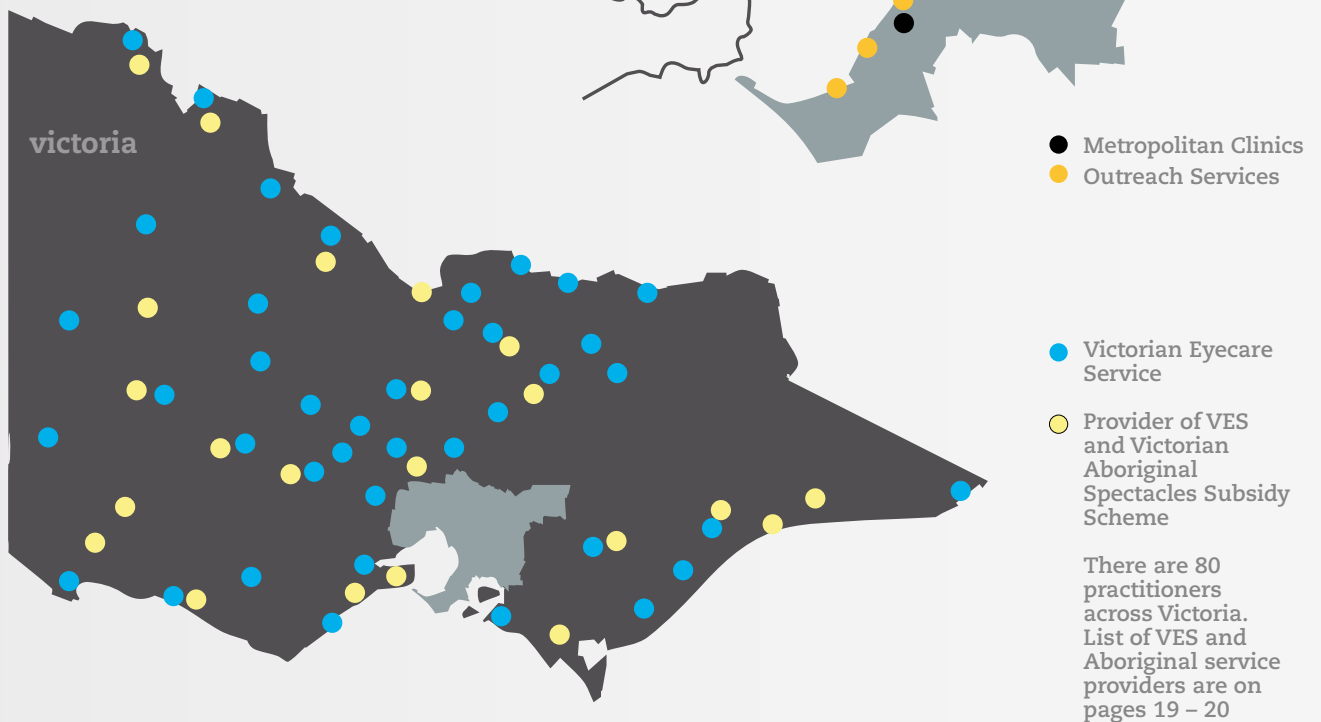


VES consultations by year (2007 – 2018)

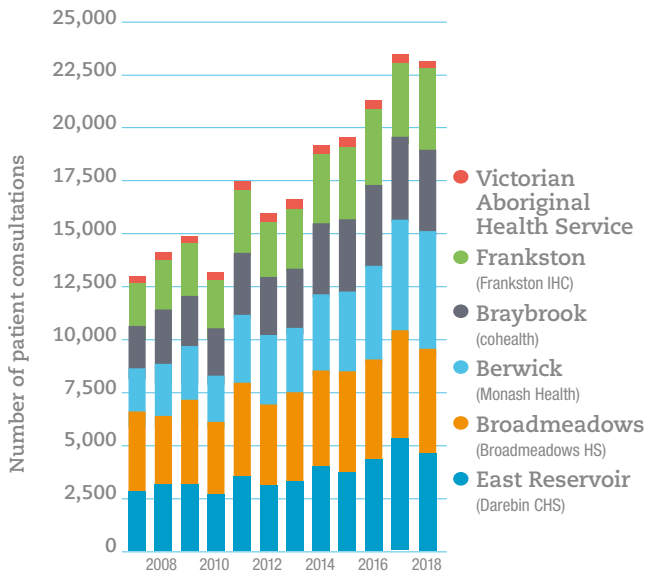


## VES LOCATIONS

Metropolitan, rural, regional and country locations



### Metropolitan Clinic Service Provision (2007–2018)



### VES Review and Advisory Committee

The VES Advisory Committee meets three times per year and plays a key role in the provision of 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. Represented on the Committee is the Department of Health and Human Services (Wellbeing & Community Support, Community Based Health Policy & Programs; Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing), cohealth, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Inner North West Primary Care Partnership, Leading Age Services Victoria, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, as well as ACO practitioners, VES regional and rural practitioner (Linda Robinson), ACO CEO (Maureen O’Keefe) and Director of Clinical Services (Neville Turner) and a consumer advocate (Rosie Maddick).

A review of the VES was undertaken in 2017/2018 by the Department of Health and Human Services. This is an important step in ensuring the VES stays relevant to community needs and will assist in future planning and development and informing sustainable, person centred delivery of VES.

## 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, a case report, minor research project, poster at an optometry conference, additional tertiary studies or a volunteer optometry experience.

Rachael Kwok and Vanessa Tang commenced employment at the ACO as a clinical residents at the beginning of 2017 and have recently completed the program. Rachael and Vanessa both completed units of clinical study and had articles and case reports published in professional publications.

Optometrist Kuong Chang with patient Greg O’Toole and Student Chinmoyee Changicaicoti





## Victorian Eyecare Service Rural Practices and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Subsidy Scheme Practices

Ararat RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS	Edenhope WIMMERA EYE CARE	Leopold GMHBA EYE CARE - LEOPOLD
Bacchus Marsh DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS NORTH WEST OPTICAL	Euroa GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES	Lorne DEAKIN OPTOMETRY
Bairnsdale EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE	Foster CHRIS HELY OPTOMETRIST	Mallacoota DYSON & LONG OPTOMETRISTS
Ballarat GMHBA EYECARE - BALLARAT	Geelong EYE GALLERY GEELONG GMHBA EYE CARE - GEELONG NEW VISION EYEWEAR	Maryborough D P HARE
Belmont ROBINSON FAMILY OPTOMETRISTS	Gisborne J.C. MERRINGTON OPTOMETRY SIMON LEONG OPTOMETRIST	Mildura EYECARE SUNRAYSIA EYECARE SUNRAYSIA - PLAZA MILDURA OPTICAL
Benalla FOCUS ON LAURIMAR	Hamilton GLENN HOWELL PTY LTD	Moe MOE OPTICAL
Bendigo CARTWRIGHT & ASSOCIATES EYECARE PLUS BENDIGO	Healesville HARRIS, BLAKE AND PARSONS	Mornington 20/20 SIGHT 'N STYLE MAIN STREET EYECARE
Bright EYES OF BRIGHT	Hopetoun WIMMERA EYE CARE	Morwell LATROBE EYECARE
Bunyip BUNYIP OPTICAL	Horsham WIMMERA EYE CARE	Myrtleford ALPINE EYECARE
Camperdown PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS	Kerang KERANG OPTICAL	Nathalia HORSFALLS OPTOMETRISTS
Castlemaine EYEWORKS CASTLEMAINE	Kilmore IAN J WOOD BY G & M EYECARE	Newcomb VOGUE VISION
Cobram COBRAM OPTICAL	Korumburra SOUTH GIPPSLAND OPTICAL	Nhill WIMMERA EYE CARE
Corio GMHBA EYE CARE - CORIO	Kyabram HORSFALLS OPTOMETRISTS	North Geelong WINKS EYECARE
Daylesford DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS	Lakes Entrance EAST GIPPSLAND OPTICAL	Ocean Grove GREG SLY OPTOMETRIST
Curlewis EYEHUB OPTOMETRISTS	Lang Lang LANG LANG EYECARE	Orbost EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE
Dromana EYES ON DROMANA	Lara NEW VISION EYEWEAR	Pakenham PAKENHAM OPTICAL
Echuca HORSFALLS OPTOMETRISTS	Leongatha LEONGATHA OPTOMETRISTS MCCARTIN STREET OPTOMETRISTS	Portland PORTLAND EYECARE

Robinvale  
VISION WISE OPTICS  
Rosebud  
EYES ON ROSEBUD  
ROBERT P ZENT

Sale  
B W PETTITT

Seymour  
FOCUS ON LAURIMAR

Shepparton  
GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES  
SHEPPARTON OPTICAL SERVICES

Somerville  
EYES ON SOMERVILLE

St Arnaud  
RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS

Stawell  
RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS

Swan Hill  
SWAN HILL OPTICAL  
WARBURTON OPTICAL

Torquay  
GMHBA EYECARE

Traralgon  
KAY STREET EYECARE PTY LTD

Wangaratta  
WANGARATTA EYECARE

Warracknabeal  
WIMMERA EYE CARE

Warrnambool  
PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS  
SOMER TOPRAK OPTOMETRIST  
WARRNAMBOOL EYECARE

Wauron Ponds  
GMHBA EYECARE - WAURN PONDS

Wendouree  
DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS

Wodonga  
MICHAEL SMITH OPTOMETRY  
PEACHEY OPTOMETRY CLINIC  
THE OPTICAL  
SUPERSTORE-WODONGA  
WODONGA EYECARE

Wonthaggi  
AKERS EYEWEAR

Yarram  
B W PETTITT

Yarrawonga  
SANDRA HEANEY OPTOMETRIST

## Outreach Sites

### Supported Residential Services

Aaron Lodge – Dandenong  
Achmore Lodge – Clarinda  
Alma House – St Kilda  
Balmorral Lodge – Malvern East  
Belmont Manor  
Berwick House – Hallam  
Brooklea Lodge – Donvale  
Brunswick Lodge – Brunswick  
Chippendale Lodge – Heidelberg  
Coorondo House – Ashwood  
Cranhaven Lodge – Cranbourne  
Crosbie Lodge – Bentleigh  
Crystal Manor – Noble Park  
Dunelm Lodge – Croydon North  
Edwards Lodge – Reservoir  
Elgar Home – Box Hill North  
Eliza Park – Mt Eliza  
Fermont Lodge – Noble Park  
Fernree Manor – Fernree Gully  
Galilee – Noble Park  
Glenville Lodge – Glenroy  
Grandel Lodge – Fairfield  
Greenhaven Lodge – Footscray  
Harrier Manor – Dandenong  
Hazelwood – Boronia  
Hollydale Lodge – Malvern  
Janoak – Strathmore  
Kilara House – Diamond Creek

L'abri – Ringwood North  
Manalin House – Clayton South  
Maroondah House – Croydon North  
Mayfair Lodge – Dandenong  
Meadowbrook – Melton South  
Northern Terrace – Reservoir  
Oakern Lodge – Mt Waverley  
Queens Lodge – Lalor  
Reservoir Lodge – Reservoir  
Royal Avenue – Essendon North  
Sandy Lodge – Apendale  
Southcare Lodge – Hastings  
Stewart Lodge – Brunswick  
Sydenham Grace – Sydenham  
Trentleigh Lodge – Dandenong North  
Vermont Gardens – Vermont  
Viewmont Terrace – Bayswater  
Warranvale Gardens – Donvale  
Westley Gardens – Fernree Gully

### Homeless Persons Eyecare

cohealth Footscray – Footscray  
Cornerstone – Dandenong  
Eastcare – Croydon  
Flagstaff – West Melbourne  
Front Yard – Melbourne  
Hosier Lane – Melbourne  
Launch Housing – South Melbourne  
Marjorie Oaks – Fairfield

Moss Hight St – Northcote  
Ozanam – North Melbourne  
Sacred Heart Mission – St Kilda  
St Mary's House of Welcome  
– Fitzroy  
St Kilda Drop In – St Kilda  
The Basin  
Winttringham (Lionsville)  
– Williamstown

### Community Outreach

Campbellfield Primary  
– Campbellfield  
Eastern Access Community Health  
(EACH) – Ringwood East  
Inspiro – Lilydale  
Maribyrnong Immigration  
Detention Centre – Maidstone  
Sunshine Harvester – Sunshine  
The Wellington – Collingwood  
IPC – Hoppers Crossing

### Older Person's High Rise Program

CHSP – OPHR Gordon St – Footscray  
 CHSP – OPHR Inkerman St – St Kilda  
 CHSP – OPHR Victoria Ave – Albert Park  
 CHSP – OPHR Union St – Windsor

### Visiting Disability Service

VDS 120 Forest Street – Colac  
 VDS Glasgow St – Reservoir  
 VDS Koonawarra St – Clayton North  
 VDS Allenby Ave – Reservoir  
 VDS Churchill St – Mont Albert  
 VDS Jarques Grove – Forest Hill  
 VDS Cleveland St – St Albans  
 VDS Weerona Tce – Altona Meadows  
 VDS Ruthven Cres – Lalor  
 Polaris Dve – Doncaster  
 Hedgely Crt – Langwarrin  
 Henderson Crt – Bundoora  
 Heatherton Rd – Noble Park  
 Leigh Crt – Doveton  
 VDS Lascelles Ave – Viewbank  
 VDS O'keefe St – Bellfield  
 VDS Helen St – St Albans  
 VDS Sturdee St – Reservoir  
 VDS Telopea Cres – Mill Park  
 VDS Harrison St – Deer Park  
 VDS Eppalock Circuit – Caroline Springs  
 VDS Lucerne Road – Ferntree Gully  
 VDS Cypress Ave – Glen Waverley  
 VDS Murray Street – Coburg  
 VDS Linnett Street – Altona  
 VDS Blackforest Road – Werribee  
 VDS Greenisland Ave – Mt Martha  
 VDS Jasper Road – Bentleigh  
 VDS Bulli Street – Moorabin  
 VDS Hughes Pde – Reservoir  
 VDS Bakers Road – Coburg  
 VDS Hiddleston Ave – Box Hill South

### Aged care Outreach

Arcadia Aged Care – Essendon  
 Avonsleigh – St Kilda  
 Corpus Christi – Greenvale  
 James Barker House – Footscray  
 Mayflower Aged Care – Reservoir  
 Mcgregor Gardens – Pakenham  
 Mclean Lodge – Flemington  
 Oak Towers – Oakleigh  
 Olivet – Ringwood  
 San Carlo – South Morang  
 Wesley Mission – Coburg  
 Wintringham – Williamstown North

### Commonwealth Home Support Program

CHSP cohealth – Niddrie  
 CHSP Salvocare – Rosebud  
 CHSP Drouin  
 CHSP YMCA Boarding House – Noble House  
 CHSP Landora Care – Learmonth  
 CHSP Mulvra Care – Wendouree  
 CHSP Angus Martin – Frankston  
 CHSP Merriwa Grove – Cobram  
 CHSP Eagle Manor – Eagle Point  
 Homebush – OS(CP) – Junorton  
 CHSP Surfcoast – Grovedale  
 CHSP Kyneton Park – Kyneton  
 CHSP Lazarus Centre – Geelong  
 CHSP Central Bayside Community Health – Parkdale  
 CHSP Brooklyn House – Newtown  
 CHSP The Marley St Hub – Sale  
 OPHR Floyd Lodge – Williamstown  
 OPHR - 150 Victoria Ave – Albert Park  
 OPHR Ormond Street – Kensington  
 OPHR 25-27 King Street – Prahran  
 OPHR Melrose St – North Melbourne  
 CHSP YMCA Housing – Parkdale  
 CHSP Hillview Lodge – Black Hill  
 OPHR 150 Inkerman St – St Kilda  
 OPHR 49 Union Street – Windsor  
 CHSP Eagle Manor – Eagle Point  
 CHSP Themar Heights – Warrnambool  
 CHSP Homebush Hall Srs – Junortoun  
 CHSP Gracedale Lodge – Morwell  
 CHSP Bairnsdale Hub – Bairnsdale  
 CHSP Kooralbyn Retirement Lodge – Bairnsdale

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

Billabong BBQE – Collingwood  
 Gathering Place – Maidstone  
 Melton Djerriwarrak-ATSI – Melton  
 Worawa College – Healesville

### Royal Flying Doctors Service

Birchip  
 Cann River  
 Dargo  
 Donald  
 Ensay  
 Gelantipy  
 Goongerah  
 Groke  
 Jeparit  
 Kaniva  
 Ouyen  
 Ouyen-Murrayville  
 Rainbow  
 Sealake

### Rural Workforce Agency Victoria / Visiting Optometry Services

Aces Brunswick – Brunswick  
 Gippsland and East Gippsland  
 Aboriginal Corporation (GEGAC) – Bairnsdale  
 Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) – Ballarat  
 Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative – Halls Gap  
 Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative – Bendigo  
 Dandenong – Bunurong  
 Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation – Dareton  
 Mildura- Mallee District Aboriginal Services – Mildura  
 Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative – Robinvale  
 Robinvale District Health Service – Robinvale  
 Njernda Aboriginal Corporation – Echuca  
 DPV Health – Epping  
 Yarra Valley Community Health – Healesville  
 Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation – Heywood  
 Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-Operative – Horsham  
 Swan Hill & District Aboriginal Health Service – Swan Hill  
 Mallee District Aboriginal Services – Kerang  
 Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association – Lakes Entrance  
 Moogji Aboriginal Council – Orbst  
 Lake Tyers Health and Children's Service – Lakes Tyers  
 Pangula Mannamurna Inc – Mt Gambier  
 Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation – Sale  
 Brophy Family Youth Services – Warrnambool  
 Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative – Warrnambool  
 IPC Health Care – Wyndham Vale



## PRESENTATIONS

### Presentations by Clinic Staff (Academic and Teaching)

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting	Papers/Lectures
Bruce AS	Spherical GP Lens Fitting	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 14 February 2018	Lecture
Bruce AS	Spherical Contact Lens Fitting	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 21 February 2018	Practical Class
Bruce AS	Toric GP Lens Fitting	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 1 March 2018	Lecture
Bruce AS	Specialty Contact Lens Fitting	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 21 May 2018	Practical Class
Bruce AS, Serebrianik R, Yen MMF, Hockley NA	Finding “Pie in the Sky” using Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) poster presentation	15th Scientific and 9th Educators’ Meeting in Optometry, Deakin Downtown, 5 and 6 April 2018	Poster Presentation (by Bruce AS)
Chong MFA	Low Vision and Technology	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 3 September 2018	Lecture
Chong MFA, Cochrane AL	Electronic Vision Enhancement Systems	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 13 September 2018	Workshop

### Presentations to Community Groups and Professional Groups (Not Conferences)

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting	Papers/Lectures
Chong MF	Keeping an Eye on Eye Health	Presentation to GPs organized by Vision Initiative Victoria, Melbourne, 7 March 2018	Presentation
Komser J, Waterman J, Scully J	Topical Medications – Case Studies	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Seminar Series), 17 April 2018	Presentation
Dr Georgia Cleary, Tang VTS	Therapeutics Weekend (Part 3) – Foreign Body Removal	ACO Continuing Professional Development Course (edited), 6 May 2018	Presentation
Fricke T, Deen N, Yen M, Farrugia D, Sipos-Ori C	Paediatric Optometry	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 16 June 2018	Presentation
Arundel L, Yen M, Horton P, Bruce A	Medico-Legal Issues – The Honey Rosa Case and Detecting Brain Tumour	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Seminar Series), 19 June 2018	Presentation
Bruce A	The Use of OCT for the Diagnosis of Retinal Disease	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 23 June 2018	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Use of Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) for the Diagnosis of Retinal Conditions	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 23 June 2018	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Working Eye-to-Eye with Optometry for Better Patient Care	Live webinar to Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, organized by Vision Initiative Victoria, 27 June 2018	Webinar

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting	Papers/Lectures
Bruce A, Huhtanen A	Mini-scleral Contact Lenses And Orthokeratology	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 7 July 2018	Presentation
Friebel J, Burgin E, Sipos-Ori C, Chong M	Inflammatory Conditions of the Lids & Lacrimal Apparatus, Lacrimal Lavage, Punctal Plug Insertion/Removal and Meibomian Gland Expression (T)	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 4 August 2018	Presentation
Dawkins R, Choi J	Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Scleral Indentation, Pre-corneal Fundus Lens Evaluation & Contact Fundus Lens Examination	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 25 August 2018	Presentation
Nathan Kerr, Komser J	Gonioscopy and other Glaucoma Assessment Techniques	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 25 August 2018	Presentation
Stamatelatos G, Travis M	Optometry-led Triage with Ophthalmology	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Webinar) 13 September 2018	Presentation
Serebrianik R	Look Into My Eyes – Common Ocular Presentations and How to Manage Them	GP18 Medical Conference, Gold Coast, 12 October 2018	Presentation
Fricke T	Clinical Decision-making in Paediatric Optometry	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Seminar Series), 16 October 2018	Presentation
Tang V, Kwok R, D'Souza A	Stories from the Clinic	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Seminar Series), 16 October 2018	Presentation
Serebrianik R	A Medley of Therapeutically-Challenging Case	ACO National Conference, Melbourne, 20-21 October 2018	Presentation
Ibbotson M, Guest D, Robbins H, Carozzi P, Brass C, Yap K	Debate: Technology, AI and Automation will be Detrimental to the Optometry Profession	ACO National Conference, Melbourne, 20-21 October 2018	Debate
Bruce A	OCT Interpretation with Brain Tumours vs Glaucoma	ACO National Conference, Melbourne, 20-21 October 2018	Presentation
Fricke T	The Challenges & Opportunities of a Myopic Future	ACO National Conference, Melbourne, 20-21 October 2018	Presentation
Yoshimitsu Y, Thean J, Sipos-Ori C	Interdisciplinary Case Discussions	ACO National Conference, Melbourne, 20-21 October 2018	Discussion

## Publications by Clinic Staff

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Publication Details
Bruce AS, Serebrianik R	Editorial – OCTs in the Modern Practice. The New Standard of Care in Optometry	Optometry Australia Equipment magazine, June 2018, page 19
Chong MFA, Cho HIH, Jackson AJ, Bentley SA	Profile of the Australian College of Optometry Low Vision Clinic	Clinical and Experimental Optometry 2018, DOI: 10.1111/cxo.12805
Kwok R	Treating CSCR with Oral Eplerenone	Australian Optometry (Pharma) September 2018

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RESEARCH

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 NATIONAL VISION  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OF AUSTRALIA  
AN ACO DIVISION

# LEADING INNOVATION IN RESEARCH THROUGH COLLABORATION





## NVRI CHAIR'S REPORT

IN 2017, THE ACO COUNCIL made a strategic decision to establish an external scientific advisory committee for the NVRI. This was with the intent of providing the NVRI Director with scientific advice that is highly conducive to the ongoing achievements of the NVRI's research goals.

