

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

*Blind people feel isolated and disconnected from society and their environments, with young adults 5 times more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression.*

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

Research shows that people who suffer from vision impairment are substantially more likely to suffer from depression, social isolation, more injuries, and less ability to drive and be independent.

*Over 13 million Australians currently suffer from at least one long term eye conditions.*

*With 131,000 suffering from complete or partial blindness.*

*93% of people over the age of 65 reportedly suffer from a long term eye condition with females being affected at a greater rate than males (59%-41%)*



## 2-3 KEY USERS:

*Jen is a new mother who recently became legally blind and must find a new way of being independent.*

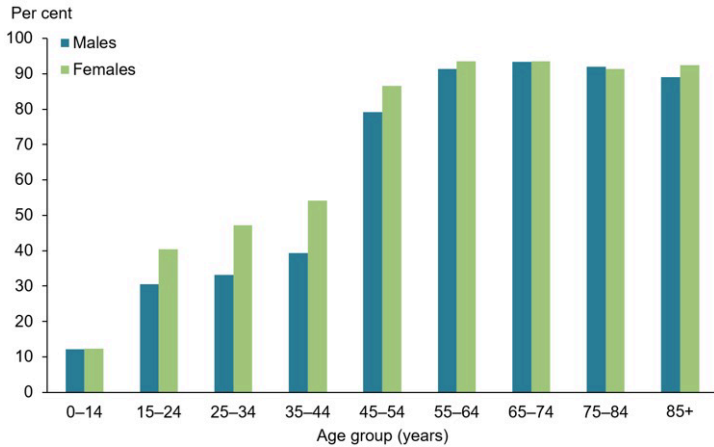
*George is a 55 year old early retiree who is slowly losing his vision and fears for the future.*



## 2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Jen needs easy and quick to learn solutions to help her regain her independence because she wants to remain in charge of her life.

George needs a way of staying connected with his family and friends despite losing his sight because he feels he will become extremely lonely if a solution is not present.



Percentage of people in Australia who suffer from a chronic eye condition by age.

**INDUSTRY SECTORS:**

- Families
- Hospitals
- The elderly
- Accident victims

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

- <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsq/clinical/impaired-vision-linked-to-lower-mental-and-physical>
- <https://www.visionaustralia.org/news/2019-08-23/vision-loss-and-my-mental-health-sarahs-story>
- <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/eye-health/eye-health/contents/how-common-is-visual-impairment>
- <https://www.visionaustralia.org/news/2019-08-23/vision-loss-and-my-mental-health-sarahs-story>

Funded by

**Eye health by numbers**

**IN AUSTRALIA**

MORE THAN  
**453,000**  
ARE BLIND OR VISION IMPAIRED

THE PREVALENCE OF BLINDNESS AND VISION IMPAIRMENT IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IS THREE TIMES THAT OF NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

**X3**

APPROXIMATELY 90% OF BLINDNESS AND VISION IMPAIRMENT AMONG BOTH INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IS PREVENTABLE OR TREATABLE, IF DETECTED EARLY



**THE EYE CONDITIONS CAUSING VISION IMPAIRMENT FOR NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

- 9% Age-related macular degeneration
- 1.5% Diabetic retinopathy
- 1.5% Glaucoma
- 14% Cataract
- 12% Other
- 62% Uncorrected refractive error

**THE EYE CONDITIONS CAUSING VISION IMPAIRMENT FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

- 1% Age-related macular degeneration
- 5.5% Diabetic retinopathy
- 0.5% Glaucoma
- 20% Cataract
- 10% Other
- 63% Uncorrected refractive error

**AROUND THE WORLD**

AROUND  
**223**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE ARE BLIND OR VISION IMPAIRED



ANOTHER  
**517** MILLION  
PEOPLE GLOBALLY ARE VISION IMPAIRED BECAUSE OF UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERROR FROM PRESBYOPIA

AROUND  
**80%** OF ALL BLINDNESS AND VISION IMPAIRMENT IS AVOIDABLE OR TREATABLE



Eye health by numbers statistics sourced from The National Eye Health Survey 2016; World Health Organization, The Global Burden of Disease Study 2012; Global Vision Impairment Due to Uncorrected Presbyopia, December 2008

National body working in partnership to prevent avoidable blindness and improve vision care



Australian statistics for vision and vision impairment.