



The Lions Eye Health Program - Australia

aims to reduce the incidence and impact of vision loss in Australia.

Initially funded by LCIF in 2000, LEHP became a Category B project in 2006 and is managed and funded by Lions in all States, with as much as 70% of clubs actively involved by paying \$4 per member each year or additional donations.

About 575,000 Australians are vision impaired in both eyes, to the extent that they can no longer legally drive and this number is expected to continually rise. 90% of vision loss in Australia is avoidable or treatable so too many Australians are losing their sight when it didn't have to be the case.

Apart from the cost of vision related problems people with vision loss are at an increased risk of; falls, hip fractures, depression, social dependence and early admission into nursing homes.



LEHP primarily focus's on three different eye conditions where, once vision is lost, it cannot be brought back. Regular eye examinations are essential for detecting these treatable conditions.

Age-related Macular Degeneration

AMD effects the macular, part of the retina, situated at the back of the eye and removes central vision.

Glaucoma

This condition, where the nerve cells that transmit information from the eye to the brain become damaged, takes over an individual's peripheral or side vision.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Both Type 1 and 2 diabetes sufferers are at equal risk of developing small blood vessel complications which can lead to vision loss and blindness. People with Diabetic Retinopathy experience blurred and patchy vision.

Children's Eye Health

Along with allergies and asthma, eye disorders are the most common long-term health problems suffered by children. In fact - 1 in 4 of our kids has an undetected condition.

Considering as much as 80% of a child's learning is through their eyes, it is so important to pick up any problems as soon as possible.

All children should have a full eye examination before starting school and then regularly as they progress through primary and secondary years.



The Lions Eye Health Program is partnered with the **Centre for Eye Health**, a state of the art eye imaging and diagnostic centre associated with the University of NSW, which provides technical expertise to the program.

Working closely with the Centre for Eye Health, a range of community education resources focused on and covering Avoidable Vision Loss and Children's Eye Health has been created.

These include; brochures, posters, stickers, colouring sheets, voice-over presentations, simulation glasses, drink coasters, information sheets in eight languages, an Emergency

Guest Speaker Kit and more. LEHP also provides the Dr Bob Coulthard Recognition Award that can be presented to Lions or community members for outstanding service

LEHP appreciates the funding received from Lions Clubs to develop materials and cover the costs of club visits and seminars. But the main work clubs can help with is distributing resources within local communities.

A full list of resources and how Lions Clubs can distribute them is available on our web site or from the LEHP office.