*Although relatively small with the Director, 4 Research Fellows and 4 PhD students, the research output is impressive with 19 papers in high quality journals and 1 PhD completion.*

A Scientific Advisory Committee was therefore formed comprising Professor Sarah Dunlop (University of Western Australia, Biological Sciences, Chair), Professor Marcello Rosa (Monash, Physiology), Professor Paul Baird (University of Melbourne, Ophthalmology), Professor Erica Fletcher (University of Melbourne, Anatomy & Neuroscience) and Professor David Grayden (University of Melbourne, Biomedical Engineering) and Maureen O'Keefe (ACO, CEO). We met face-to-face on March 29th and by teleconference on August 10th. The committee enjoyed a site tour of both 'Neuro-technology', operating as two research units (retinal and cortical), and 'Clinical' research facilities. We also met with staff and students and were impressed with

their dedication, passion, skill and successes. We commend the Director and the NVRI for its ongoing work in two main inter-related neurotechnology areas namely bionic eye development and understanding the visual cortex. Although relatively small with the Director, 4 Research Fellows and 4 PhD students, the research output is impressive with 19 papers in high quality journals and 1 PhD completion. Given the small size of the research endeavour, the critical importance of building capacity is a top priority so as to ensure continuing research income, discovery and impact as well as securing strong succession planning. A new jointly funded University of Melbourne and NVRI/ACO position was established in 2018, enabling recruitment of an outstanding early to mid-career researcher. National and international collaborations, notably with iBionics of Canada, are also a strong feature and the committee encourages continuing such collaborations as key to securing future funding and growth. The committee was pleased to hear that new collaborations in both psychophysics and clinical research are being established. Outreach is also vital with NVRI researchers being highly active in engaging with both the scientific community via presentations at conferences and workshops as well as with the public via various School programs.



**Professor Sarah Dunlop**  
Chair NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee

**Professor Sarah Dunlop**  
Chair, NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

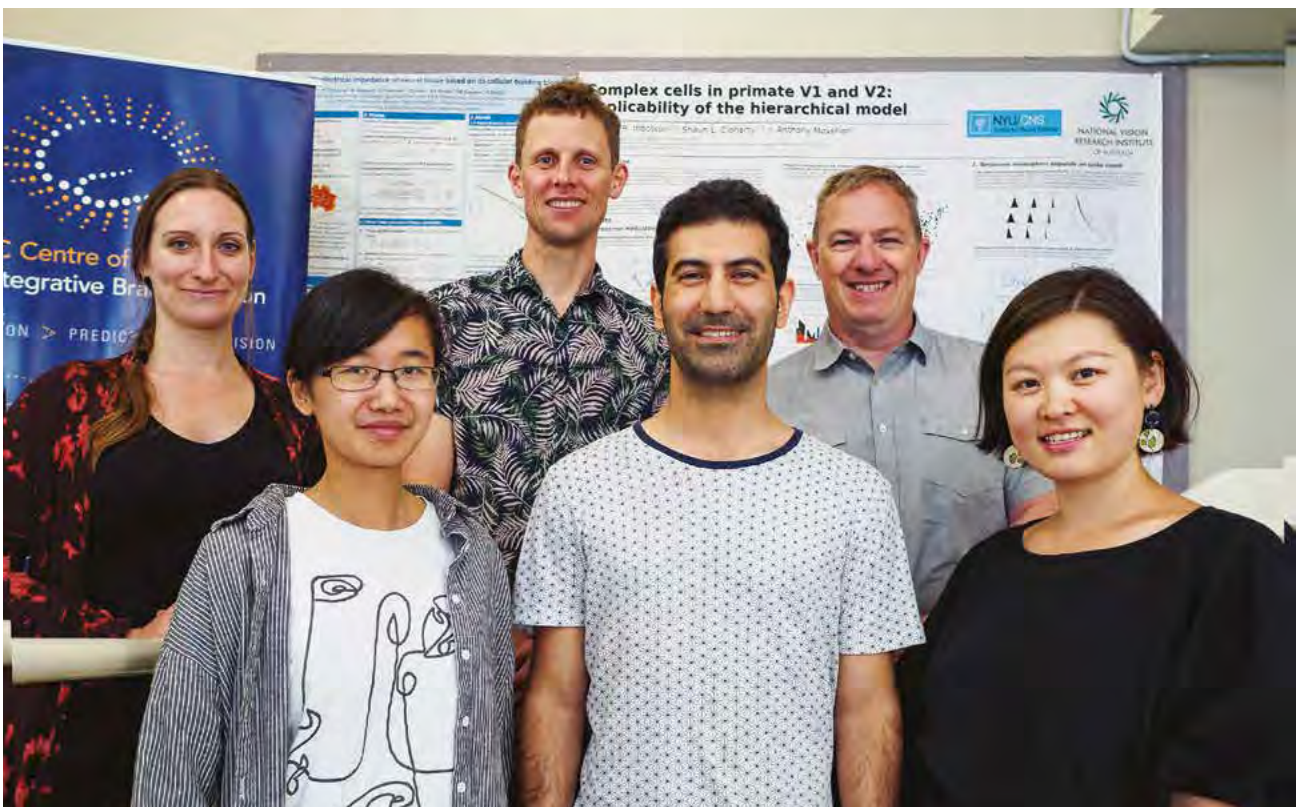
**ONE OF THE LARGEST CHANGES** at the NVRI for many years occurred in 2018. We modernised the constitution and organization of the NVRI's board. In doing so we made the NVRI Board of Administration into a primarily financial planning group, with the ACO CEO and NVRI Director as members and the chair of the ACO Finance & Risk Committee, Denise Gronow as the Chair and Brian Buchanan, representing the Lions Club. We also initiated a new NVRI scientific Advisory Board, with Professor Sarah Dunlop from the University of Western Australia as the Chair, to provide strategic guidance on research activities.

The NVRI was involved in several undertakings of particular note in 2018. First, the NVRI initiated, planned and hosted two major international symposia, one in Berlin, Germany and the other in Seattle, USA. The concept behind these events was that the NVRI might have more international impact, with a larger audience if it organised symposia closer to other people's homes rather than bringing a small number of international scientists to Australia. The Berlin meeting was organised with Professor Ulf Eysel from Ruhr University, Bochum, as a satellite of the largest neuroscience conference in Europe, the biannual

Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) meeting. The one-day symposium discussed the latest in our understanding of visual processing in the cortex. We attracted eight world-leading speakers on the topic: two from the USA, one from France, one from Germany, one from the UK and three from Australia. Our UK speaker was Simon Schultz, a professor at Imperial College London and a nephew of the NVRI's largest single donor, Don Schultz. It is a fascinating reality that Simon and I work on closely related topics, despite not having met before I became the NVRI Director! The large audience was made up predominantly from European neuroscientists, however it was great to also see people from Argentina and the USA in the audience. Senior Research Fellow Dr Hamish Meffin, organised a workshop on the same topic in Seattle, USA as part of the annual Computational NeuroScience (CNS)



**Professor Michael Ibbotson**  
Director NVRI



(L-R) Dr Melanie Stamp, Dr Wei Tong, Dr Hamish Meffin, Dr Ali Almasi, Prof Michael Ibbotson, Dr Molis Yunzab



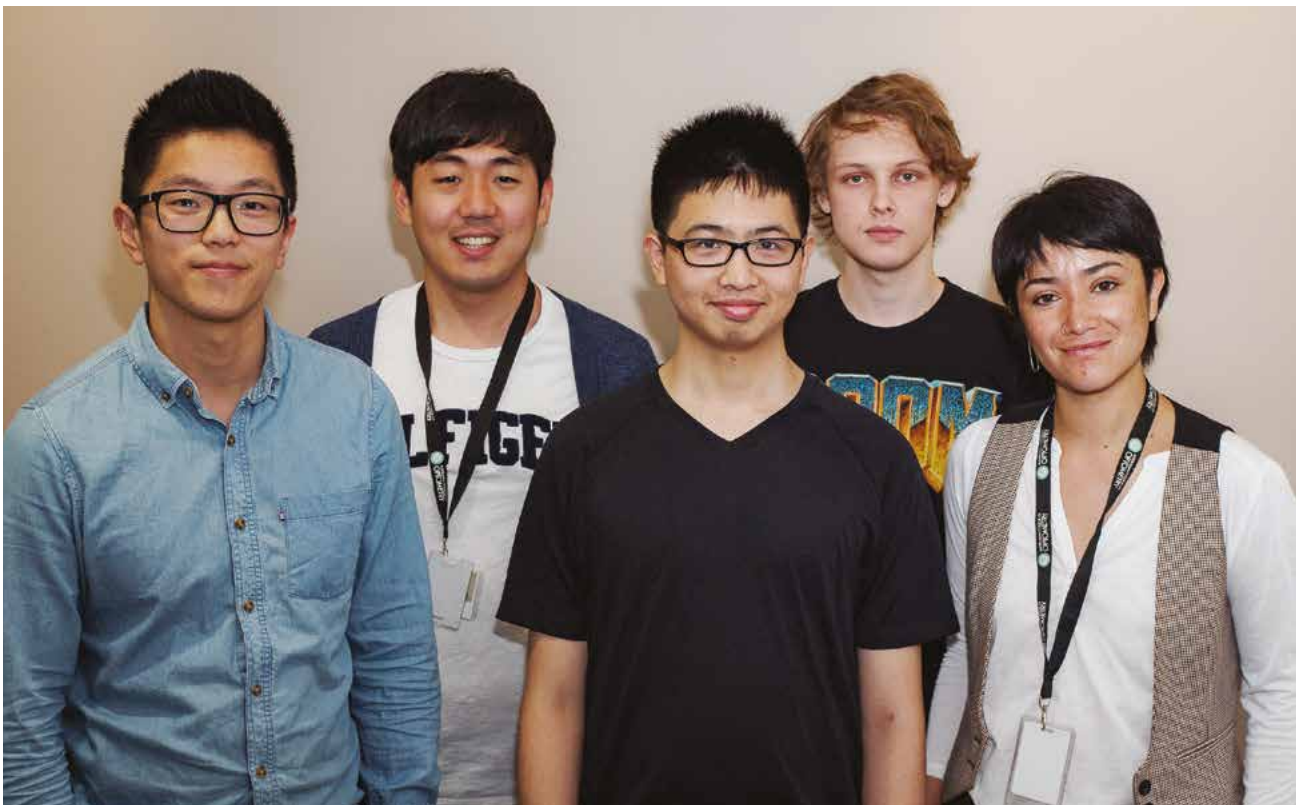
meeting. Funding for the events came from the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, which is a consortium funded by the Australian Research Council. Special thanks go to Tenille Ryan, the NVRI's part time project manager for her work in managing these international projects. Both meetings positioned the NVRI very clearly on the map as a high-technology research centre.

*... the NVRI initiated, planned and hosted two major international symposia, one in Berlin, Germany and the other in Seattle, USA. The concept behind these events was that the NVRI might have more international impact ...*

Second, the NVRI team as a whole achieved some key experimental goals in its cortical research efforts. We have in the last few years been revolutionising our research activities in the cortical labs and the new techniques came to fruition in 2017/2018. We have started to use multi-channel electrodes in combination with generalised white-noise analysis techniques. Instead of recording from one visual neuron at a time,

as has been standard now for many decades, we are now able to record from 30-60 neurons simultaneously, with a well-developed plan to move to 256 channels in 2019. The white noise analysis, using the latest in systems identifications techniques allows us to fully characterise the responses of all the cells in a period of around 10 hours. All of this requires highly automated analysis programs that can extract very high-resolution data from multiple channels. A side effect of these new techniques is that we now collect terabytes of data per day. These revolutionary techniques have taken substantial effort over many years by multiple members of the NVRI team, led ably by Dr Hamish Meffin. It is hard to convey the significance of these technical developments but its probably similar in the field of brain science to the revolution that came about with intracellular recording, which revolutionised our understanding of the brain and nervous system. As if this were not enough, through collaborations with Profs David Grayden and Tony Burkitt from the University of Melbourne, we have been able to develop substantial models that explain a high proportion of the processing that occurs in the early cortex. This is starting to have a major impact in the field, which is very pleasing from my viewpoint as Director.

Third, our development of prosthetic vision devices (bionic eyes) has progressed substantially. In March 2018 I travelled to Montreal, Canada to attend a meeting of iBionics, a Canadian start-up company



(L-R) Scott Sun, Jason Jung, Yunzhong Hu, James Begeng and Marcela Escudero



that supported us in winning a Development Grant from the NHMRC. Many of the iBionics team then visited the NVRI in October to further the collaboration. The meetings brought together teams of engineers, surgeons, physiologists, managers, investors and entrepreneurs from around the world. We made substantial progress and put realistic key performance indicators in place for each of the research groups involved in the project, including the NVRI. With robust collaboration with our colleagues at the University of Melbourne, Prof Steven Praver and Dr David Garrett, we are now moving rapidly towards developing and commercialising a device known as the Diamond Eye. The NVRI's Dr Wei Tong has led this group locally in 2018 as she pushes the field forward at pace.

Fourth, ever since I came to the NVRI we have wanted to start a research pathway that was directly

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*... we have been able to develop substantial models that explain a high proportion of the processing that occurs in the early cortex. This is starting to have a major impact in the field ...*

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relevant to clinical practice. However, we have suffered from the chicken and egg paradox: which comes first? In our case we needed money to start the project but we needed scientific results before anyone would commit to providing the money. In the end, with 50% support from the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences (DOVS) at the University of Melbourne, we have found sufficient funds from the budget to appoint Dr Cirous Deghani into a clinical research position at the NVRI. Negotiations were successful because of the collaborative efforts of Prof Allison McKendrick (Head of DOVS) and the ACO's CEO, Ms Maureen O'Keefe. Cirous started in February 2019 after the appointment process in late 2018. He comes with high credentials having worked with the ACO's past president, Professor Nathan Efron at QUT. He also worked with CSIRO gaining useful translational training at that time. Cirous will work on several projects including extracting population data from the ACO's extensive clinical records to guide future clinical practice and investigating the role of retinal observation in determining the state of brain health.

We continue to train and mentor future vision scientists and it was pleasing to see Artemio Soto-Breceda submit his PhD thesis in September after a solid three and a half years of research and data analysis. His efforts are part of a fruitful and important

collaboration with Dr Tania Kameneva from Swinburne University focused on retinal research.

It was a very busy year in 2018 that involved many more people than those directly mentioned above. I would like to thank all those that have offered support and assistance through the year. These include the NVRI and ACO staff, members of the new NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee, the NVRI Board of Administration, ACO Council and CEO and the many members and friends of the NVRI that so kindly donate their time and money to our causes. Particular thanks go to the Lions Clubs of Victoria and the L.E.W. Carty Foundation for providing fellowship funding.

**Professor Michael Ibbotson**

BSc (Hons) PhD

**NVRI highlights**

- ✎ Members of the institute organised and hosted two international vision science events, in Berlin, Germany and Seattle, USA.
- ✎ Professor Rachel Wong became a Fellow of the NVRI. She was an early career researcher at the NVRI in the 1980s and went on to an outstanding career, mainly in the USA.
- ✎ The NVRI has revolutionised its cortical physiology laboratories with the development of a series of new, complex methods for understanding the visual cortex.
- ✎ The NVRI initiated a new project working with cultured retinal cells, which is a completely new avenue for research.
- ✎ A new collaboration for a Clinical Research position was established in collaboration with the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at the University of Melbourne and the NVRI/ACO.
- ✎ One student submitted a PhD thesis: Artemio Soto-Breceda.

## BIONIC EYES

The NVRI continues its work on electrical stimulation of the retina, with the aim of producing a functional prosthetic vision device (bionic eye). Bionic eyes use digital camera images and send processed versions via a grid of stimulating electrodes to the retina. The brain is able to understand the pattern of electrical stimulation as an image. Our main focus in 2018, in collaboration with a start-up company called iBionics, was to understand stimulation strategies so that we can better confine the spread of electrical current, thus increasing the spatial resolution of the artificial image. The main technique used in these experiments was to infuse retinal ganglion cells with fluorescent dye and then monitor the activity of thousands of such cells using the NVRI's dedicated confocal microscope while we stimulated the retina with a multi-electrode array (Figure 1). By adjusting the current amplitude and duration of stimulation we were able to optimize the pattern of electrical stimulation.

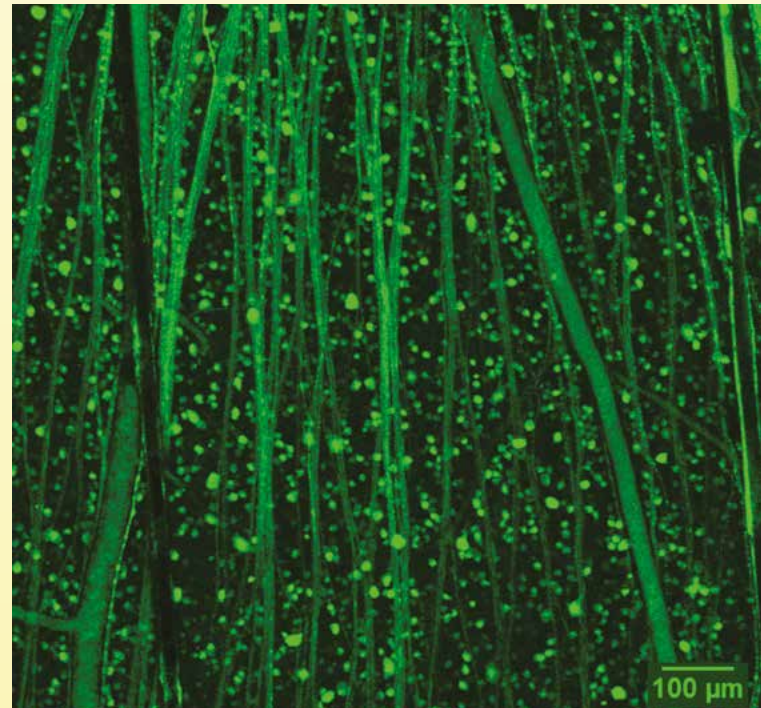
In addition, Dr Wei Tong began work using cultured retinal cells to establish the biocompatibility of man-made diamond, which forms the core of the bionic device. This research effort required purchasing new incubators and a specialised fume extractor, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The work has progressed very well.

## NEW ELECTRODE TECHNOLOGIES

Our close collaborators (Professor Steven Prawer and Dr David Garrett) from the physics department at the University of Melbourne have been developing new carbon-based recording and stimulating devices, including such exotic devices as diamond coated graphite electrodes! These new technologies offer better electrical recording capabilities combined with more biocompatible, flexible electrodes. At the NVRI we have the great pleasure of using our electrophysiological skills and equipment to test these devices. New electrode technologies are having a major impact on neuroscience at the moment because it is now possible to record from 10-100 times as many cells per recording as was possible just a few years ago. It is very exciting to be part of this revolution both from the perspective of designing the electrodes and from the viewpoint of collecting far more useful datasets.



