

# Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs Impact Report

## 2023-24

### Your support makes all the difference for Seeing Eye Dogs

The past year has been an amazing one for Seeing Eye Dogs, which wouldn't have been possible without the support of people like you!

In the past 12 months we matched 42 handlers with a Seeing Eye Dog, the fourth straight year we have matched more than 40 handlers with a dog. Across the last year, we had 235 active Seeing Eye Dog handlers across Australia, the most we've ever had at one time!

The future is also bright for Seeing Eye Dogs, with our wait time for a Seeing Eye Dog now down to just five months, while another 200 puppies have entered the Seeing Eye Dogs program.

Excitingly, we also opened the brand-new Dog Care Centre at our Seeing Eye Dogs headquarters. The new facility, completely donor-funded, means our workforce and dogs now enjoy an industry leading welfare facility.

None of this would be possible without supporters like you. Thank you!



Thayana, from Perth, was matched with Seeing Eye Dog Shayla in October 2023. Thayana lost most of her vision in her late teens, but as she had been in Australia on a student visa, believed she wasn't eligible for a Seeing Eye Dog.

After returning to Perth from a trip to South Africa, Thayana decided to explore what support was available, and was deemed eligible to receive a Seeing Eye Dog.

"I knew that I didn't want to come back the same person that I was. I used to depend on friends to go everywhere and anywhere." Thayana said.

"The biggest impact Shayla's had is giving me my independence back, I'm able to leave my house and go somewhere I want to now."

## How your support makes the work of Seeing Eye Dogs possible

It costs more than \$50,000 to breed, raise and train every Seeing Eye Dog and we couldn't do that without your support. Here's just some of what you've made possible in the last 12 months.

**235**

active Seeing Eye Dog handlers across Australia.

**42**

new Seeing Eye Dogs matched with their handlers.

**200+**

puppies born to enter the Seeing Eye Dogs program.

**Three**

youth program clients matched with their first Seeing Eye Dog.

The new Seeing Eye Dogs Dog Care Centre open to benefit our dogs and workforce.

All veterinary and food costs covered while our puppies and dogs are with volunteer carers.



One of the most important days on the Seeing Eye Dogs calendar is our graduation event.

Being matched with a Seeing Eye Dog is a truly life-changing experience and it's important we celebrate our handlers and working dogs, but also everyone who has helped make those matches possible.

This year we were excited to bring handlers and our Seeing Eye Dogs community together from across Australia to celebrate.

Among those we celebrated was Jasmine and Seeing Eye Dog Mikey, who were matched after Jasmine completed the Seeing Eye Dogs youth program.

"The first time I held the harness of a Seeing Eye Dog at the youth program was an incredible feeling. I felt free to move around without relying on others. Now that I've been matched with Mikey, I feel this same confidence, every day," Jasmine said.

"Mikey has become such an important part of my life in such a short time. Through the Seeing Eye Dogs youth program and the matching process, I've also discovered a whole new community and support network, which has truly been life changing."