

Strong foundations for life

Support for children, young people and families



Vision Australia

Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.

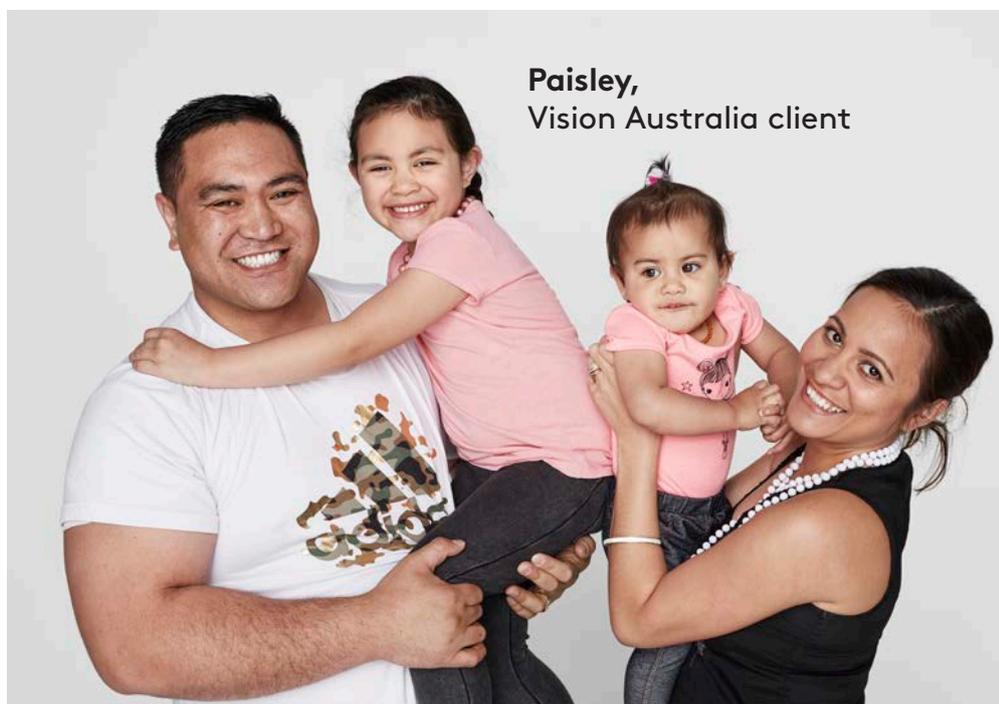
Strong foundations for life

Every child is unique, and they interact and learn in their own wonderful way. Finding out your child has vision loss can be confronting and confusing. You may have questions around their future, what will it look like? How will they manage at school? How will this affect our family?

Much of what we learn in life is through what we see and children who are blind or have low vision need to gather information about their world in different ways. Their family are their first and favourite teachers, and we'll be with yours, every step of the way.

At Vision Australia we offer your family a personalised and holistic approach to child development. We focus on four key areas of life being education, employment, independence and social inclusion. We deliver evidence-based support and services for the here and now, and for the future.

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



Paisley,
Vision Australia client

Working together

Vision Australia will be with you and your family throughout your child's life – from birth and first steps, starting school and discovering their talents to graduating, finding jobs and making the most of adulthood.

You will get the support you need to be the expert on your child's situation. We can help you become confident in the choices you make for them with proven approaches to help them realise their potential.

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

Your child's support network of experts can include:

- Family Support Practitioner
- Speech pathologists
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Counsellors
- Psychologists
- Orientation and mobility specialists
- Access technology specialists
- Orthoptists
- Early Childhood Specialist Teachers

Services can be delivered in many different ways to help limit the barriers of location and time. We'll work with you to figure out what will work best at any given time.

Services may be provided by phone, online, face-to-face in your home or community, or at your closest Vision Australia office.

Access to funding

Various funding options can help you access our services and support. These include the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and Medicare. We can help you understand what options are available, and guide you through the process.