Dr Wei Tong

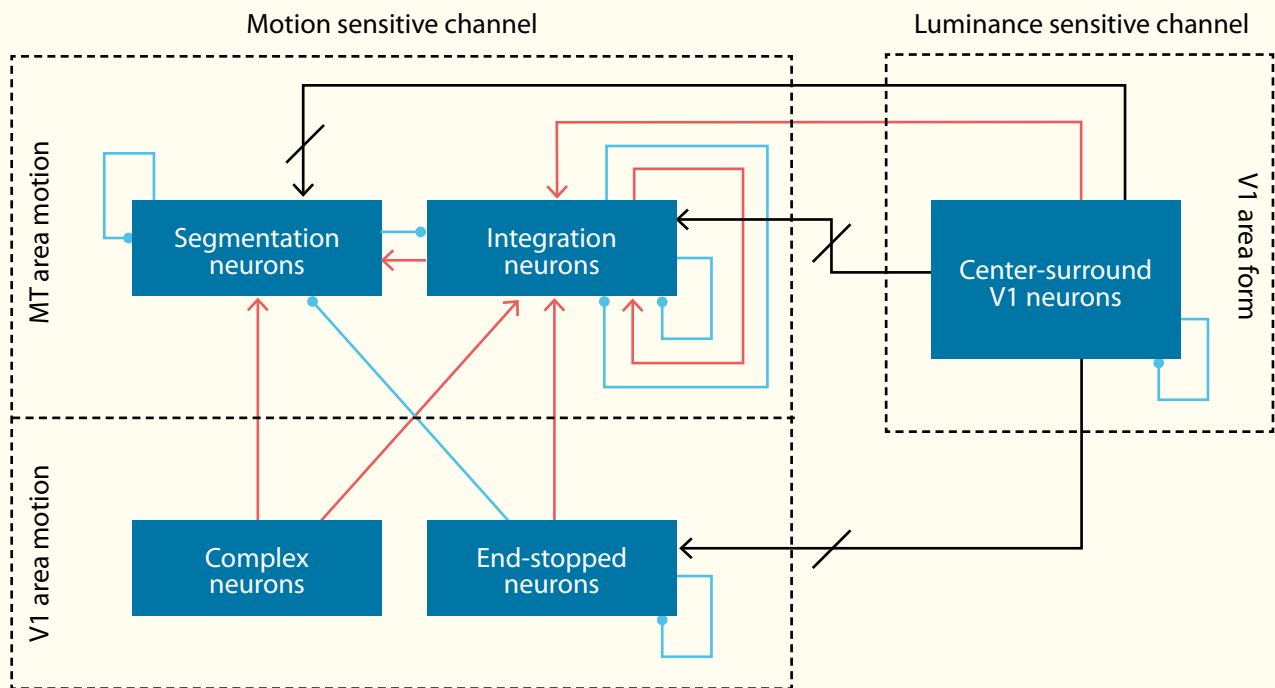


Confocal microscope image of retinal ganglion cells (bright dots), axon bundles (vertical shiny filaments) and blood vessels (thick, dull, vertical, branching tubes) in a rat retina.

## MODELLING PRIMATE VISION

Humans are primates and understanding primate brain function is fundamental to understanding how our brains work and how they go wrong. Using data collected from primate brains by others, we have been formulating sophisticated models to explain how they process complex motion information. One of our ex-PhD students, Dr Parvin Zarei has built a highly complex model of motion processing based on what we know about the primate brain. Why is this important? As an example, it is becoming commonplace for people to assume that self-driving cars are “just around the corner” – resulting in the primate being taken out of the driver’s seat! However, there are good reasons why no autonomous car is currently legally allowed to drive through urban environments. The entire visual environment around a moving car is in motion. What does an autonomous car do when a child runs out versus a harmless plastic bag blowing

across the road? How does the car detect these events and use that information appropriately? It is safer to drive through the plastic bag than to suddenly stop and risk a rear-end crash. Conversely, a precious life depends upon the car stopping or swerving to avoid a child. How could the system possibly differentiate those circumstances with the reliability available to a primate? Clearly, the artificial visual system must use a robust vision model that can cope with a very wide range of motion environments, which is exactly what exists in the primate system. The model developed by us goes some way towards building a viable model that could be used in artificial systems. Focusing upon neural mechanisms and building neural models can immediately translate to artificial motion identification systems in complex visual environments, which have real-time applications.

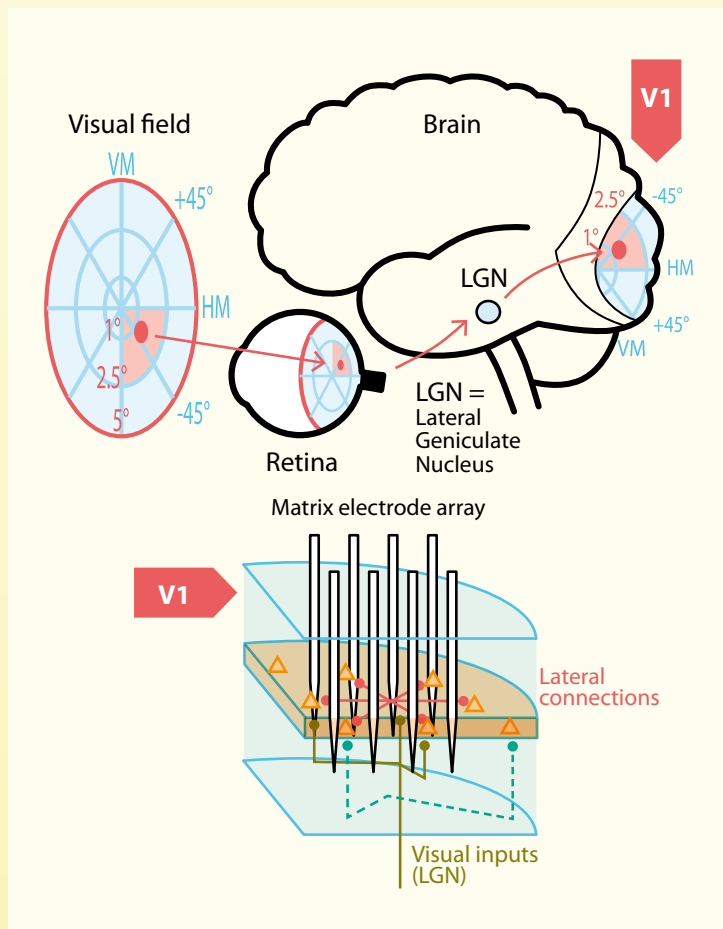


Model of the motion processing area in primates (area MT).  
MT is connected to the primary visual cortex (V1).



## VISUAL CORTEX

For many years we have recorded the activities of neurons in the visual cortex one cell at a time. The low yield has greatly restricted our ability to understand population dynamics. Instead of one cell at a time we can now use electrode arrays that offer anything from 32 to 256 recording sites. Major advances in materials science and miniaturised electronics have allowed us to record from such large electrode arrays with very high fidelity. Several NVRI PhD students and post-doctoral fellows have been using these electrode arrays and new analysis techniques to revolutionise our understanding of how the visual cortex recomposes the information about the visual scene derived from the decomposed signals emanating from the retina. In previous decades we have learned a great deal about how individual cells code information in small patches of the visual scene but we have not been able to grapple with the thorny problem of how those cells work as a population to generate perception. We are now at the forefront internationally of understanding this essential component of human life.



A schematic showing the visual field projected into the retina, then transmitted through nervous cells to the lateral geniculate nucleus (LGN), then the primary visual cortex (V1). The multi-electrode array is shown schematically lowered into the brain. The visual cortex has multiple layers (one horizontal layer is shown). Each probe has up to 32 electrodes that allow us to record from multiple layers simultaneously.

## THE INFLUENCE OF CAFFEINE ON VISION

Along with our physiological studies, the NVRI initiated collaboration with Professor McKendrick from the University of Melbourne. In some preliminary experiments, Dr Molis Yunzab, our L.E.W. Carty-Lions Fellow, discovered that caffeine can influence visual perception of motion in some quite unexpected ways. Before giving away too much, we will confirm our findings in 2019.



Dr Molis Yunzab, L.E.W. Carty / Lions Fellow

# PRESENTATIONS

## Neurotechnology Publications

### Details

Maturana M, Apollo NV, Kamaneva T, Garrett DJ, Grayden DB, Ibbotson MR (2018) Electrical receptive fields of retinal ganglion cells: influence of presynaptic neurons. *PLoS Computational Biology* 14(2): e1005997

Meng K, Fellner A, Rattay F, Ghezzi D, Meffin H, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T (2018). Upper stimulation threshold for retinal ganglion cell activation. *J Neural Engineering* 15(4):046012 doi: 10.1088/1741-2552/aabb7d

Eskiland PZ, Kameneva T, Ibbotson MR, Burkitt AN, Grayden DL (2018). A biologically based computational model of visual cortex that explains the X-junction illusion. *Neural Networks* doi.org/10.1016/j.neuronet.2018.02.008

Qin W, Hadjinicolaou A, Grayden D, Bruce D; Meffin H, Burkitt AN, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T (2018). Single-compartment models of retinal ganglion cells with different electrophysiologies. *Network: Computation in Neural Systems* 28:2-4, 74-94 doi: 10.1080/0954898X.2018.1455993

Zehra S, Hicks D, Hadjinicolaou AE, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T (2018). Differences between morphological and electrophysiological retinal ganglion cell classes. *IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc* 2018 3056-3059. Doi: 10.1109/EMBC.2018.8512899

Kotsakidis R, Meffin H, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T (2018). In vitro assessment of the differences in retinal ganglion cell responses to intra- and extracellular electrical stimulation. *J Neural Engineering* 15(4):046022 doi: 10.1088/1741-2552/aac2f7

Aldaoud A, Soto-Breceda A, Tong W, Conductier G, Tonta MA, Coleman HA, Parkington HC, Clarke I, Redoute JM, Garrett DJ, Prawer S (2018). Wireless multichannel optogenetic stimulators enabled by narrow bandwidth resonant tank circuits. *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical* 271:201-211 doi:10.1016/j.sna.2017.12.051

Esler TB, Kerr RR, Tahayori B, Grayden DJ, Meffin H, Burkitt AN (2018). Minimising activation of overlying axons with epiretinal stimulation: The role of fiber orientation and electrode configuration. *PLoS One* 13(3):e0193598 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0193598

Ibbotson MR (2018). The technology of bees. *BBKA News incorporating the British Bee Journal*. 234: 235-238 (ISSN: 2051-0624).

Wong YT, Ahnood A, Maturana MI, Kentler W, Ganesan K, Grayden DB, Meffin H, Prawer S, Ibbotson MR, Burkitt AN (2018). Feasibility of nitrogen doped ultrananocrystalline diamond microelectrodes for electrophysiological recording from neural tissue. *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology* Jun 226:85 doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2018.00085. eCollection 2018

Soto-Breceda A, Kameneva T, Meffin H, Maturana M, Ibbotson MR (2018). Irregularly timed electrical pulses reduce adaptation of retinal ganglion cells. *Neural Engineering* 15(5):056017 doi: 10.1088/1741-2552/aad46e

Spencer MJ, Meffin H, Burkitt AN, Grayden DB (2018). Compensation for travelling wave delay through selection of dendritic delays using spike-dependent plasticity in a model of the auditory brainstem. *Front Comput Neurosci* 12:36 doi: 10.3389/fncom.2018.00036

Esler TB, Maturana MI, Kerr RR, Grayden DB, Burkitt AN, Meffin H (2018). Biophysical basis of the linear electrical receptive fields of retinal ganglion cells. *J Neural Eng* 15(5):055001 doi: 10.1088/1741-2552/aacbaa

Kameneva T, Meffin H, Burkitt AN, Grayden DB (2018). Bistability in Hodgkin-Huxley-Type Equations. 40th Ann. Int. Conf. *IEEE Eng. Med. & Biol.* Doi: 10.1109/EMBC.2018.8513233

Meng K, Meffin H, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T (2018) Neuroprosthesis: Method to evaluate the information content of stimulation strategies. 40th Ann. Int. Conf. *IEEE Eng. Med. & Biol.* P4724-4727 doi: 10.1109/EMBC.2018.8513122

Spencer M, Kameneva T, Grayden DB, Meffin H, Burkitt AN (2018). Global activity shaping strategies for a retinal implant. *J Neural Eng*. Nov 13;16(2):026008 doi: 10.1088.1741-2552/aaf071

## Presentations by NVRI Staff and Students

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Conference/Meeting
Ibbotson MR	Advances in visual neural stimulation. (invited speaker)	Bionics Meeting, University of Sherbrook, Montreal Canada, 16-20 April 2019
Ibbotson MR	Extra-retinal vision: the role of the brain in seeing. (invited speaker)	Bionics Meeting, University of Sherbrook, Montreal Canada, 16-20 April 2019
Ibbotson MR	Non-linear receptive fields in visual cortex: structure and adaptive characteristics (invited speaker)	Satellite meeting, 11th Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Berlin Germany 6 July 2018
Yunzab M, Almasi A, Choi V, Meffin H, Cloherty SL, Scholl B, Priebe N, Ibbotson MR	Revisiting the biomodal classification of cells in primary visual cortex. (poster)	11th Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Berlin Germany, 7-11 July 2018
Monfared O, Burkitt AN, Grayden DB, Tahayori B, Nestic D, Meffin H	Modelling the electrical impedance of neural tissue based on its cellular building blocks. (poster)	27th Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting, Seattle USA, 13-18 July 2018
Lian Y, Meffin H, Grayden DB, Kameneva T, Burkitt AN	A biologically plausible neural model of visual pathways based on efficient coding. (poster)	27th Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting, Seattle USA, 13-18 July 2018
Meffin H	The structure of non-linear receptive fields in cat primary cortex. (invited speaker)	Conference Workshop: 27th Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting, Seattle USA, 18 July 2018
Yunzab M	How to become a Neurodetective: Developing an innovative neural recording device. (invited speaker)	Brain Function Centre of Excellence Early Career Researcher Retreat, Melbourne Australia, 4-5 August 2018
Soto-Breceda A, Yunzab M, Maturana M, Meffin H, Kameneva T, Burkitt AN, Ibbotson MR.	Exploring the selectivity of rat retina ganglion cells through an STC analysis of their temporal electrical receptive fields. (poster)	NeuroEng 2018, the 11th Australian Workshop on Neuro-Engineering and Computational Neuroscience, Sydney Australia, 28-29 November 2018
Almasi A, Meffin H, Cloherty SL, Yunzab M, Wong YW, Ibbotson MR	How cells in primary visual cortex combine features to attain selectivity and invariance for object recognition. (poster and mini-talk)	NeuroEng 2018, the 11th Australian Workshop on Neuro-Engineering and Computational Neuroscience, Sydney Australia, 28-29 November 2018 **Winner of Peoples Choice Award**
Sun S, Almasi A, Yunzab M, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H	Extracellular spike waveform predicts whether single units recorded in visual cortex are tuned to orientation. (poster)	euroEng 2018, the 11th Australian Workshop on Neuro-Engineering and Computational Neuroscience, Sydney Australia, 28-29 November 2018
Yunzab M, Almasi A, Choi V, Meffin H, Cloherty SL, Scholl B, Priebe N, Ibbotson MR	Revisiting the biomodal classification of cells in primary visual cortex. (mini-talk)	Brain Function Centre of Excellence Early Career Research Workshop, Brisbane Australia, 3 December 2018
Jung YJ, Yunzab M, Almasi A, Sun S, Cloherty SL, Bauquier S, Renfree M, Meffin H, Ibbotson MR	Orientation maps in the primary visual cortex of an Australian marsupial, the Tammar Wallaby <i>Macropus engieii</i> . (poster)	Australasian Neuroscience Society, 38th Scientific Meeting, Brisbane Australia, 3-6 December 2018
Sun Shi Hai SS, Meffin H, Almasi A, Yunzab M, Wong YW, Cloherty SL, Ibbotson MR	Extracellular spike waveform classification aligns with receptive field in cat visual cortex. (poster)	Australasian Neuroscience Society, 38th Scientific Meeting, Brisbane Australia, 3-6 December 2018
Yunzab M, Soto-Breceda A, Maturana M, Meffin H, Kameneva T, Burkitt AN, Ibbotson MR	Selectivity of temporal electrical receptive fields in rat retinal ganglion cells to electrical stimulation. (poster)	Australasian Neuroscience Society, 38th Scientific Meeting, Brisbane Australia, 3-6 December 2018
Yunzab M, Almasi A, Choi V, Meffin H, Cloherty SL, Scholl B, Priebe N, Ibbotson MR	Revisiting the biomodal classification of cells in primary visual cortex. (poster)	Australasian Neuroscience Society, 38th Scientific Meeting, Brisbane Australia, 3-6 December 2018

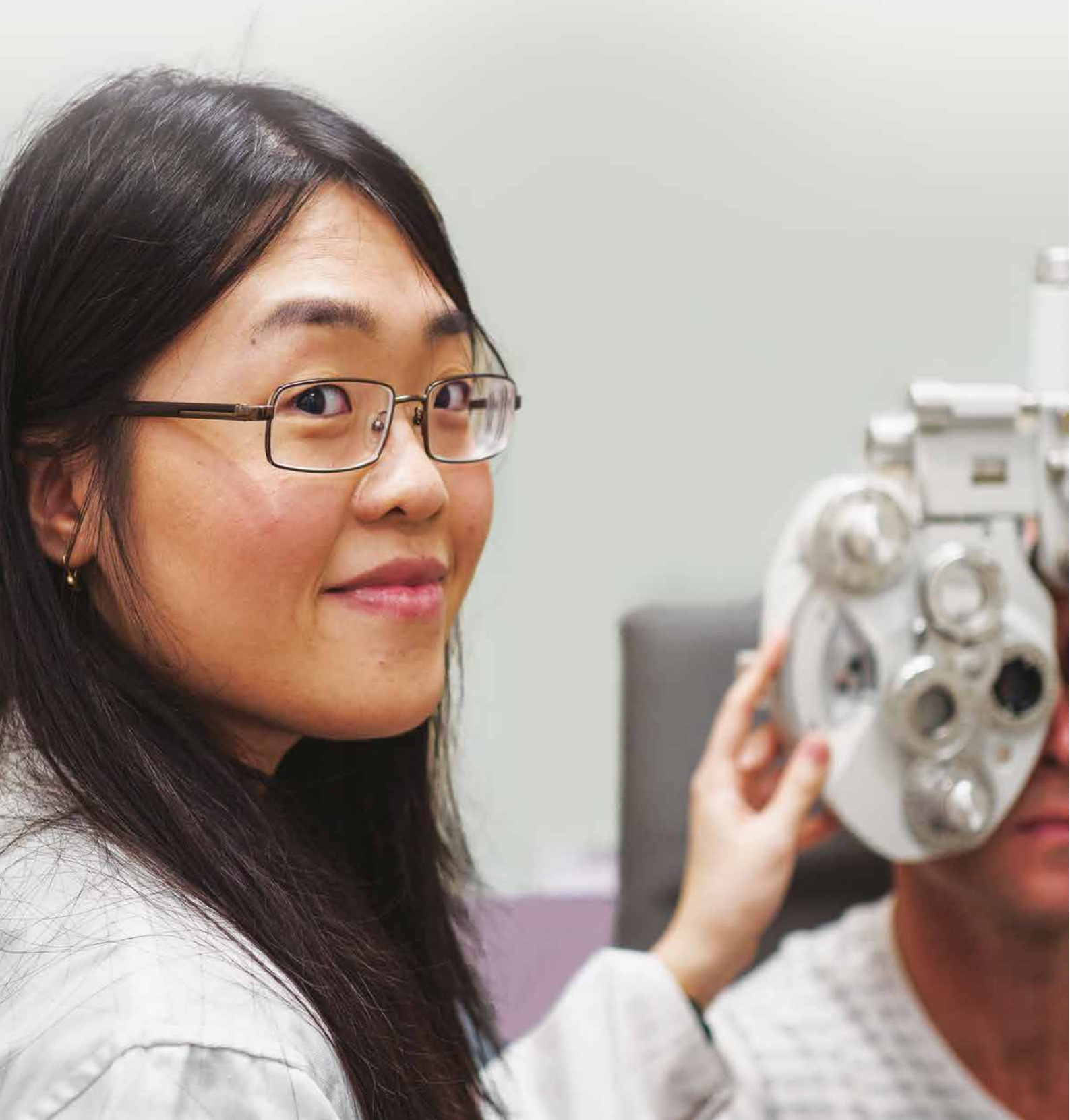


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EDUCATION

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# EXPANDING OUR EDUCATION



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

**REFLECTING ON MY FIRST FULL YEAR** as Director of the ACO Education Division has underlined again for me the importance of future thinking and forward planning. With uncertainties around what impact technology, a changing workforce and regulatory oversight will have on optometric education in the near and distant future, it was a year of contemplation and consideration.

A future mindset was also a central tenet throughout much of our education program to meet the changing needs of our members, highlighted by enlightening and entertaining keynote presentations and a "great debate" at the annual ACO National Conference. As mentioned in futurist, Charles Brass' keynote speech, "predicting the future is a mug's game, what is important is putting strategies in place to prepare for any future."

The ACO offers a broad range of learning opportunities that already utilise modern eLearning modalities and 2018 saw this expanded further adopting more efficient technology in its webinars and feedback collecting processes. A new online Clinical Knowledge Evaluation in Diabetic Retinopathy was launched and

the first cohort completed the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision including an interactive forum assessment. The team were extremely buoyed by the interest (and size) of the first cohort.

I am thrilled to see the continued success of the ACO Certificate courses, attracting candidates from Australia, New Zealand and increasingly globally. The ACO National Conference is always a highlight of the year and we are very proud that 2018 again saw us achieve an attendance record. Our annual CPD program also continued to provide value to our members and the profession with a diverse range of interesting topics and workshops.

While 2018 saw some challenges, it also highlighted the willingness and efficiency of all involved in meeting those challenges to ensure that the ACO Education Division continues to be a viable, relevant and vibrant entity. The immediate Education Division members, lecturers, examiners, curriculum committee members, ACO staff, sponsors and donors work tirelessly and/or give generously to help achieve the aims of our division. For this I thank you all sincerely and look forward to another year of providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists.



Marcel Mihulka  
Director of  
Education



Education Team (L-R) Ryan Rosario, Elizabeth Salvatore, Jane Trevaskis, Marcel Mihulka, Kai Lyn Goh, Nellie Deen, Bradley Mills (commencing 2019) and Shazia Tahseen

### Highlights of the 2018 year:

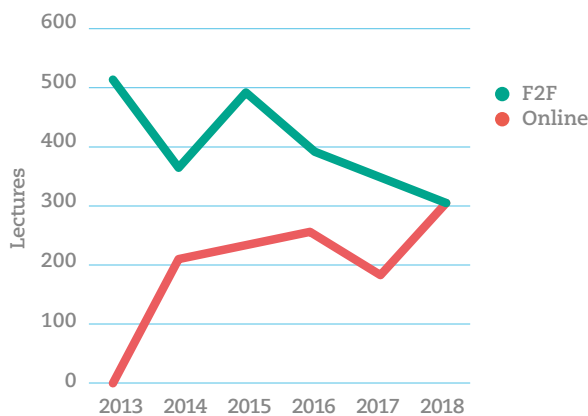
- ✎ The launch of the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision, a six-month online course with local clinical placements, case studies and interactive online forum
- ✎ The launch of our second Clinical Knowledge Evaluation which measures one's performance in key areas in diabetic retinopathy assessment
- ✎ Introduction of a new early career optometry education and network evening
- ✎ Establishment of a voluntary Education Consumer Advisory Committee which assists the Division
- ✎ More focus on diversity of presenters (age, gender, tenure) in education offerings, reflecting the diversity of the optometry profession
- ✎ A record number of registrations for the ACO National Conference

## Education Activity

The Education Division at The Australian College of Optometry offers a broad range of face to face and online learning opportunities including 12 month and 6-month Certificate Courses, a National Conference, therapeutics update, online lectures and Clinical Knowledge Evaluations on OCT Interpretation, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy; face to face seminar lectures and webinars which are also provided online for use at one's leisure.

Technological advances are leading to changes in personal preferences in the education sector. Increasing numbers are viewing our content online given the flexibility and ease of watching on demand, anywhere, in your own time. The graph below indicates the growing popularity of online seminars to face-to-face attendance.

### F2F vs Online Lectures



In 2018, there was a focus on ensuring diverse representation of presenters and lecturers based on gender, experience and profession that reflects the diversity in the profession and the diversity of patients we provide for. There were opportunities for emerging talent including ACO staff to present as well as experienced professionals from a variety of disciplines including coordinated care approaches. Below are some “snapshots” of events.

### Clinical Workshop Snapshot

The clinical workshop entitled ‘Inflammatory Conditions of the Lids and Lacrimal Apparatus, Lacrimal Lavage, Punctal Plug Insertion/Removal and Meibomian Gland Expression’ offered one of a number of opportunities for ACO staff members to team up with an ophthalmologist. In this case, Justin Friebl commenced the session with lectures on various conditions that affect the ocular adnexa. During the practical component, three enthusiastic ACO clinicians demonstrated the techniques of punctal plug insertion/removal, Meibomian gland expression and lacrimal lavage. The Education Division is grateful

for the contributions of Mae Chong, Christa Sipos-Ori and Eddie Burgin. The skills of our worthy colleagues, coupled with Justin’s invaluable expertise ensured that attendees became more proficient at these skills.

### Seminar Series Snapshot

The final Seminar Series event offered the ideal platform for some of our ACO clinicians to show that their talents are not confined to the consulting room. On this occasion, Tim Fricke, Rachael Kwok, Albert D’Souza and Vanessa Tang demonstrated not merely their clinical skills, but their prowess in research and elocution. Tim considered the esoteric issue of heuristics, Rachael discussed oral eplerenone as a remedy for central serous chorioretinopathy, Albert alerted us to the importance of recognising a third nerve palsy and Vanessa delivered a ‘TED’ talk that was about TED (better known as thyroid eye disease).

### Engaging with our people

The previous year saw a greater commitment to engaging with our people through a number of strategies.

We created an Education Consumer Advisory Committee comprising of volunteers interested or involved in ACO Education, with an exceptional representative spread across the membership. The committee has assisted us with decisions including topic ideas, suitability of events/dates, testing new offerings and providing feedback on marketing. We thank the committee members for generously donating their time to this forum to help the team build better education products for our members.

The first ACO online community of practice has been established and is currently being trialled as an interest group for Children’s Vision. Suggested by the first Advanced Certificate in Children’s Vision candidates following the success of the online forum, the team listened and developed a platform whereby colleagues can share information and network online.

Our first early career optometrist event provided us the opportunity to engage with the newest in the profession at a locally run brewery. ACO presenters Anagha Joshi, Jill Campbell and Eddie Burgin discussed how they navigated their early years in optometry, their highs, lows and decisions that have seen them arrive where they are now in their career. Attendees utilised the informal forum setting to open up and asked important questions.

Looking forward to 2019, we have plans for more exciting new initiatives, one being a Certificate in Public Health Optometry which includes a leadership component, perfect for those looking to advance their leadership skillset in optometry.





## ACO National Conference

The ninth Australian College of Optometry's National Conference was opened by the ACO CEO on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October at the MCG. A record number of delegates engaged in a comprehensive educational program covering current best practices and optometry into the future as well as the opportunity to meet with other delegates, sponsors and presenters.

Opening the program on Saturday morning was a keynote address by Mr Charles Brass on effectively navigating the uncertainties of the future. Later that day, and continuing on the future's theme, a debate that Technology, AI and Automation will be detrimental to Optometry Profession was resoundingly won by the Against side.

Saturday also included a talk on Nystagmus from Dr Kwam Cham, included some

therapeutically-challenging glaucoma case studies presented by Mr Roman Serebrianiuk, Dr Adrian Bruce interpreting OCT scans for brain tumours vs Glaucoma, Dr Ann Webber on paediatrics looking forward and Tim Fricke finished with a talk on the challenges and opportunities of a myopic future. At the end of day one, delegates were refreshed with food and drink and a chance to further discuss the day's learnings with colleagues and presenters.

Early risers on Sunday morning enjoyed breakfast while being educated on the challenges of providing eyecare in remote and rural Australia. This talk by Dr Phil Anderton included practical tips on what are the most effective tools of trade for an optometrist in remote areas. Dr Anderton's stories of outback challenges have been made into a children's book courtesy of his daughter Joanne, who delighted in his tales while growing up. Sunday's keynote speaker David Mackey provided an enlightening presentation on which ocular diseases are genetically caused or influenced (e.g. glaucoma) and which, like myopia, are more a result of environmental factors. A panel of three public health presenters spoke on optometry for indigenous, cultural competence and the Eyesfor-Everest program, Dr Carla Abbott presented on new technologies for those visually impaired Dr Graham Lakkis championed the ongoing need for visual field testing and a panel of general practitioner, ophthalmologist and optometrist (Dr Yota Yoshimitsu, Dr Janice Thean and Ms Christa Sipos-Ori respectively) presented a multi-disciplinary approach to some interesting and somewhat rare case studies.

To end the conference, Dr Charles Su spoke about best practice management of the ocular adnexa addressed treating patients with visible lesions, visible eyelid mal-positions and mal-functions and those with signs of pathology in the orbit.

The 10th iteration of the ACO National Conference will be held in Melbourne on October 5th & 6th 2019 so be sure to save the date.

## Release of our second Clinical Knowledge Evaluation

The ACO-CKE Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Knowledge Evaluation consists of 70 unique case-based questions that enables participants to assess their skill set around diagnosing and managing/referring patients with diabetes mellitus. It is designed as a self-reflective educational tool and is valuable for optometrists who seek to identify learning opportunities and to test their skills against their peers and industry standards.

The program, developed by the ACO in consultation with the wider optometry community, has been piloted by registered optometrists and aims to ultimately support the delivery of best practice eye health care. It is the second Clinical Knowledge Evaluation developed by the ACO, alongside the ACO-CKE Glaucoma (formerly ACO-GAP).



The public health symposium was a highlight of the 2018 ACO National Conference

# CERTIFICATE COURSES

## ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

It is hard to believe that after last year's cohort, we will be delivering our 8th ACO-COT in April 2019. In 2018, we sent out a follow up survey to all previous ACO-COT alumni and we were overwhelmed with the reply. 100% of respondents said the course met or exceeded their expectations. 99% found the course to be beneficial to their clinical practice and career, while over 90% apply their knowledge from the course to their clinical practice frequently or always. The feedback highlights the value of the ACO-COT as a practice builder and extension of professional and clinical skills.

.....  
*"I believe the relevant knowledge I now bring to the practice is roughly double what it was before."*  
 .....

*"Long before the approval came through from AHPRA to actually prescribe therapeutic agents, undertaking the ACO-COT improved my clinical practice in many ways... my knowledge was more up to date, my framework clearer, my approach more methodical, my experience broader and my advice more useful regarding non-therapeutic or OTC options and what to expect if referred."*  
 .....

*"Patients love being able to get effective treatment locally."*

The ACO COT is unique with its flexible style of delivery through online learning, local clinical placements and assessments. 75% of candidates rated the flexible learning feature as their main reason for selecting the ACO for pursuing their Therapeutics course.



### ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics Curriculum Committee:

- A/Prof Ian Gutteridge, MScOptom LOSc FAAO FACO PGCertOcTher
- A/Prof James Armitage, MOptom, PhD
- Dr Bang Bui, B.Optom, M.Optom, PhD, PGCOT
- A/Prof Colin Chan, MBBS(HONS) FRANZCO
- Prof Erica Fletcher, PhD, MScOptom, FAAO winner of the 2016 Glenn A Fry Award
- Maureen O'Keefe, BSc (Hons), DipEd, MBA, GAICD
- Dr Graham Wilson, MB ChB 1990 Otago; FRANZCO 2000
- Dr Jonathan Ruddle, MBBS, FRANZCO
- Dr Heathcote Wright, PhD FRANZCO



ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics graduation 2018



## POSTGRADUATE LEVEL CERTIFICATE COURSES



The ACO's suite of certificate courses continue to grow strong with healthy intakes in all three of our six-month offerings; the Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses (ACO-CACL), Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma (ACO-ACG) and the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision (ACO-ACCV).

Of note was the strong interest in the Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision which was launched in January. As per previous Certificates, the ACO-ACCV offers a blended learning experience for candidates, combining didactic online lectures, written case reports and coordinated clinical placements. The other key features are: self-paced learning, access to academic articles and a vast cache of relevant books via the Nathan Library. To improve the interactive experience of for candidates participating in this Certificate, we incorporated an assessment on forum participation. This has then lead to the ongoing, online community of practice as mentioned earlier.

We received excellent feedback to the course from the incredibly engaged cohort and as such anticipate the 2019 edition to be even better. Already the team have been collaborating with children's health experts including Dr Anu Mathew and Dr Shiva Sheth of The Royal Children's Hospital to update and expand the content, including a new lecture on learning disabilities.

The provision of complex education modules like the ACO's Certificate Courses cannot be achieved without the help of many people. From those who design the programs to those who present the lectures, assessors of case reports, logbooks as well as the guidance we receive from Clinic Staff, the steering and review committees, the ACO's Education Division could not continue to expand its offerings without the assistance from all of the above. We would like to

acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from all those involved in the development and continuation of our Certificate Courses.

### Launching in 2019 – The Certificate in Public Health Optometry (ACO-CPHO)

Currently under development is the exciting new Certificate in Public Health Optometry. The ACO Certificate in Public Health Optometry is being designed to ensure graduates are equipped with the skills to protect the safety and improve the health of communities through education, health promotion, policy making and research for eye disease and injury prevention. With a module dedicated to leadership in public health optometry, the course aims to provide any professional working in eye health with an interest in public health to become thought-leading professional advocates with scope to develop niche skills through an initiative of their own choice.

Content has been developed by a mix of high calibre presenters with expertise in public health and leadership across optometry and the wider public health sphere, including leadership topics from experts in governance and policy.

Upon completion of the certificate, graduates will have a detailed understanding of public health fundamentals including epidemiology, biostatistics, health systems, promotion and literacy, global eye health, indigenous eye care and eye care for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. The public health leadership module will prepare graduates in areas including public health future, including the future of work, diversity and inclusion, health management & clinical leadership, networking & partnerships and advocacy & communication.



Whether you like to crunch numbers, conduct laboratory or field research, formulate policy, or work directly with people to help improve their eye health, you are bound to find value in the ACO Certificate of Public Health Optometry.

**Advisory Committee:**

- Mr Mitchell Anjou AM MScOptom BScOptom FACO
- Ms Kerry Hart BOptom, PostGradDipAdvClinOptom, PostGradCertOcTher, MPH, GCHETL
- Dr Josephine Li. PhD BScOptom FACO
- Ms Mae FA Chong BOptom, PGDipAdvClinOptom, PGCertOcTher, FACO
- Dr Suit May Ho. PhD BScOptom GCertOcThera GCertSocSci (Int Devel) FACO
- Lien Trinh BOptom MOptom MScPH
- Dr Mandy Truong PhD MPH BOptom

**Lecturers:**

- Judith Abbott – *CEO Vision 2020 Australia*
- Ms Skye Cappuccio PGDipPubHlth BA
- Mr Piers Carozzi BOptom
- Ms Angeline Ferdinand MPH BA
- Jennifer Gersbeck *Director – Global Partnerships and Advocacy at The Fred Hollows Foundation*
- Ms Annette Hoskin
- Prof Erwin Loh PhD MBA MHSM MBBS LLB(Hons)
- Alicia Mathews – *Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, Telstra and International Labour Office*

- Prof Rob Moodie AM MPH DTMH DipRACOG MBBS
- Michael Moore AM
- Prof Julie Simpson PhD PGD BSc
- Judith Stern BOptom Grad Cert PH
- Prof Hugh Taylor AC DO MD MBBS BMedSc
- Dr Mandy Truong PhD MPH BOptom
- Miss Dana Young MPH BHNut

**Clinical Teaching Program**

Our clinical teaching program plays an important role in shaping the future workforce. The combination of a diverse patient base and a large group of highly skilled educators ensures that students attending for placements at the ACO have a very rich and varied experience in our clinics.

In 2018 over 250 students attended for clinical placements from Deakin University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne. Students are involved in nearly all areas of activity including metropolitan clinics, outreach services, dispensing duty as well as children’s clinic, ocular disease clinics and contact lenses.

A key outcome of the teaching review we conducted in 2017-18 was for the ACO to provide a structured training program for all of our clinical educators. Work has begun on the foundations of this and we look forward to fully developing this program in 2019.



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## MEMBERSHIP

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# BUILDING MEMBERSHIP VALUE



## MEMBERS – YEAR IN REVIEW

To remain a strong, effective and sustainable membership organisation

**ACO MEMBERS BECOME PART OF** a respected optometry organisation dedicated to improving eye health outcomes for the community, especially those experiencing disadvantage. Members join a broader collegial optometry community of over 1000 optometrists and students across Australia and New Zealand, helping to promote the importance of eye health to the public and health professionals whilst also gaining access to a range of membership benefits.

ACO membership continues to grow, with a 2% increase of ACO financial members and a 3% increase of new graduate members in 2018. The proportion of interstate memberships also increased in 2018 by 3%. This year, members participated in a large range of free or significantly discounted ACO education programs, both in person and through our online learning

platforms. Members also enjoyed access to our online optometry resources and Nathan Library; were recognised for their achievements through our ACO Fellowship and awards program; and stayed up to date with the latest news through our online publications.

*“ACO membership is an important part of the profession. The ACO’s services, reputation and community services all significantly contribute to the standing of the profession.”*

### ACO Membership Benefits

#### Continuing education

Our continuing education program offers flexible, innovative education for optometrists across a broad range of clinical areas.



#### Fellowship

ACO Fellowship recognises members who have made a significant contribution to the practice and profession of optometry and to the community.

#### ACO awards

ACO Awards recognise outstanding achievements by those in the optometry community.



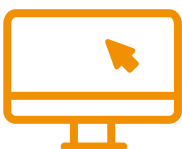
#### Travel grants

Travel grants give members the opportunity to gain knowledge of international best practice or to contribute their time and skills to a disadvantaged community (either in remote Australia or overseas).



#### Online membership newsletters and publications

Members stay up to date with the ACO through monthly online e-newsletters, InFocus magazines and other ACO publications.



#### Library resources

Members have access to a specialist collection of books, journal articles and other optometry, ophthalmology and vision science resources from the Nathan Library and ACO’s online resources centre.



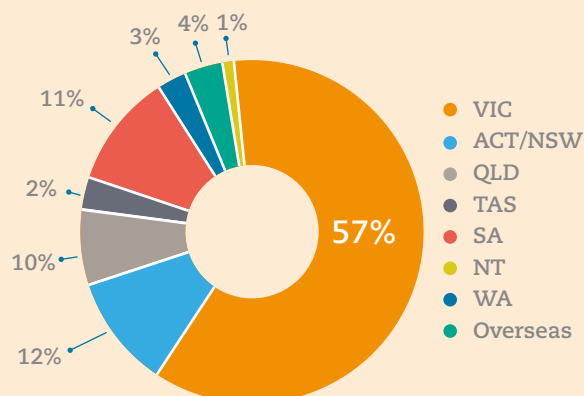
#### Voting rights

ACO financial members have voting rights at our Annual General Meeting.

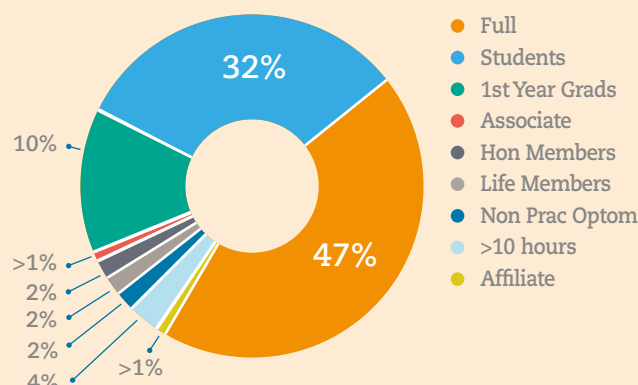




ACO members by location 2018



Member type 2018



## KETT OPTOMETRY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

The Kett Optometry Museum and Archive 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 and Archive was established in 1970. It has its foundation in the gift of an ophthalmic collection belonging to Melbourne optometrist, Cyril W Kett FBOA FSMC FVOA (1890-1970) 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*

Joseph Chakman *AM BScOptom*

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

Pamela R Sutton *BScOptom FACO*

Statistics	2018	2017
Total catalogued items at Dec 31	3676	3391
Items catalogued	285	258
Acquisitions	310	306
Number of donors of items	38	25

## Partnerships

The Museum continues its partnership with the National Library of Australia and is a contributor to the NLA's aggregator, TROVE which is an online service that brings together content from libraries, museums, archives, repositories and other research and collecting organisations around Australia.

The Museum also has received strong support and significant donations from the optometry associations of Australia, in particular Optometry Australia and Optometry NSW & ACT and now preserves much of their historical material.

## Donors

There were 38 donors in 2018, some are regulars and others new, and some just cleaning out the back room or offering us great-granny's spectacles. We thank them all.

Donors are not always optometrists. The Museum receives material from members of the general public, often the descendants of optometrists or sometimes just collectors.

The Museum purchased a Williams lantern, an instrument that was used to test the colour vision of railway workers in the first half of the 20th Century.

A particularly important contributor was Optometry Australia, which donated hundreds of files, photographs, reports, promotional material and other items of historical significance the museum for safe keeping in the Kett archives in perpetuity.

Also of note was Jeannette Layland's donation of immaculately kept files of the New South Wales Optometrical Auxiliary. The files present a wonderful picture of optometry in the 1970s and 1980s.

Terry Blake, a retired optometrist from Victoria donated a particularly fine copy of *On the Anomalies of Accommodation and Refraction of the Eye* by F C Donders London 1864.



Williams Lantern

### Displays

As part of the Museum's program of public exhibition of its collection, Michael Aitken mounted two new displays in the Schultz foyer of the ACO - "Chinese Optometry Past and Present" and "Optometric Ephemera". Pamela Sutton arranged a display of historical items at the Southern Regional Congress and set up an exhibit and quiz at the ACO National Conference.

### Historical research

The honorary archivists research the provenance and origins of material catalogued for the Museum the results of which are recorded in the "Historical Significance" field of the catalogue record. Sometimes this leads to a more thorough investigation, the results of which are published.

### In press

Aitken M.J. How an Optometric Collector became an Optometrist Archivist. *Hindsight*

Bates C.B., Cole B.L. A profile of optometrists in Victoria registered in 1937 after five decades of unregulated practice of optometry. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry*.

### The Museum Exhibition Gallery

In 2015 it was decided that the Kett Museum should have an exhibition gallery to display some of the most interesting items in the Museum's collection and use them to tell the story of optometry.