Early years

Early learning and development are foundations for your child to grow into a confident, independent and healthy adult. We can provide the right tools and techniques at the right time, laying the building blocks that prepare them for the transition to school. We will help you incorporate early intervention into your family's everyday routine, and nurture your capacity to help build foundations for learning and play.

Your child can participate in, learn and master important life skills including:

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

Getting your child ready for school

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

Together we can:

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



Jack,
Vision Australia client

Primary school years

Building on early years' foundations, your child will gain confidence for the things needed today, and to plan for the future. Supporting your child with specialist activities and programs, they will start to learn to advocate for themselves and realise their full potential. Your child can access activities and sports clubs, make friends and learn ways to talk about their vision. Support ranges from advice on lighting, accessing learning materials in different formats and learning about the latest technology that will work into their everyday activities and help with homework.

High school and beyond

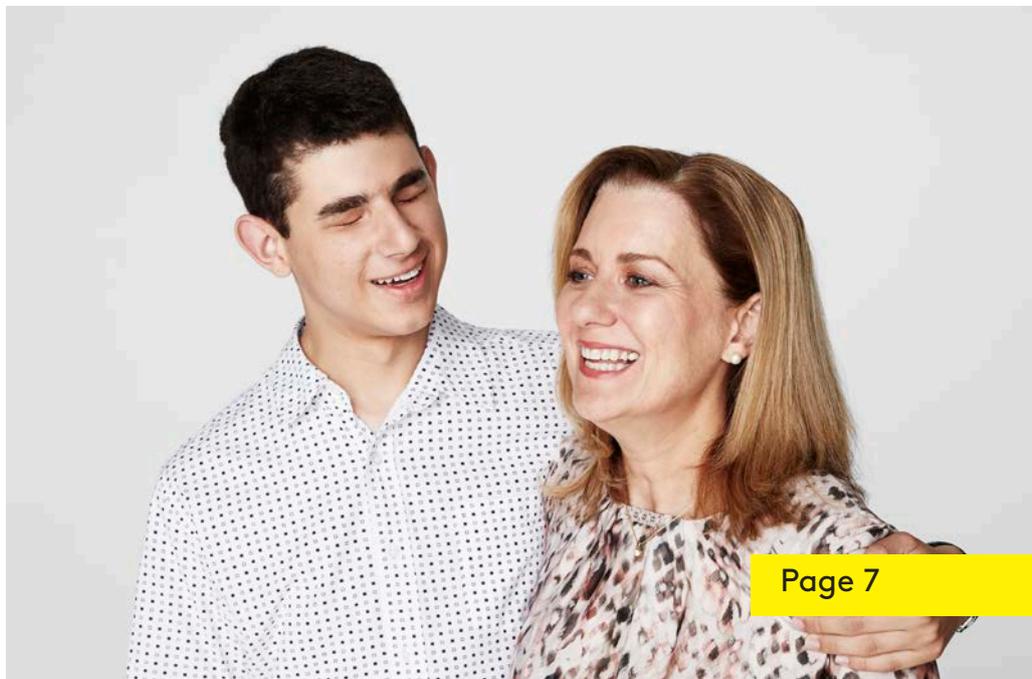
As your child heads into adolescence we will support them to make decisions with the future in mind, as well as help build their confidence so they can advocate for themselves. Empowering you and your child with a toolkit of skills to enable education, employment, independence and social inclusion. With specialised mentoring and leadership programs, young people can achieve their goals for today and plan for what they want in adulthood.

Moving into adulthood

This is a big step for anyone. As a young adult making decisions about life, we will help them understand available pathways and prepare for the future, today. Our expert team will work directly with your child so they can:

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

Anthony,
Vision Australia client



Vision Australia is a specialist in blindness and low vision support for children and young people

Call us on 1300 84 74 66

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

Find out more

visionaustralia.org
info@visionaustralia.org

 VisionAustralia
 @visionaustralia

Vision Australia receives funding from a range of sources including Commonwealth and State Governments, departments and programs.

More details on our funding can be found in our Annual and Financial Reports at visionaustralia.org/annualreports.

visionaustralia.org



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