Thylacine, a highly regarded firm of Museum consultants was employed to design the gallery and the construction of the gallery began in 2018 under the direction of the steering committee:

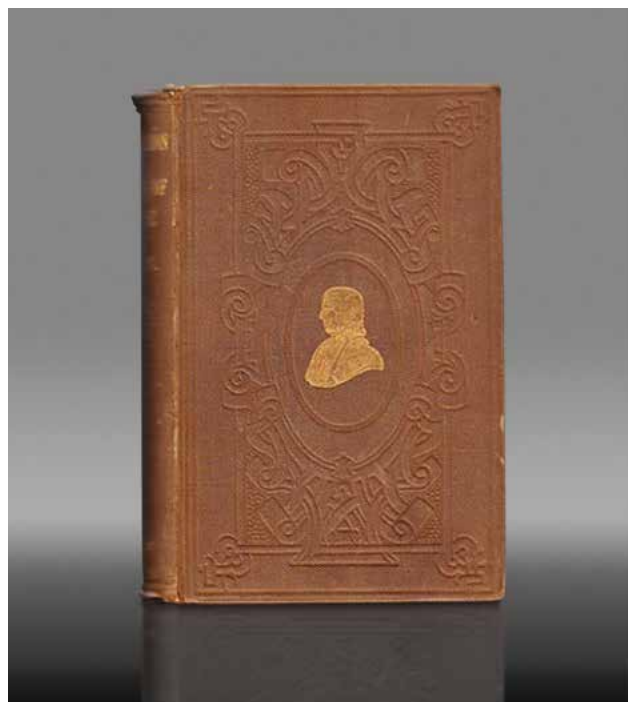
- Michael Aitken (*Honorary Archivist*)
- Colin Bates (*Honorary Archivist*)
- Joseph Chakman (*Honorary Archivist*)
- Barry Cole (*Honorary Archivist*)
- Clare Escott (*Exec GM*)
- Maureen O'Keefe (*ACO, CEO*)
- Tenille Ryan (*Snr Project Officer*)
- Pamela Sutton (*Honorary Archivist*)

Going to plan, the gallery will be officially opened in mid 2019.

### Friends of the Kett Optometry Museum

To promote the work of the Museum and its contents a Friends of the Kett Museum group was established. With little effort we have gained some 120 members, mostly optometrists but also academics, members of the wholesale trade, dispensers and ophthalmologists, etc. from all around Australia and even some from overseas.

An electronic newsletter is regularly published and back copies of the first three editions can be read at the Friends section of the Museum website.



*On the Anomalies of Accommodation and Refraction of the Eye* by F C Donders London 1864

## NATHAN LIBRARY AND MEMBERS LOUNGE

IN 2018, THE NATHAN LIBRARY and members lounge have surpassed the previous year's number of requests for resources, especially with the 2018 intake of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics and the first cohort for the ACO – Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision (ACO-ACCV).

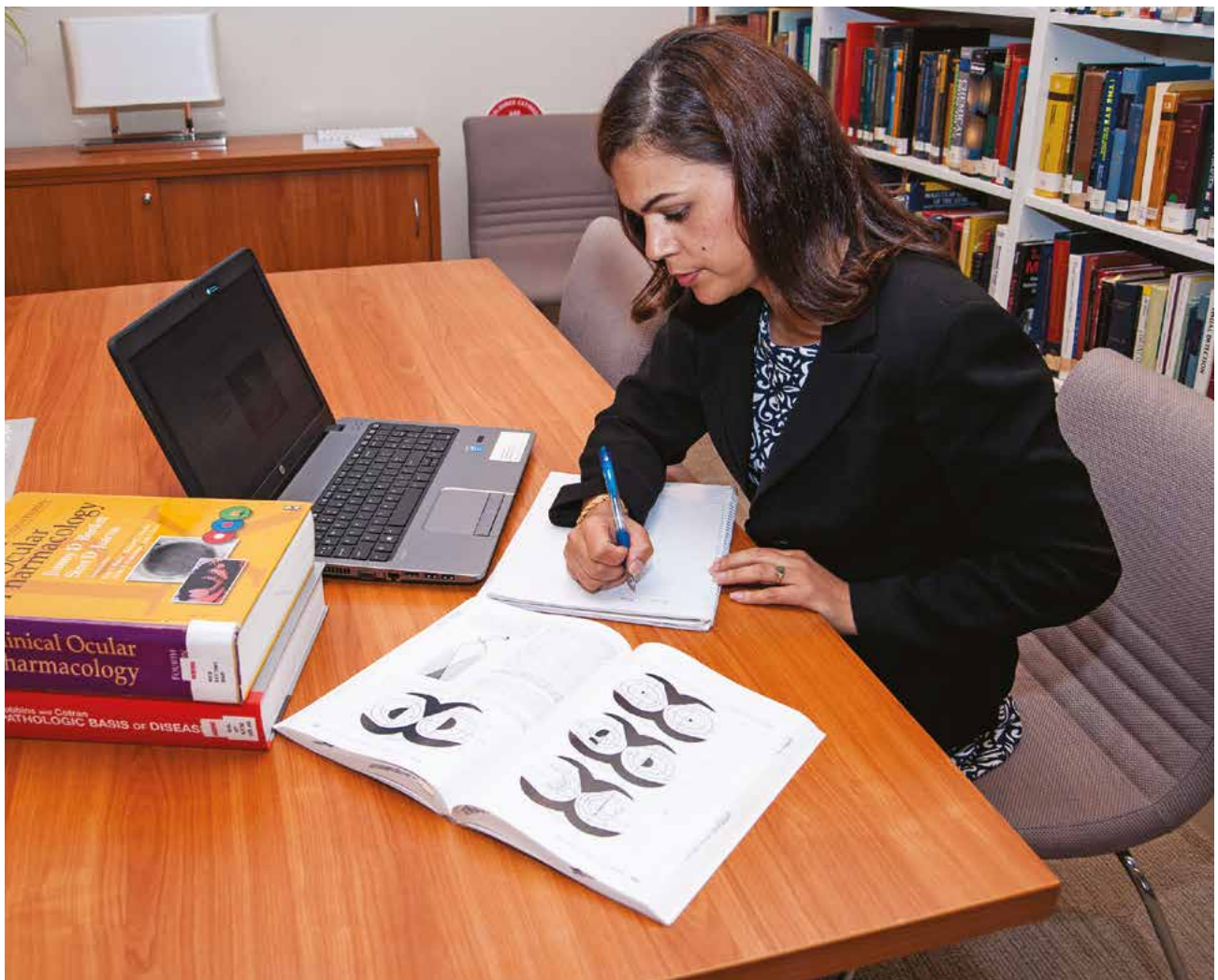
Most of the requests received by the library supported candidates with their required reading and their preparation of case reports and there was also a substantial increase in members requesting articles. Over 800 document delivery requests were provided for in 2018.

The resources made 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 supplied through the Library's membership of the Association of Vision Science Libraries (AVSL) and Gratisnet. In return, the Nathan Library continues to support these

channels with 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. There has been an increase in members and staff requesting items from the extensive reserve book collection.

2018 also saw the departure of Library and Administration Officer, Linda Morton. Linda was instrumental in making the library the wonderful resource it is today. We will be welcoming Brad Mills in January 2019 who will continue to support the library services for members.



*The Nathan Library and Members Lounge*



## 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 L. Cole AO,  
FACO  
1994 Ms Jean S Colledge PSM  
2007 Mr John L Pettit, FACO  
2011 Mr Graham O. Hill, FACO,  
OAM  
2012 Mr Ross W Harris, FACO  
2012 Prof Hugh Taylor AC  
2013 Mr Wolfgang F Gartner,  
FACO  
2013 Mr Anthony J Gibson  
OAM, FACO  
2013 A/Prof Ian F Gutteridge,  
FACO  
2013 Anthony Hanks OAM  
2014 Prof Ian L. Bailey  
2014 Prof Janette E  
Lovie-Kitchin  
2015 Emer Prof Kenneth J  
Bowman AM  
2016 A/Prof Rodney Watkins  
AM, FACO  
2018 Mrs Margaret M Banks  
OAM, FACO  
2018 Prof Nathan Efron AC,  
FACO

### ACO Fellows

Dr Carla Abbott FACO  
Mr Hans-Peter Abel FACO  
Mr Nicholas Anderson FACO  
Mr Mitchell Anjou AM FACO  
A/Prof James Armitage FACO  
Mr Max Astri FACO  
Mr Dimitrios Athanasakis  
FACO  
Dr Lauren Ayton FACO  
Ms Nicole Baines FACO  
Mr Rod Baker FACO  
Mrs Kristina Barnhill FACO  
Dr 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 Piers Carozzi FACO  
Dr Kathryn Case FACO

Mrs Jennifer Gaulfield FACO  
Mr Kuong Chang FACO  
Miss Jessica Chi FACO  
Mr Jeffrey Chibert FACO  
Mr Joseph Choi FACO  
Mr Christopher Chong FACO  
Ms Mae Chong FACO  
Mr Luke Xiang-Yu Chong FACO  
Dr Gillian Cochrane FACO  
Dr Heather Connor FACO  
Ms Jenny Cooke FACO  
Mr Darren Couch FACO  
Mrs Sandra Coulson FACO  
Mr Jeffrey Coulson 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  
Ms Jane Duffy FACO  
Mr John Farmer FACO  
Prof Erica Fletcher FACO  
Mr Timothy Fricke FACO  
Mr Bryan Fuller FACO  
Ms Sonja Gaulke FACO  
Prof Alexander Gentle FACO  
Mr Malcolm Gin FACO  
Mr Kenneth Gregory FACO  
Mr Michael Hare FACO  
Mr David Hare FACO  
Mr Andrew Harris FACO  
A/Prof Leo Hartley FACO  
Ms Tania Hartung FACO  
Ms Elizabeth Hatfield FACO  
Dr Charlotte Hazel FACO  
Dr Suit May Ho FACO  
Mr Robert Holloway FACO  
Mr Glenn Howell FACO  
Dr Edwin Howell FACO  
Mrs Petra Hurleston FACO  
A/Prof Robert Jacobs FACO  
Dr Alan Johnston AM FACO  
Mr Stephen Jones FACO  
Mrs Susan Kalff FACO  
Mr Chris Katopodis FACO  
A/Prof Peter Keller FACO  
Mr John Kingshott FACO  
Dr Bradley Kirkwood FACO  
Mr Michael Knipe AM FACO  
Dr Carol Lakkis FACO  
Dr Graham Lakkis FACO  
Mr Sam Lauriola FACO  
Mr David Lawry FACO

Ms Nicole Leong FACO  
Mr Mark Letts FACO  
Dr Josephine Li FACO  
Mrs Ka-Yee Lian FACO  
Mr Richard Lindsay FACO  
Mr Peter Martin FACO  
Mr Andrew Maver FACO  
Mr Christopher McDonald  
FACO  
Mr Ross McDowell FACO  
Mr Kurt Mechkaroff FACO  
Dr Alan Kwok Hei Mok FACO  
Ms Paula Monaco FACO  
Mr James Moran FACO  
Dr Genevieve Napper FACO  
Ms Leanne Nguyen FACO  
Dr Bao Nguyen FACO  
Mr Peter Nixon FACO  
Mr Markus Ochsenbein FACO  
Mrs Majella O'Connor FACO  
Mr Russell Oldham FACO  
Mr Brett Parsons FACO  
Ms Sonia Pellizzer FACO  
Prof Konrad Pesudovs FACO  
Mrs Anne Pezzimenti FACO  
Miss Francoise Rateau FACO  
Miss Helen Robbins FACO  
Mr Neil Roche FACO  
A/Prof Mark Roth FACO  
Mrs Anne Russell FACO  
Mr Norman Russo FACO  
Mr George Sahely FACO  
Ms Janelle Scully FACO  
Mr Roman Serebrianiuk FACO  
Mr Gregory Sly FACO  
Mr Kent Snibson FACO  
Mrs Jenni Sorraghan FACO  
Dr Margaret Squires FACO  
Mrs Susanne Strachan FACO  
Mr Gregory Strachan FACO  
Mrs Hayley Supple FACO  
Mrs Pamela Sutton FACO  
Mr Kenneth Thomas FACO  
Mr Neville Turner FACO  
Mr Glenn Vessey FACO  
Dr Stephen Vincent FACO  
Ms Carmela Violi FACO  
Mr Leonidas Vlahakis FACO  
A/Prof Richard Vojlay FACO  
Ms Jean Walters FACO  
Mr John Warren FACO  
Dr Harrison Weisinger FACO  
Mrs Carolyn West FACO  
Mr David West FACO  
Dr Anne Weymouth FACO  
Mr David Wilson FACO  
Ms Rosemary Wilson FACO

Mr Darryl Wilson FACO  
Miss Eva Wong FACO  
Prof Craig Woods FACO  
Dr Yota Yoshimitsu FACO  
Mr Konstantinos Zagoritis  
FACO  
Mr Robert Zent FACO

### Honorary Members

Mr Michael J Aitken  
Rev Douglas G Allen, FACO  
Mrs Margaret M Banks OAM,  
FACO  
Ms Ronda H Beer  
Mrs Miriam Bergman  
Mr Raymond H Blizzard  
Mr Brian J Carney, FACO  
Dr Barry AJ Clark  
Mr Norman H Corbett, FACO  
Mr Clifton Egarr, FACO  
Mr Michael J Frith  
Mrs Anne Gibson, FACO  
Mr Donald S Jessop, FACO  
Mr Francis A Keogh  
Mr Geoffrey A Leunig, FACO  
Mr Robert T Loutit, FACO  
Prof Ted Maddess  
Prof Geoffrey McColl  
Mr John E McGibbony  
Miss Dawn G Odgers  
Mr Donald R Owen, FACO  
Dr Damien P. Smith, FACO,  
FAAO  
Dr Gad Trevaks, AM  
Mr Peter J Turner, FACO  
Mr Duncan R Waite  
Dr George C Woo, FACO  
Mr Ronald N Wrigley

### ACO Members

Mr Stuart Aamodt  
Mr Ian Abraham  
Dr Julie Albietz  
Mrs Amani Alghanem  
Mr Claude Allen  
Miss Jasmine Alm  
Miss Eman Alzghoul  
Miss Susan Anastasiadis  
Dr Andrew Anderson  
Mr Tim Anderson  
Mrs Mary Andreou  
Ms Dianne Andrews  
Mrs Carole Anjou  
Mr David Antonios  
Miss Johanna Arendsen  
Dr Azrin Ariffin  
Mr Benjamin Armitage  
Ms Angeliki Arvanitis

Mr Shaheen Asgar	Miss Yoonsun Cheong	Mrs Amanda Field-Wilson	Mr Phuoc Huynh
Dr Benjamin Ashby	Miss Vivien Cheung	Mr Karl Fischer	Miss Olivia Huynh
Mr Con Athanasiou	Mr Daniel Chew	Mr John Fitzgerald	Miss Koon Ching Ip
Mr Constantine Atzemakis	Miss Rachel Chipere	Miss Emma Flynn	Mr Darko Ivkovic
Miss Sandra Au	Mr Kieran Chong	Mr Christopher Fonseka	Ms Claire Jackson
Miss Kathryn Azzopardi	Mrs Raelene Christ	Miss Ashley Fontbin	Ms Leesa Jagers
Mrs Lucinda Bailey	Dr Michael Christian	Mr Desmond Kong Ming Foo	Mr John Jalowicki
Mr Darrell Baker	Mr Graham Chuck	Miss Chloe Foster	Ms Lisa Jansen
Mrs Kirsty Banfield	Mr Simon Clark	Mr Timothy Fowler	Ms Anne-Marie Jayatilake
Mr Michael Barradell	Mr Philip Clem	Mr Anton Frank	Mrs Michelle Jedwood
Ms Fiona Barrett	Mrs Janelle Coates	Ms Nicole Franklin	Miss Hannah Jeffcott
Miss Rita Bashouri	Mrs Rashelle Cohen	Ms Kylie Freiberg	Mrs Adele Jefferies
Mr Colin Bates	Mrs Therese Consiglio	Miss Deena Gad	Mr Robert Jenkinson
Mrs Michelle Bell	Miss Courtney Cook	Mr Christopher Gale	Miss Er Lin Jiang
Mr Adrian Bell	Mrs Jennie Cooke	Ms Carolyn Galloway	Ms Erica Johnston
Mr Reginald Bennett	Ms Patricia Corbett	Ms Lori Gaterell	Mr Paul Johnstone
Mr Kerry Bennett	Mr Daniel Corti	Ms Anna Lee Gatsios	Mr David Jones
Mr Thomas Bennett	Mrs Gemma Cowan	Ms Melissa Genovesi	Miss Anita Jones
Mr Mark Besley	Miss Emily Cranfield	Mrs Angeline Shalli George Benjamin	Mrs Diane Jones
Mr Dean Binns	Mr John Cronin	Mr Patrick Gerry	Miss Katrina Kalff
Mrs Natasha Boase	Mr Andries Herman Cronje	Mr Stephen Giacon	Prof Michael Kalloniatis
Mr Graham Bohl	Ms Emmy Cui	Ms Mirella Giorlando	Miss Aseel Karam
Mr Mario Borazio	Miss Magdalena Cullinan	Mr Adam Gloury	Mr Chris Karanasio
Dr Antonio Borazio	Mr Bill Cutler	Mr Tristan Glover	Ms Tamra Karolewicz
Miss Rebekah Bormann	Ms Lesley Dacion	Dr Emily Glover	Mr Alex Kaye
Mr Shuvagata Bose	Mrs Alyse D'Agostini	Ms Sena Gocuk	Mr Raymond Kazzi
Miss Sonia Bostjancic	Mr Bhargav Dave	Mr Rory Gordon	Mr Phillip Kearney
Ms Katherine Bouma	Mr John Davies	Mr Rodney Gordon	Miss Marriette Khalil
Ms Kirily Bowen	Mrs Shannon Davies	Mr Jack Gordon	Miss Lauren Kharsas
Mr David Box	Mr Jacob Davydov	Ms Katherine Gouliaev	Ms Hana Khoo
Mr John Boyle	Dr Wendy Dawson	Mr Alan Greenhill	Mr Rajan Khosla
Mrs Kellie Bradley	Mr Michael De Felice	Mr Andrew Greer	Miss Thi Kim-Lien Ho
Miss Shelley Brannigan	Mr Salvatore De Pasquale	Ms Anne Greeves	Ms Lisa Kingshott
Miss Courtney Branton	Mrs Lisa Deacon	Mr Giuseppe Grossi	Mr Gordon Kirk
Ms Riona Brennan	Mr Simon Della Vedova	Ms Deborah-Anne Hackett	Dr Divya Kirubaharan
Ms Sonja Brock	Mr Mark DePaola	Mrs Marrwa Hafez	Mr Damien Knight
Mr Francis Bronte	Mr Salvatore Di Falco	Mr Peter Haman	Mr Andrew Knight
Mrs Nicole Brower	Ms Kha Diep	Mr Benjamin Hamlyn	Miss Sophie Su-Hui Koh
Miss Melinda Bruno	Ms Maria Dimitratos	Miss Rebekah Hanna	Mr Can Komser
Mr Matthew Buckis	Ms Carla Dinardo	Ms Kerryn Hart	Mr Edward Kosmac
Mr John Buckley	Miss Huyen Dinh	Miss Jessica Healey	Mrs Louise Kowalski
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Mrs Tamara Carroll	Mr Daniel Duldig	Mr Stephen Hill	Ms Rachael Kwok
Dr Sarah Case	Miss Suzanne Dunning	Mrs Carol Hinch	Ms Isabella La Rocca
Mr Jonathan Cawley	Mr John Duong	Mr Gregory Hindmarsh	Mr Patrick W-C Lam
Miss Yan Tung Chan	Miss Jennifer Duong	Mr Trent Hingston	Mr Steven Lam
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Mr Jeremy Chan	Mr Andrew Eastaugh	Mr Richard Ho	Miss Samantha Lau
Mrs Phillipa Mary Charteris	Ms Amanda Edwards	Mrs Janine Hobson	Mrs Heather Law
Miss Diana Chau	Ms Rayan El Haouli	Mr Rodney Hodge	Ms Yien Law
Miss Michelle Chau	Mr John Evans	Mrs Kirrily Hoole	Mr William Law
Dr Divya Chawla	Ms Belinda Falleti	Ms Mary-Louise Hooton	Dr Christopher Law
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Mr Edward Chee	Ms Paula Farrar	Mr Russell Hunter	Ms Amanda Lea
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Mr Thomas W Wong  
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## AWARDS

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# CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE





## RESEARCH AWARDS

### Nicola Family Fund 2018 Travel Grant Award

The Nicola Family Fund is 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.

**Awardee:**

**Dr Wei Tong**



(L-R) Professor Konrad Pesudovs (President), Michael Ibbotson (Director NVRI), Dr Wei Tong (award recipient), John Nicola (Optique Line) and Maureen O'Keefe (CEO)

### L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund & Victorian Lions Foundation Research Fellow

This award funds a 3 year Post-Doctoral Fellowship position at the NVRI.

**Awardee:**

**Dr Molis Yunzab**

Molis is working on projects associated with the development of the next generation of the bionic eye.



(L-R) Professor Konrad Pesudovs (President), Michael Ibbotson (Director NVRI), Dr Molis Yunzab (award recipient), Sue Forrest (L.E.W. Carty) and Maureen O'Keefe (CEO)

### Clinical Residency Award

**Awardee:**

**Michael Li**

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.

Michael Li, graduate from New Zealand, commenced employment at the ACO as a clinical resident at the beginning of 2016 and has recently completed the program. As part of the residency requirements, Michael volunteered in Nepal with the Eyes4Everest team. He also completed an ACO Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses and ACO Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma. Michael has completed his residency with a final research project paper submitted for publication.



Maureen O'Keefe (CEO) presenting Michael Li with his Clinical Residency Award



## ACO Outstanding Graduate Award for ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics 2017

### Awardee:

**Sonia Bostjancic**

The ACO Outstanding Graduate Award for Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics is granted in recognition of the candidate who has achieved the highest score across all assessments for their graduating year for the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics in the previous year.

Sonia was originally trained in the UK in Birmingham 1985-1988 and is now an optometrist working fulltime for EyeQ in Bathurst, NSW. Sonia enjoys the challenges of dry eye patients and interesting multifactorial systemic or ocular diseases. Her specialisations include: interest in aged care as well as children's vision, with behavioural optometry and low vision experience. Sonia continually provides up to date optometric services to the community of Bathurst. Sonia was the ACO Outstanding graduate for the Ocular Therapeutic Course for 2017, as the candidate who has achieved the outstanding score across all assessments.



Sonia Bostjancic being presented with her Outstanding Graduate award by Associate Professor Ian Gutheridge

## ACO Outstanding University Graduate Award

Each year the 5 Australian Optometry schools are invited to nominate one outstanding graduate, in accordance with the ACO criteria.

The selection criteria for these Awards are based on a combined evaluation of academic excellence and professional commitment.

The award is known as the "Australian College of Optometry Outstanding University Graduate Award".

It is great to see the quality of the next generation of optometrists and the ACO are delighted to award the recipients as the Outstanding Graduates:

**Amanda Edgar** Deakin University

**Alek Sims** Flinders University

**Gregory Hindmarsh** Queensland University of Technology

**Alex Kaye** University of Melbourne

**Nicholas Stanley** University of New South Wales



Professor Konrad Pesudovs with Outstanding University Graduates for 2018

## STAFF AWARDS

**'We deeply CARE about eye health'**

**Awarded to:** Abbie Guy

**'Everything we do drives this PURPOSE'**

**Awarded to:** Hayley Fraser

**'Mutual RESPECT guides our expectations'**

**Awarded to:** Holly Gouldthorpe

**We foster excellence through COLLABORATION with our patients, partners and teams'**

**Awarded to:** Jane Trevaskis

**Our commitment to INNOVATION pushes us to question and find better ways'**

**Awarded to:** The Dandenong Team:

Carol Bramich,  
Michael Li,  
Christa Sipos-Ori,  
Mary Travis,  
Nellie Dean,  
Albert D'Souza,

Michelle Haddrell,  
Danielle Zheng,  
Amanda Lim,  
Shuli Liu,  
Roman Serebrianik

**'We DELIVER what we promise to patients, partners and each other'**

**Awarded to:** Chelsey Seamer

## Staff Service Awards

**Awardee:**

**Aiden Deane**

Aiden Deane, Optical Technician began work at the ACO in 1998 at the age of 20. In February this year Aiden celebrated 20 years at the ACO. Congratulations Aiden on this significant milestone

**Awardee:**

**Danielle Raiti**

Danielle Raiti, Senior Receptionist began work at the ACO in 1997 at the age of 21. In November last year Danielle celebrated 20 years at the ACO. We congratulate her on this significant milestone.



Aiden Deane



Danielle Raiti



Staff Award recipients (L-R) Shuli Liu, Danielle Zheng, Amanda Lim, Roman Serebrianik, Abbie Guy, Hayley Fraser, Jane Trevaskis and Chelsey Seamer

Absent: Carol Bramich, Michael Li, Christa Sipos-Ori, Mary Travis, Nellie Dean, Albert D'Souza, Michelle Haddrell, Holly Gouldthorpe



## MEMBER AWARDS

### ACO Fellowship Award

Fellowship is awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to the practice and profession of optometry and to the community. Fellows are held in high esteem within the profession and have been a member with the ACO for 3 years. The awardee will have personal achievement in acquiring skill, acquisition of special clinical expertise and/or professional leadership service.

#### Awardee:

#### Associate Professor James Armitage

The ACO Fellowship awardee for 2018 is Associate Professor James Armitage, who has been a member of the ACO since 1996.

In 2015 he completed the ACO COT to further his clinical expertise and become therapeutically endorsed.

In 2013 he was awarded a fellowship of the American Academy of Optometry, for his contribution to Vision Science, particularly the role of ocular blood flow in the development of glaucomatous-like disease in animal models. And is commencing diplomate studies (Glaucoma section) in 2018.

James was awarded my MOptom degree in 1999 from the University of Melbourne for my studies on the aetiology of keratoconus. In 2003 he was awarded his PhD from the University of Melbourne for his studies on the role of Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in vision, ingestive behaviour and blood pressure. He continued his studies during postdoctoral training at King's College London and the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute before being awarded the John Shaw

award by the Heart Foundation of Australia, as the top ranked postdoctoral fellow in 2006.

He has published 65 peer-reviewed publications in optometry, vision science, physiology and developmental biology. Google scholar indicates that his work has been cited on over 2,900 occasions with an h-index of 25.

James has been the Course Director of the Deakin Optometry program, and in addition to directing the course, he spends 30% of his work allocation teaching for the past 5 ½ years. He has been an active member of the Optometry Australia Eyes on CPD Advisory Panel since March 2015 and the Optometry Victoria Optometry Advisory Panel since May 2016.

### ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service

#### Awardee:

#### Ms Elisse Higginbotham

The Member Award for Outstanding Service acknowledges someone who has contributed actively to the governance of the ACO, either on a Committee and/or Council, consistently and generously provided support, time and advice beyond the expectations of a Committee/Council. The nominee should have also always upheld and promoted the principles and practices of the College in a positive and beneficial light and be highly regarded by peers.

This years ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service for 2018 is awarded to Ms Elisse Higginbotham.



Professor Konrad Pesudovs presenting Associate Professor James Armitage with his ACO Fellowship Award



Professor Konrad Pesudovs (President) with Elisse Higginbotham (Outstanding Service award recipient) and Maureen O'Keefe (CEO)



Elisse is a superb clinician and over the years has used these skills to make a significant contribution to the ACO's clinical service delivery and clinical teaching. In her role on the ACO Council from 2011-2015, she contributed to the ACO's Governance and Strategic Direction. Elisse also made a valuable contribution to the ACO in her role as chair for two sub-committees, the Clinical Services Committee from November 2012 until June 2013 and the Professional Development and Membership Committee from August 2012 until it ceased to exist in November 2014.

She graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2002, after which she completed a Master's Degree at the University of NSW, along with being awarded her therapeutics qualification. Elisse worked for four years in central Victoria before moving to a position in private practice and joining the ACO as a sessional clinician in 2011. Elisse is a great ambassador for optometry and the ACO and has made a substantial contribution to the ACO over many years and as such is well deserving of the ACO Outstanding Service Award.

### Honorary Life Membership Award

#### Awardees:

**Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC**  
**Mrs Margaret Banks OAM**

Honorary Life Membership is awarded to either members or non-members who have provided distinguished and meritorious service to the College or to the profession; who have been influential in the community and have earned the respect and recognition of their colleagues. Honorary Life Membership is the ACO's highest most prestigious award. In 2018, this was awarded to Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC and Mrs Margaret Banks OAM.

Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC is a distinguished academic optometrist who has made significant contributions to the Australian College of Optometry, and more broadly, to optometry vision science at an international level.

In respect of the ACO, he has been a member since 1977 and a Fellow since 1989; he served on the ACO's Board of Continuing Education (1977-89), Governing Council (2011-16), ACO President (2012-16), NVRI Board of Administration (2010-14) and NVRI Chairman (2011-12). In 2016 he gifted the Nathan & Suzanne Efron Contact Lens Library to the Kett Museum of the ACO, together with a substantial cash donation to maintain the library.

In respect to his broad contributions to optometry and vision science, he has been bestowed with countless accolades, research prizes, award and medals. In 2015, he was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, "for eminent service to medicine in the field of clinical optometry,



Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC  
ACO Honorary Life Member



Mrs Margaret Banks OAM  
ACO Honorary Life Member

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." Notably, he received this award while in post as ACO President.

In conclusion, Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC meets all of the criteria for the award of ACO Honorary Life Membership, and his outstanding contributions to the ACO, and his international standing in optometry and vision science, make him a most deserving recipient of this prestigious accolade.

Mrs Margaret Banks OAM has had a long association with the ACO, starting as an optometry student in 1944 and then as a valuable member of the ACO clinical optometry staff from 1950 to 1957.

Mrs Banks has the honour of being one of, if not the first, women to practice optometry in Melbourne. She played an integral role within the College as a clinician, a lecturer and as a councillor on the ACO Council. Her extensive optometric career began with nearly entirely frame fitting, but she was allowed to see patients two afternoons per week!

Mrs Banks went on to work in a busy country practice and then several city practices before setting up her own practice at home, focusing on the holistic area of Developmental Optometry. Notably this was a new field at the time and not mainstream and she showed significant leadership in helping establish

Developmental Optometry as a discipline. She worked hard helping children overcome learning difficulties, which she found to be extremely challenging and rewarding and something she is most proud of in her career.

She has also been a long-term supporter of research at the ACO, and has been a Principal Governor of the NVRI for many years. Mrs Banks recently celebrated her 90th birthday at the ACO/NVRI 2016 AGM.

In 2005 Mrs Margaret Banks OAM was awarded the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to children with vision impairments through contributions in the specialized field of Behavioural Optometry. She is a very worthy recipient of the ACO Honorary Life Membership Award.

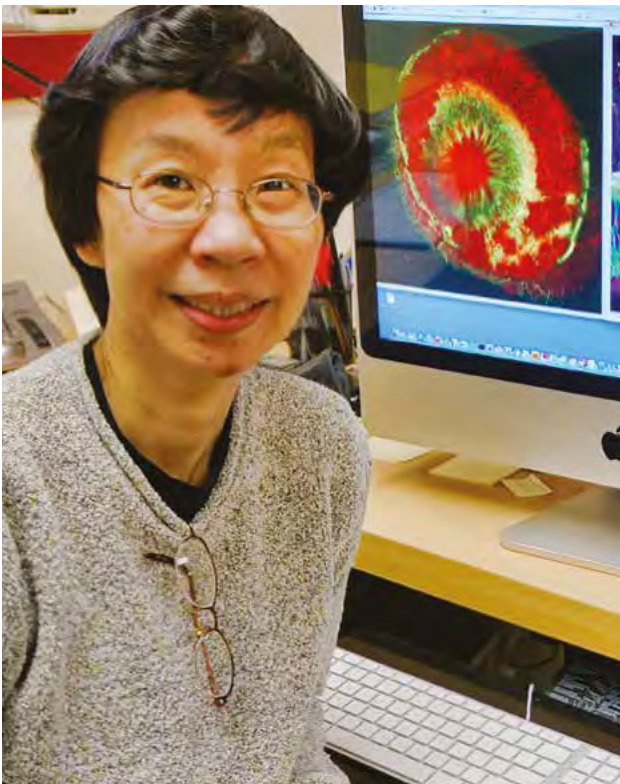
## NVRI Fellowship

### Awardee:

#### Professor Rachel Wong

Professor Rachael Wong currently works in the Department of Biological Structure at the University of Washington. After a strong interest in Physics and Medicine, she moved to Australia for undergraduate studies where she obtained a B.Sc.(Hons) in Physics in 1981. In her Honors year, Professor Wong had the opportunity to develop her own 'interdisciplinary' project, using X-ray and neutron scattering methods to study the structure of blood cell membranes from patients with Muscular Dystrophy. She pursued graduate studies at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University, where she obtained a PhD in Vision Neuroscience in 1986. There, Professor Wong gained a passion for studying the development of the retina, the light sensitive part of our eye. After postgraduate studies at the National Vision Research Institute in Melbourne, she was supported by an NH&MRC C.J. Martin Fellowship at Stanford University.

Professor Wong returned to the Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre (University of Queensland) as an R.D. Wright Fellow. In 1994, she joined the faculty at the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Washington University in St. Louis, until relocating to the Department of Biological Structure at the University of Washington, Seattle in 2006. Professor Rachel Wong is a very worthy recipient of the NVRI Fellowship.



Professor Rachel Wong, BSc (Hons), PhD



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## FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS & DONORS

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# OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS





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

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.

### CLINICAL SERVICES

#### Government

Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria



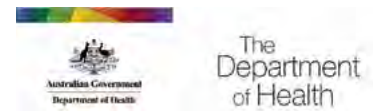
Victoria State Government



Victorian Eyecare Service (VES)



The ACO 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



## EDUCATION

### Professional Development Conference, Workshops & Seminar Series

Coopervision



Designs for Vision



Device Technologies



Optimed



Ellex Australia



Gelflex



Zeiss Australia



Rimoptics



Opticare



Pacific Vision



Good Optical



Guide Dogs Victoria



Experien



Vision Australia



Moore Stephens



Tomato Glasses



## RESEARCH – NATIONAL VISION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### Government

Australian Research Council



National Health & Medical Research Council



### Bequests

Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund



## RESEARCH – NATIONAL VISION RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONTINUED

### Industry

Essilor



iBionics



Optiqueline



Optometry Australia



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Lions Vision  
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CORPORATE SERVICES

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A STRONG, EFFECTIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
ORGANISATION



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF  
**OPTOMETRY**

## EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Our culture is strong and our people strive for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology systems and processes. Our collaboration with members and supporters are key to our success.

THE CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION is made up of a small 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 (People and Culture)
- Marketing & Communications
- Projects & Administration

Corporate Services is also responsible for providing governance support to the ACO Council and its Committees. During the year, the team worked in close collaboration with the operational divisions to support 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 68 to 83 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 2018 were \$22,555,809 (2017: \$22,541,960).

### Year Highlights

- ✎ Planning and implementing business process improvements, aimed at enhancing and supporting service delivery arrangements.
- ✎ Supporting in the role of co-lead for the Australian Commonwealth Government Department of Health funded project for Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project (PEHET) which is being delivered by a consortium of five organisations from across Australia

- ✎ Implementation of a new digitised voting process to allow the ACO's Membership to vote in elections online.

- ✎ Development of a new online time management and rostering process that will improve ease of access to roster information and leave booking for staff, provide enhanced management information and reduce the administrative burden associated with current arrangements for linking staff rosters to payroll, with go live scheduled for Q2 2019.

- ✎ Planning for a voluntary upgrade of fire detection and alert systems at our Carlton Clinic, with go live scheduled for Q2 2019.

- ✎ Providing contract and facilities support for the opening of a new ACO Clinic in Dandenong, Victoria.

- ✎ Supporting the planning for a new Clinic in Adelaide, South Australia.

- ✎ Working closely with the voluntary archivists and our externally appointed design team in the development of the ACO Museum upgrade, including contract and budget management, facilities and project management support, with an opening scheduled for Q2 2019.

- ✎ Completing capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure and technology enhancements.

- ✎ Involvement in business and contract development for new and renewed service areas.

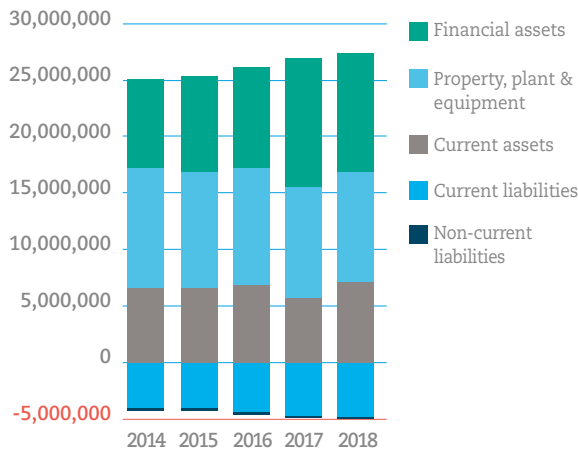


Clare Escott,  
EGM Finance &  
Corporate Services

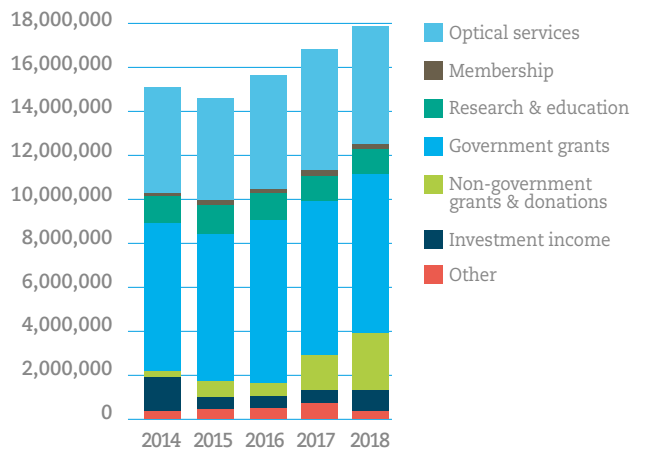
### Results for the year

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>NET RESULTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>553,439</b>	<b>266,931</b>	<b>414,588</b>	<b>181,927</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>(539,590)</b>	<b>517,348</b>	<b>(48,766)</b>	<b>15,596</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULTS</b>	<b>13,849</b>	<b>784,279</b>	<b>365,822</b>	<b>197,523</b>

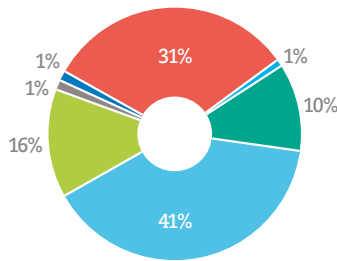
**Balance Sheet Breakdown \$**  
(2013 – 2018) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



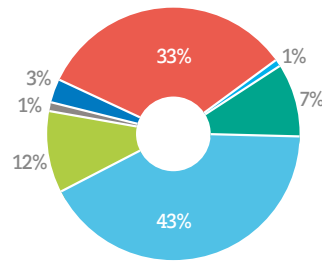
**Income from Operating Activities \$**  
(2013 – 2018) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



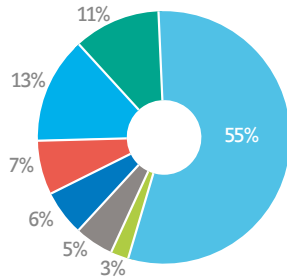
**Income from Operating Activities (2018) ACO**



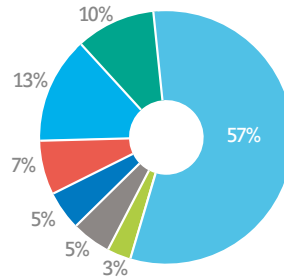
**Income from Operating Activities (2017) ACO**



**Expenses (2018) ACO**



**Expenses (2017) ACO**



(L-R) Holly Gouldthorpe (Membership & Communications Assistant), Tenille Ryan (Senior Projects Officer), Chelsey Seamer (Executive Assistant to the CEO/HR Coordinator), Clare Escott (Executive General Manager), Pat Huen (Finance Manager), John Dascoli (Building Services Manager), Addie Jiang (Project Accountant Trainee), Maria Carlos (Finance Officer), Jessica Sloan (Accounts Clerk & Administration Assistant)  
 ABSENT: Robert Tobin (Technical Officer), Peta Coats (Administration Officer), Elda Rebechi (Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager), Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager)



## Council & Committees

The ACO would like to thank all Councillors and Committee members for their dedication and commitment in 2018.

### Council

Professor Konrad Pesudovs *President*  
 Professor Alex Gentle *Vice President*  
 (until May 2018)  
 Ms Sarah Byrne *Vice President from*  
*June 2018*  
 Ms Denise Gronow *Honorary*  
*Treasurer*  
 Mr Mitchell Anjou AM (until August  
 2018)  
 Professor Linda Denehy  
 Ms Melissa Downing  
 Mr Benjamin Hamlyn  
 Mr Rodney Hodge (from May 2018)  
 Ms Sophie Koh (from May 2018)  
 Hon Paul Lucas  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*  
 Mr Timothy Powell (from October  
 2018)  
 Ms Clare Escott *Company Secretary*

### NVRI Board of Administration

Ms Denise Gronow *Chair*  
 Mr Brian Buchanan *Lions Club of*  
*Vermont South (until October 2018)*  
 Professor Michael Ibbotson  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*  
 Professor Konrad Pesudovs *President*  
 Ms Clare Escott *Secretary*

### NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee

Professor Sarah Dunlop *Chair*  
 Professor Paul Baird  
 Professor Erica Fletcher  
 Professor David Grayden  
 Professor Michael Ibbotson  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*  
 Professor Marcello Rosa  
 Ms Chelsey Seamer *Secretary*

### Finance & Risk Committee

Ms Denise Gronow *Chair*  
 Mr Mitchell Anjou AM (until August  
 2018)  
 Mr John Delinaoum  
 Mr Rodney Hodge (from October 2018)  
 Ms Pat Huen  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe  
 Mr Joseph Panuzzo (until August  
 2018)  
 Professor Konrad Pesudovs *President*  
 Mr Ian Thompson (from October  
 2018)

### Human Research Ethics Committee

Ms Sarah Byrne *Chair*  
 Mrs Mary Archibald  
 Mr Leigh Berrell (from April 2018)  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe  
 Mr Geoffrey Poliness  
 Dr Cheryl Read  
 Ms Kerry Risely  
 Dr Rasa Ruseckaite  
 Mr Adam Walker (until April 2018)  
 Mr Jenny Wilkins  
 Ms Tenille Ryan *Secretary*

### Victorian Eyecare Service Advisory Committee

Mr Neville Turner *Chair*  
 Mr Mitchell Anjou (from August 2018)  
 Ms Chelsea Brand (from August 2018)  
 Mr Daniel Brown (from October 2018)  
 Ms Jane Canaway (until September  
 2018)  
 Mr Piers Carozzi  
 Ms Clare Escott (from August 2018)  
 Ms Emma Fitzsimon  
 Ms Susan Forrester  
 Mr Daryl Guest (from August 2018)  
 Ms Veronica Jamison

Ms Gina Kuras (August-September  
 2018)  
 Ms Elisa Lim (until August 2018)  
 Ms Lisa Lombardi  
 Mr Levi Lovett (until September 2018)  
 Ms Rosie Maddick  
 Ms Milica Markovic (from August  
 2018)  
 Ms Letitia Meaney (from August 2018)  
 Ms Megan Morris (from October 2018)  
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe  
 Mr Nicholas Rittinghausen  
 Ms Linda Robinson  
 Ms Janelle Scully (until September  
 2018)  
 Ms Fiona Shaw (from October 2018)  
 Mr Sundram Sivamalai  
 Ms Catherine Thompson  
 Ms Shae Wissell (from August 2018)  
 Ms Lee Yin Chong *Secretary*

### Senior Leadership Team

Sharon Bentley (until January 2018)  
 Piers Carozzi  
 Jennifer Caulfield  
 Clare Escott  
 Michael Ibbotson  
 Sue Jeffreys (until August 2018)  
 Marcel Mihulka  
 Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*  
 Elda Rebecchi (until September 2018)  
 Roman Serebrianiuk  
 Jane Trevaskis  
 Neville Turner

### CEO's Office

Maureen O'Keefe *Chief Executive Officer*  
 Chelsey Seamer *Executive Assistant to the CEO*

## Clinical Services

**Sharon Bentley** *Director Of Clinical Services (until January 2018)*

**Neville Turner** *Director Of Clinical Services (from January 2018)*

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

**Jennifer Caulfield** *Head Of Clinic Operations & Support Services*

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

**Jane Trevaskis** *Head Of Teaching & Quality*

**Adrian Bruce** *Lead Optometrist Contact Lens*

**Mae Chong** *Lead Optometrist Low Vision*

**Nelofar Deen** *Lead Optometrist Paediatric Services*

**Genevieve Napper** *Lead Optometrist Aboriginal Services (until May 2018)*

**Leanne Nguyen** *Lead Optometrist Ocular Disease*

**Carla Abbott** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Khyber Alam** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Emily Alessi** *Receptionist*

**Yiota Anastasopoulos** *Receptionist*

**Anna Angelodemou** *Administration Assistant*

**Carole Anjou** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Judd Aravena** *Receptionist*

**Angeliki Arvanitis** *East Reservoir Site Manager*

**Sandra Au** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Carol Bramich** *Receptionist*

**Megan Bridges** *Receptionist*

**Maria Bui** *Sessional Optometrist (until November 2018)*

**Edward Burgin** *Staff Optometrist (until February 2018)*

**Jillian Campbell** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Jordan Carozzi** *Casual Receptionist*

**Mabel Ceballos** *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Wai Man Chan** *Receptionist*

**Kuong Chang** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Lauren Chang** *Sessional Optometrist (until April 2018)*

**Catherine Cheah** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Eric Cheng** *Staff Optometrist*

**Helen Cho** *Staff Optometrist*

**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*

**Kimberley Chung** *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Hazel Corry** *Administration Assistant*

**Lynn Cupido** *Receptionist*

**Ricardo D’Cruz** *Dispensary Services Assistant*

**Albert D’Souza** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Lesley Dacion** *Staff Optometrist*

**Colette Davis** *Senior Projects Officer*

**Aiden Deane** *Senior Optical Technician (until July 2018)*

**Carla Dinardo** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Kim Doake** *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Ian Douglas** *Sessional Optometrist (until October 2018)*

**Bozana Dusanovic** *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Zeinab Fakhri** *Staff Optometrist*

**Jasmine Featherston** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Angela Fornaro** *Administration Assistant*

**Hayley Fraser** *Receptionist*

**Timothy Fricke** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Kalaivarny Ganesalingam** *Staff Optometrist*

**Lauren Gaskell-Kharsas** *Dandenong Site Manager*

**Tristan Glover** *Staff Optometrist*

**Emily Glover** *Staff Optometrist*

**Abbie Guy** *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Michelle Haddrell** *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Rosemary Haikal** *Broadmeadows Site Manager*

**Angela Hall** *Manager Of Clinical Research*

**Kerryn Hart** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Melinda Heap** *Receptionist*

**Elisse Higginbotham** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Nicholas Hockley** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Alena Hodzic** *Receptionist*

**Li Ting Hoo** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Peregrine Horton** *Staff Optometrist*

**Erica Hotvedt** *Receptionist (until August 2018)*

**Iris Huang Frankston** *Site Manager*

**Vianh Huynh** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Nilmini John** *Manager Of Aboriginal Services*

**Anagha Joshi** *Staff Optometrist*

**Katrina Kalff** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Michael Kalloniatis** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Masumi Kobayashi** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Sophie Koh** *Sessional Optometrist (until April 2018)*

**Can Komser** *Staff Optometrist*

**Rachael Kwok** *Staff Optometrist*

**Shalini Lal** *Administration Assistant (until July 2018)*

**Jeremy Lau** *Sessional Optometrist*

**King Lay** *Receptionist*

**Diane Leaf** *Casual Administration Assistant*

**Ling Lee** *Sessional Optometrist*

**David Leeming** *Optical Technician*

**Josephine Li** *Manager Of Community Eye Care Services*

**Michael Li** *Staff Optometrist*

**Steffanie Liang** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Amanda Lim** *Staff Optometrist*

**Shuli Liu** *Staff Optometrist*

**Lisa Lombardi** *Braybrook Site Manager*

**Jivan Lotay** *Staff Optometrist (until March 2018)*

**Kirsty Lowe** *Staff Optometrist*

**Flora Luk** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Sharon Ly** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Hue Kim Ly** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Louise Macnish** *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

**Marie Marchand** *Staff Optometrist*

**Theo Markos** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Subahsinee McKenzie** *Sessional Optometrist*

**Alice Mclennan** *Staff Optometrist*

**Vicki Mcsweeney** *Manager Of Clinic Administration*

Tessa Mihailou *Optical Technician*

Elizabeth Montgomery *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Ho Wah Ng *Manager Of Visual Functions Services*

Dung Nguyen *Staff Optometrist*

Dianne Nulty *Receptionist*

Kate Pecar *Staff Optometrist*

Elisabetta Perri *Dispensary Services Assitant*

Quyen Pham *Senior Receptionist*

Larissa Rae *Administration Assistant*

Danielle Raiti *Senior Receptionist*

Kay Read *Receptionist*

Heidrun Saheed *Receptionist*

Tracy-Leigh Saxon *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Daniela Scalora *Sessional Optometrist (until December 2018)*

Paloma Scherer *Senior Optical Dispenser*

Janelle Scully *Manager Of Clinical Operations & VES Rural*

Bo Rim Shin *Staff Optometrist*

Christa Sipos-Ori *Staff Optometrist*

John Sweeney *Sessional Optometrist*

Vanessa Tang *Staff Optometrist*

Lynette Taylor *Senior Receptionist*

Angela Thomson *Receptionist*

Linda Toban *Sessional Optometrist*

Dzung Tran *Staff Optometrist*

Tracy Tran *Staff Optometrist*

Mary Travis *Sessional Optometrist*

Lien Trinh *Staff Optometrist*

Karen Trinh *Staff Optometrist*

Courtney Turner *Casual Receptionist*

Davut Ulusoy *Sessional Optometrist*

Leonidas Vlahakis *Sessional Optometrist*

Kevin Vo *Sessional Optometrist*

Pamela Vorias *Senior Optical Dispenser (until August 2018)*

Jean Walters *Sessional Optometrist*

Ruixi Wang *Sessional Optometrist*

Joseph Waterman *Staff Optometrist*

Natalie Watt *Staff Optometrist (until April 2018)*

Matthew Wells *Sessional Optometrist (until December 2018)*

Katrina Wong *Staff Optometrist*

Jianing Yan *Staff Optometrist*

Vin-Lin Yang *Sessional Optometrist*

Michael Yen *Staff Optometrist*

Hee Wei Yii *Staff Optometrist*

Alexis Zhang *Sessional Optometrist*

Danielle Zheng *Staff Optometrist*

## NVRI

Michael Ibbotson *Director Of NVRI*

Ali Almasi *Research Fellow*

Anthony Burkitt *Honorary Professor*

Mitchell Crawford *Casual Research Technician (until November 2018) Technician & Administration Support Officer (from November 2018)*

Samira Falahatdoost *PhD Student (from October 2018)*

Cill Gross *Senior Technician & Administration Support Officer (until June 2018)*

Maryam Hejazi *PhD Student*

Young Jun (Jason) Jung *PhD Student*

Hamish Meffin *Senior Research Fellow*

Tenille Ryan *Brain Function CoE Node Administrator*

Kabir Skider *PhD Student*

Shi (Scott) Sun *PhD Student*

Artemio Soto-Breceda *PhD Student*

Wei Tong *Research Fellow*

Molis Yunzab *L.E.W Carty Lions Research Fellow*

Austin Barachina *Casual Research Technician (until January 2018)*

Marcela Gomez-Escudero *Casual Research Technician*

Elaina Kotzialampos *Casual Research Technician*

## Education

Marcel Mihulka *Director Of Education*

Nellie Deen *Acting Course Program Manager*

Kai Lyn Goh *Acting Course Program Manager*

Linda Morton *Library & Office Administration*

Ryan Anthony Rosario *Clinical Education Coordinator*

Elizabeth Salvatore *Education & Events Coordinator*

Shazia Tahseen *Course Administration Officer*

Michelle Waugh *Course Program Manager*

Jeremy Chan *Casual Administration Assistant*

Isaac Curkpatrick *Casual Administration Assistant (until November 2018)*

Marcela Gomez-Escudero *Casual Administration Assistant*

Michael Kagiri *Casual Administration Assistant*

Ally Li *Casual Administration Assistant*

Michael Aitken *Honorary Archivist*

Colin Bates *Honorary Archivist*

Joseph Chakman *Honorary Archivist*

Barry Cole *Honorary Archivist*

Pamela Sutton *Honorary Archivist*

## Corporate Services

Clare Escott *Executive General Manager Finance & Corporate Services*

Maria Carlos *Finance Officer*

Peta Coats *Administration Officer*

John Dascoli *Building Services Manager*

Holly Gouldthorpe *Membership & Communications Assistant*

Pat Huen *Finance Manager*

Sue Jeffreys *HR Manager (until August 2018)*

Addie Jiang *Project Accountant Trainee*

Elda Rebechi *Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager (until September 2018)*

Tenille Ryan *Senior Project Officer*

Chelsey Seamer *Executive Assistant to the CEO (until September 2018) & HR Coordinator (from September 2018)*

Jessica Sloan *Accounts Clerk & Administrative Assistant*

Robert Tobin *Technical Officer*

Nicole Anders *Casual Administration Assistant*

Kristine Carlos *Casual Administration Assistant*

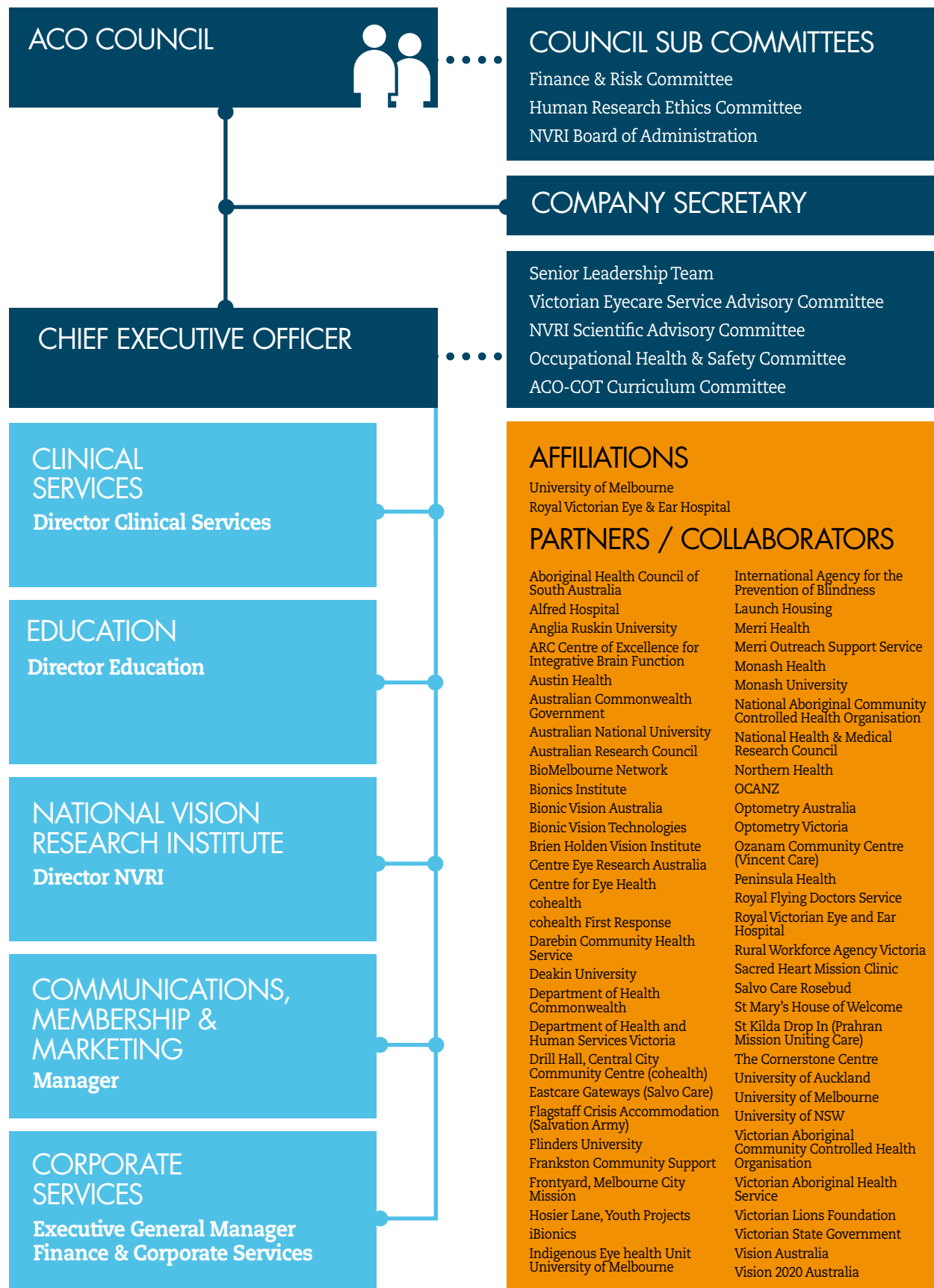
Sage Escott *Casual Administration Assistant*

Timothy Hall *Casual Marketing Assistant (from October 2018)*

Chloe Turner *Casual Administration Assistant*



## Organisation Chart



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AUDITED CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE  
OF OPTOMETRISTS

# CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

## 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 2018.

### 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  
M Anjou (until 31 August 2018)  
S Byrne  
L Denehy  
M Downing  
A Gentle (until 30 May 2018)  
D Gronow  
B Hamlyn  
R Hodge (from 30 May 2018)  
S Koh (from 30 May 2018)  
P Lucas  
T Powell (from 25 October 2018)  
M O'Keefe

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 (the Trust Funds) 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 primarily 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 2018.

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 2018 - 2022.

#### The entity's short-term objectives are to:

- continue to strengthen our clinical governance framework;
- continue to be a respected leader in the sector;
- identify opportunities to address unmet need in public health eye care;
- deliver high impact, internationally recognised research;
- build research capability and increase the translation of research to deliver outcomes that benefit the community;
- develop best practice clinical learning pathways;
- build membership and supporters;
- foster a culture of leadership, innovation, development and partner engagement;
- improve digital capability and maximise the benefit returned to the community through the investment of resources.

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

- **Clinical Optometry Services:** provide high quality public health eye care for communities in need and to lead best practice and standards;



- **Research:** undertake high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care;
- **Education:** provide best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice;
- **Sustainable Organisation:** develop an innovative and collaborative culture with our people striving for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology, systems and processes and with our members and supporters key to our success.

### 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 set out on page 78.

The consolidated group net result for the year was \$553,439 (2017: Surplus \$266,931) and the comprehensive result for the year was \$13,849 (2017: Surplus \$784,279).

The net assets of the consolidated group at 31 December 2018 were \$22,555,809 (2017: \$22,541,960).

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 DipWSET  
MCOptom FACO FAAO FCCLSA  
FARVO FAICD



Konrad Pesudovs was elected to Council in 2010 and appointed President in June 2016. His career has been spent in outcomes research in ophthalmology and in optometric education. He completed his Bachelor of Optometry at The University of Melbourne, and a PhD in Ophthalmology at Flinders University. In 2009 he was appointed the Foundation Chair of Optometry and Vision Science at Flinders University, a position held until 2017. Konrad is currently working as a research and education consultant. He is a Graduate and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Governance experience includes Councillor of the Flinders University Council (2017); Councillor of the SA Division of the Optometrists Association of Australia (1992-1996); Contact Lens Society of Australia (SA Chapter) committee member (1993-2000) and President (1994-1996).

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mitchell Anjou AM  
MScOptom BScOptom FACO  
(until 31 August 2018)



Mitchell Anjou was elected to Council in 2015 and held a position of the College’s Executive Committee until his resignation from Council on 31 August 2018. He was also a member of the College’s Finance & Risk Committee. He is currently 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. 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 and in 2017 he was awarded the ACO member award for outstanding service.

**VICE PRESIDENT & CHAIR  
OF HUMAN RESEARCH  
ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**Sarah Byrne**

BA LLB GAICD



Sarah Byrne was appointed as a skills based member on Council in December 2015. She is a practising lawyer with over 25 years of experience in public and health law, corporate governance, and related policy development. She has held numerous positions including General Counsel for the Australian Medical Association, 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 NHMRC. She has served on the boards of three NHMRC Partnership Centres, chairs the Commonwealth Department of Health's Human Research Ethics Committee, and is the lawyer member of the Defence and DVA HREC. Sarah has particular interest and expertise in information law, health and medical research law and ethics, and governance in the public and non-profit sectors.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER**

**Professor Linda Denehy**

BAppSc (Physio), PhD



Linda Denehy is Head of the Melbourne School of Health Sciences and Professor of Physiotherapy at The University of Melbourne, Australia, as well as joint head of Allied Health Research at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Linda has extensive teaching and learning experience at both under and post graduate level. Her research interests are in rehabilitation in critically ill patients, those with cancer, COPD and in perioperative medicine. Linda is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine where she is currently on a guidelines panel examining rehabilitation in ICU. She reviews for national and international competitive granting bodies and for several international scientific journals including, Lung Cancer, Intensive Care Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Thorax.

**Melissa Downing**

B.Sci. B. Optom (Hons)

GradCertOcTher



Melissa Downing was elected to Council in 2016. She completed her undergraduate science and optometry degrees and attained therapeutic endorsement through the University of Melbourne. She has worked in a wide range of independent and corporate optometry businesses including regional locations. Melissa has been involved with education committees for both OA Victoria and the ACO, highlighting her passion for continuing education for optometrists. She was a Clinical Instructor for the University of Melbourne for several years. Melissa's six years on the OA Victoria Board, including four as President, 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.

**Professor Alex Gentle**

BSc GCertUniTeach PGCertOcTher

PhD FACO FAAO FCOptom

(until 30 May 2018)



Alex Gentle was elected to Council during 2012 and, as well as holding the position of Vice President until May 2018, has held the position of Chair of the College's Human Research Ethics Committee and Chair of the NVRI Board of Administration. Alex is currently employed at Deakin University, where he 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.

**HONORARY TREASURER,  
CHAIR OF THE  
FINANCE & RISK  
COMMITTEE & CHAIR  
OF THE NVRI BOARD OF  
ADMINISTRATION**

**Denise Gronow**

CA



Denise Gronow is a skills based member on Council and was appointed as Honorary Treasurer and as Chair of the College's Finance & Risk Committee in February 2017.

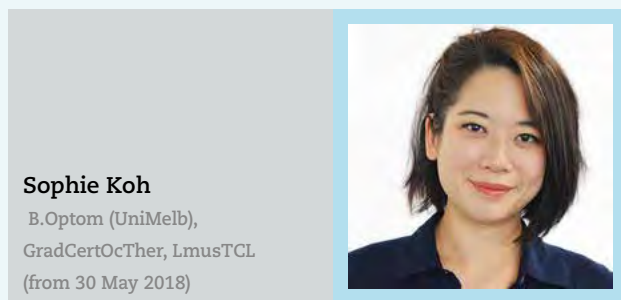
Denise has been an independent member of the ACO's Finance & Risk Committee since March 2014. She previously acted as an alternate director on ACO Council between August 2015 and January 2016. Denise is a qualified chartered accountant with significant experience working at a senior level in both the professional practice and banking sectors.



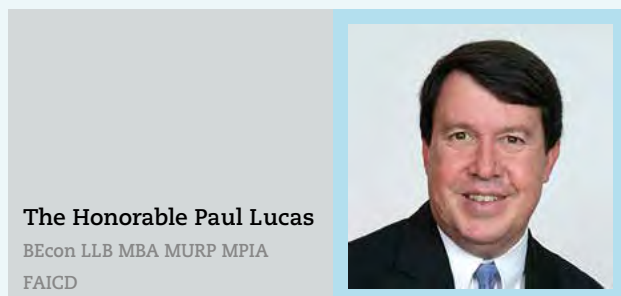
Ben Hamlyn was elected to Council in 2016. Ben studied his undergraduate optometry degree in Queensland and attained therapeutic endorsement through UNSW. He has spent much of his professional life working in regional and remote locations across the Northern Territory and South Australia. He has worked with the Fred Hollows Foundation, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Papua New Guinea Eyecare. He is passionate about ensuring quality eye care is available to all. Ben was 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 regionally and nationally for the OA. In 2014 he became a lecturer in Optometry at Flinders University and has a key role in the teaching and development of the optometrists of the future.



Rodney Hodge was elected to Council in May 2018. Rodney is an experienced optometrist who has worked in private practice, corporate practice and public health. He worked part time for over 20 years with North Metropolitan Health Services in Western Australia whilst running a private optometry practice. He has had a variety of experience in management and governance roles, including nine years on the WA division of the Council of Optometry. Rodney has an active interest in continuing education for optometrists. He has also served the community through local government (Councillor, City of Subiaco, 13 years) and a number of planning and land use committees in Perth. Rodney is now semi-retired, undertaking some locum optometry work mostly in rural and remote locations providing him with a greater understanding of the challenges of working in those regions.



Sophie Koh was elected to Council in May 2018. Sophie is an experienced optometrist who started her career in the Northern Territory. She has broad experience working in public health and corporate settings across metropolitan, rural and outback Australia. She has extensive experience working in ophthalmology teams and training nurses in East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Sophie studied her undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne and was amongst the first cohort of graduates to achieve the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics. She is now the National Professional Services Advisor at Optometry Australia. She is passionate about public health and Indigenous eye health. She is devoted to empowering students and colleagues to improve their knowledge and skills so they can play a wider role in improving the health and wellbeing of our underprivileged communities locally and overseas.



Paul Lucas was appointed as a skills based member on Council in July 2014. He holds Bachelor's Degrees in Economics and Law as well as Master's Degrees in Business Administration and Law and Regional Planning. Paul is both a Solicitor and Urban Planner by profession and was Queensland Deputy Premier for 4 years and a Minister in the Queensland State Government for 11 years. His Ministerial responsibilities included Infrastructure & Planning; Local Government; Health; and Attorney-General amongst others. As Health Minister, he was responsible for a number of initiatives in broadening the scope of practice for optometrists and other allied health professionals – an issue he continues to be passionate about. Paul is an Adjunct Professor at Bond University and the Australian Catholic University. Paul chairs the Board of the Brisbane Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and is a Director of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. He designed international programs for and lectures for UQ International Development and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Maureen O’Keefe**

BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA GAICD



Maureen O’Keefe was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the ACO in 2013. Maureen has held senior executive and board director positions across health, research and education sectors over the past 17 years, with a focus on transformation and growth of organisations to achieve long term sustainability. Previously Maureen was COO at Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research for 7 years during a period of major expansion, following an earlier career at the University of Melbourne in senior management and major project roles focused on new initiatives. Maureen is currently Deputy Chair of Vision2020 Australia, a BioMelbourne Network Board Director, member of SA Govt Clinical Pathways committee, and previously appointed to Ministerial Health Consultative Committees – Victorian Cancer Agency and Victorian Clinical Trial Research Council.

**Tim Powell**

B App Sci (Optom); PGCOT  
(from 25 October 2018)



Tim Powell joined the Council in 2018. He completed his undergraduate degree at QUT in Brisbane, and moved to Tasmania on graduation to take up a position on the North West Coast. He is a therapeutically endorsed optometrist and has a strong history of working with local GP, Ophthalmologists, aged care providers and the rehabilitation ward at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie. Tim has worked across independent, corporate and franchise optometry practices, being a partner in a large independent practice before becoming partner in a multi-site franchise optometry business which he sold at the end of 2017. Tim is involved in optometry profession advocacy, and has extensive experience on state and national based boards. He has held positions on state and national Optometry Australia boards (President and Deputy Chair respectively), was part of the inaugural allied health advisory committee to the Tasmanian Primary Health Network (formerly Medicare Local) and the Optometry Australia Rural Optometry Group. Tim has a passion for rural and remote eye care, and is currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate Course in Clinical Redesign through UTAS, which looks at how we can improve the patient experience and outcomes in our health system.

**Meetings of Council**

During the financial year, six (6) meetings of Council were held. Attendance by each Councillor during the year was as follows:

	Councillor meetings	Meetings attended
K Pesudovs	6	5
M Anjou (until 31 August 2018)	4	3
S Byrne	6	5
L Denehy	6	4
M Downing	6	5
A Gentle (until 30 May 2018)	2	2
D Gronow	6	5
B Hamlyn	6	5
R Hodge (from 30 May 2018)	4	4
S Koh (from 30 May 2018)	4	4
P Lucas	6	6
M O’Keefe	6	6
T Powell (from 25 October 2018)	1	1

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 2018, the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$37,550 (2017: \$36,850).

**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.

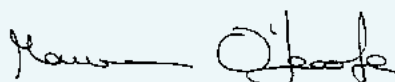


Konrad Pesudovs  
President

Dated this 15th day of April 2019

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.



Maureen O'Keefe  
Chief Executive Officer

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## Responsible Persons' Declaration

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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 comprehensive operating statement, 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 2018:

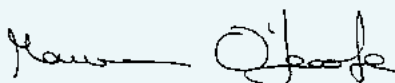
- a. complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports*; and
- b. is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2018 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities.

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



Konrad Pesudovs  
President

Dated this 15th day of April 2019



Maureen O'Keefe  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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 2018. 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.

### Consolidated Comprehensive Operating Statement

The total comprehensive results of the consolidated group for the year was made up as follows:

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Net results for the year	553,439	266,931
Other Comprehensive Income		
Unrealised (losses)/gains on equity investments (Note I)	(847,353)	313,850
Realised gains/(losses) on equity investments	307,763	203,498
Total Other Comprehensive Income	(539,590)	517,348
<b>Comprehensive results</b>	<b>13,849</b>	<b>784,279</b>

Note I – Unrealised losses on revaluation of equity investments for the Consolidated Group were \$847,353 (2017: gain \$313,850). This negative movement on the revaluation of equity investments was due to downward market volatility at the end of 2018, particularly in the banking and energy sectors. Equity investment assets are held by the Consolidated Group with a long-term view on return and are not considered to be regularly tradeable investments. As such, the ACO Council expects that investments will move upwards or downwards as a result of general market volatility and mechanisms are in place for continuously monitoring overall investment performance and take mitigating steps where necessary. The movements seen at the end of 2018 remain within accepted levels of tolerance as set by ACO Council and performance continues to be closely monitored during the early stages of 2019. Despite the downward valuation at the end of 2018, the overall balance sheet position for the Consolidated Group remains robust.

### Consolidated Income

The Consolidated group saw income increase by 7.6% to \$17,916,316 (College 6.7% to \$17,411,714) analysed as follows:

ACO	2018	2017	Change
	\$	\$	%
<b>Revenue from Operating Activities</b>			
Government grants	7,164,246	6,929,675	3.4%
Non-government grants, trusts and donations (Note II)	2,690,020	1,959,897	37.3%
Optical services	5,417,839	5,393,655	0.4%
Research and Education	1,172,857	1,200,752	-2.3%
Dividends and distribution (Note III)	83,624	51,421	62.6%
Interest revenue (Note IV)	109,212	89,470	22.1%
Property services (Note V)	174,036	158,930	9.5%
Membership	186,882	173,432	7.8%
Other	207,262	259,276	-20.1%
<b>ACO Total Revenue from Operating Activities</b>	<b>17,205,978</b>	<b>16,216,508</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
Capital Grant Income	205,617	95,698	114.9%
Realised gains/(losses) on equity investments	119	(187)	-163.6%
<b>ACO Total Income</b>	<b>17,411,714</b>	<b>16,312,019</b>	<b>6.7%</b>



Note II – Income for 2018 includes \$1,331,793 under contract with Brien Holden Vision Institute towards a project for the provision of eye health equipment and training to Indigenous communities across Australia. This project is ultimately funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health.

Note III & IV – Increase in income arising from change to investment policy.

Note V – Additional tenants occupied space at the ACO in 2018.

Expenditure grew by 5.37% to \$17,055,114, which included expenditure arising from the project for the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training for distribution to Indigenous communities across Australia.

### Trust funds

Total Trust Fund investment income was \$850,365 (2017: \$614,093), comprising operating income of \$542,721 (2017: \$410,408) and realised gains on sale of financial assets of \$307,644 (2017: \$203,685).

### Consolidated Statements of Financial Position and Changes in Equity

Net assets of the consolidated group, including the Trust Fund, increased by 0.061% to \$22,555,809. Details of the net assets of the consolidated group are set out on page 79.

Within its Statement of Financial Position, the consolidated group maintains a strong financial position, with total property, plant and equipment of \$9,677,587 (2017: \$9,669,401) and total financial assets of \$17,329,087 (2017: \$16,764,010).

At 31 December 2018, the consolidated group retained surplus stood at \$17,670,142, a 5.1% increase from the previous year. The Reserves stood at \$4,885,667 a 14.8% decrease from the previous year. A full analysis of changes in equity is set out on page 80.

### Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash inflow during 2018, as set out on page 81, was \$404,058 (2017: inflow \$272,964), comprising a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$1,185,728 (2017: inflow \$890,219) available for investment in asset improvements and replacements. Cash outflows from investing activities were \$781,670 (2017: outflow \$617,255).

# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Australian College of Optometry



## Report on the Concise Financial Statements

### Opinion

We have audited the concise financial report of the Australian College of Optometry (the registered entity) and the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities (the consolidated group), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, the consolidated comprehensive operating statement, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, derived from the financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the discussion and analysis.

In our opinion, the accompanying concise financial report, including the discussion and analysis of the registered entity and the consolidated group, complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity and the consolidated group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the concise financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements applied in the preparation of the financial report. Reading the concise financial report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The concise financial report and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES

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

### Responsibilities of the Responsible Persons 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 ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the concise financial report.

### 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.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Concise Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the concise financial report, in all material respects, complies with AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports* and whether the discussion and the analysis complies with AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports* based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810: *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin McLellan &amp; Co.', written over a horizontal line.

McBain McCartin & Co  
Chartered Accountants

123 Whitehorse Road  
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 15th day of April 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Aukstin', written over a horizontal line.

Simon Aukstin (CA)  
Partner

## Consolidated Comprehensive Operating Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue from Operating Activities	17,402,936	16,358,036	17,205,978	16,216,508
Employee Expenses	(9,222,563)	(9,121,301)	(9,222,563)	(9,121,301)
Non-Salary Labour Costs	(114,146)	(3,756)	(114,146)	(3,756)
Other Expenses	(6,883,752)	(6,251,588)	(6,825,645)	(6,195,064)
<b>Net results before Capital Grant Income and Depreciation and Amortisation</b>	<b>1,182,475</b>	<b>981,391</b>	<b>1,043,624</b>	<b>896,387</b>
Capital Grant Income	205,617	95,698	205,617	95,698
Depreciation and Amortisation	(834,653)	(810,158)	(834,653)	(810,158)
<b>NET RESULTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>553,439</b>	<b>266,931</b>	<b>414,588</b>	<b>181,927</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>				
Unrealised (losses)/gains on equity investments	(847,353)	313,850	(48,885)	15,783
Realised gains/(losses) on equity investments	307,763	203,498	119	(187)
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>(539,590)</b>	<b>517,348</b>	<b>(48,766)</b>	<b>15,596</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULTS</b>	<b>13,849</b>	<b>784,279</b>	<b>365,822</b>	<b>197,523</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2018

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,537,169	2,133,111	2,016,604	1,756,076
Financial assets	3,529,235	3,028,753	3,529,235	3,028,753
Trade and other receivables	506,439	465,735	751,566	625,514
Inventories	307,002	256,097	307,002	256,097
Other current assets	111,381	129,842	111,381	129,842
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6,991,226</b>	<b>6,013,538</b>	<b>6,715,788</b>	<b>5,796,282</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Property, plant and equipment	9,677,587	9,669,401	9,677,587	9,669,401
Intangible assets	172,915	148,903	172,915	148,903
Financial assets	10,756,244	11,136,411	1,437,969	1,408,331
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>20,606,746</b>	<b>20,954,715</b>	<b>11,288,471</b>	<b>11,226,635</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>27,597,972</b>	<b>26,968,253</b>	<b>18,004,259</b>	<b>17,022,917</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Trade and other payables	1,021,578	1,224,808	1,030,228	1,233,808
Provisions	1,790,672	1,728,900	1,790,672	1,728,900
Other current liabilities	2,080,240	1,319,460	2,080,240	1,319,460
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,892,490</b>	<b>4,273,168</b>	<b>4,901,140</b>	<b>4,282,168</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Provisions	149,673	153,125	149,673	153,125
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>149,673</b>	<b>153,125</b>	<b>149,673</b>	<b>153,125</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>5,042,163</b>	<b>4,426,293</b>	<b>5,050,813</b>	<b>4,435,293</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>22,555,809</b>	<b>22,541,960</b>	<b>12,953,446</b>	<b>12,587,624</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Reserves	4,885,667	5,733,020	85,016	133,901
Retained surplus	17,670,142	16,808,940	12,868,430	12,453,723
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>22,555,809</b>	<b>22,541,960</b>	<b>12,953,446</b>	<b>12,587,624</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Reserves				Total \$
	Asset Revaluation- Investments \$	Contributed Equity \$	Development Fund \$	Retained Surplus \$	
<b>CONSOLIDATED GROUP</b>					
<b>Balance at 1 January 2017</b>	1,393,233	3,907,819	118,118	16,338,511	21,757,681
Net result for the year	-	-	-	266,931	266,931
Other comprehensive income	517,348	-	-	-	517,348
Transfer - gains/(losses) on disposal of equity instruments at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income to Retained Surplus	(203,498)	-	-	203,498	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>1,707,083</b>	<b>3,907,819</b>	<b>118,118</b>	<b>16,808,940</b>	<b>22,541,960</b>
Net result for the year	-	-	-	553,439	553,439
Other comprehensive income	(539,590)	-	-	-	(539,590)
Transfer - gains/(losses) on disposal of equity instruments at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income to Retained Surplus	(307,763)	-	-	307,763	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>859,730</b>	<b>3,907,819</b>	<b>118,118</b>	<b>17,670,142</b>	<b>22,555,809</b>
<b>Total Reserves at 31 December 2018</b>					<b>4,885,667</b>
<b>COLLEGE</b>					
<b>Balance at 1 January 2017</b>	-	-	118,118	12,271,983	12,390,101
Net result for the year	-	-	-	181,927	181,927
Other comprehensive income	15,596	-	-	-	15,596
Transfer - gains/(losses) on disposal of equity instruments at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income to Retained Surplus	187	-	-	(187)	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>15,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,118</b>	<b>12,453,723</b>	<b>12,587,624</b>
Net result for the year	-	-	-	414,588	414,588
Other comprehensive income	(48,766)	-	-	-	(48,766)
Transfer - gains/(losses) on disposal of equity instruments at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income to Retained Surplus	(119)	-	-	119	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>(33,102)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,118</b>	<b>12,868,430</b>	<b>12,953,446</b>
<b>Total Reserves at 31 December 2018</b>					<b>85,016</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Receipts from government grants	8,717,530	7,852,594	8,717,529	7,852,594
Receipts from patients, other funding sources and members	9,762,574	8,977,581	9,913,587	9,628,670
Payments to suppliers and employees	(16,630,422)	(15,232,700)	(16,458,962)	(15,572,312)
Net GST paid	(663,954)	(707,256)	(667,752)	(687,003)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>1,185,728</b>	<b>890,219</b>	<b>1,504,402</b>	<b>1,221,949</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Dividends received	623,733	432,365	83,624	51,421
Interest received	112,326	101,539	109,212	89,470
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	16,800	-	16,800	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(809,570)	(522,126)	(809,570)	(522,126)
Purchase of intangible assets	(65,054)	(118,835)	(65,055)	(118,835)
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	11,279,059	11,515,992	10,062,588	10,141,580
Purchase of financial assets	(11,938,964)	(12,026,190)	(10,641,473)	(10,157,363)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(781,670)</b>	<b>(617,255)</b>	<b>(1,243,874)</b>	<b>(515,853)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>404,058</b>	<b>272,964</b>	<b>260,528</b>	<b>706,096</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,133,111	1,860,147	1,756,076	1,049,980
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,537,169</b>	<b>2,133,111</b>	<b>2,016,604</b>	<b>1,756,076</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Notes to the Concise Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

### 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 2018. 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 apart from those changes detailed below at Note 2. 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: Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

AASB 9: Financial Instruments, allows via the irrevocable election on initial recognition to present gains and losses (unrealised and realised) relating to equity instruments in other comprehensive income.

In accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors an adjustment has been made to recognise the change in accounting treatment adopted for the recognition of realised movements in equity instruments in the previous financial year.

This adjustment reallocates the previously recognised realised gains and losses from the operating results to equity for the 2017 financial year.

### Adjustment made to Consolidated Comprehensive Operating Statement as of 1st of January 2017:

	Previously Stated	Adjustment	Restated
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Consolidated Group</b>			
Net results for the year	470,429	(203,498)	266,931
Other Comprehensive Income	313,850	203,498	517,348
Comprehensive Results	784,279	-	784,279
<b>College</b>			
Net results for the year	181,740	187	181,927
Other Comprehensive Income	15,783	(187)	15,596
Comprehensive Results	197,523	-	197,523

### Change in Primary Statement Disclosure

The Consolidated Group has elected to change the disclosure of the primary statement previously referred to as the Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, now referred to as the Consolidated Comprehensive Operating Statement. This change has been implemented as the Councillors are of the opinion that this will provide more relevant information, and result in a more accurate comparative.

This specifically includes the identification of the Net Results before Capital Grant Income and Depreciation and Amortisation for the year ended 31 December 2018 and comparative period.

### Note 3: Presentation Currency

The concise financial statements have been prepared in Australian dollars.

### Note 4: 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.

## Segment Reporting for the Year Ended 31 December 2017 and 2018

<b>CONSOLIDATED GROUP</b>	Corporate Services	Education	Clinical Services	National Vision Research Institute	Trust Funds	Intersegment Eliminations	<b>Total</b>
<b>2018</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>							
External Revenue	4,565,744	864,337	13,437,395	1,167,160	542,721		<b>20,577,357</b>
Other Segment Revenue						(2,968,464)	<b>(2,968,464)</b>
	4,565,744	864,337	13,437,395	1,167,160	542,721	(2,968,464)	<b>17,608,893</b>
<b>Net surplus/ (loss)</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>49,434</b>	<b>355,750</b>	<b>9,523</b>	<b>138,851</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>553,439</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							<b>27,597,972</b>
							<b>27,597,972</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							<b>5,042,163</b>
							<b>5,042,163</b>
<b>2017</b>							
<b>REVENUE</b>							
External Revenue	3,796,868	840,415	13,195,543	1,063,003	410,408		<b>19,306,237</b>
Other Segment Revenue						(2,852,503)	<b>(2,852,503)</b>
	3,796,868	840,415	13,195,543	1,063,003	410,408	(2,852,503)	<b>16,453,734</b>
<b>Net surplus/ (loss)</b>	<b>(64,593)</b>	<b>75,434</b>	<b>201,371</b>	<b>(30,285)</b>	<b>85,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>266,931</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							<b>26,968,253</b>
							<b>26,968,253</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							<b>4,426,293</b>
							<b>4,426,293</b>

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 (pages 69 to 83) 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 2018 is summarized 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	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>								
Profit / (Loss) on ordinary activities	44,936	26,215	356,597	242,090	44,962	20,384	(1,859)	(7,806)
Net increase in asset revaluation reserve	(45,744)	22,624	(683,801)	248,445	(68,923)	26,998	(19,701)	(500)
<b>Total Changes in Equity</b>	<b>(808)</b>	<b>48,839</b>	<b>(327,204)</b>	<b>490,535</b>	<b>(23,961)</b>	<b>47,382</b>	<b>(21,560)</b>	<b>(8,306)</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b>								
Current Assets	39,910	37,645	519,155	378,208	70,784	79,282	44,697	441,582
<b>Non Current Assets</b>								
Shares in listed companies and units in listed trusts at market value	539,032	542,105	8,039,197	8,432,980	740,046	752,994	405,221	9,896
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>578,942</b>	<b>579,750</b>	<b>8,558,352</b>	<b>8,811,188</b>	<b>810,830</b>	<b>832,276</b>	<b>449,918</b>	<b>451,478</b>
Current Liabilities	-	-	314,610	240,242	31,153	28,638	20,000	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>578,942</b>	<b>579,750</b>	<b>8,243,742</b>	<b>8,570,946</b>	<b>779,677</b>	<b>803,638</b>	<b>429,918</b>	<b>451,478</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>								
Contributed equity	-	-	3,600,153	3,600,153	307,666	307,666	173,867	173,867
Asset revaluation reserve	22,587	68,331	829,108	1,512,909	41,137	110,060	(19,636)	65
Retained profits	556,355	511,419	3,814,481	3,457,884	430,874	385,912	275,687	277,546
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>578,942</b>	<b>579,750</b>	<b>8,243,742</b>	<b>8,570,946</b>	<b>779,677</b>	<b>803,638</b>	<b>429,918</b>	<b>451,478</b>

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 2018.





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