



Optometry
VICTORIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

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President and CEO Report

The 2019-20 financial year has been a tumultuous and truly unforgettable 12 months for the association and our members. While the COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed the last few months of the 2019-20 financial year, it's good to be reminded that there was much to celebrate prior to its onset. We're confident that many of these positives have set the association up well to not only weather this storm, but to rebuild and thrive in its wake.

The official establishment of the newly amalgamated Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) from 1 July 2019 saw a strong focus on bedding down the operational aspects of the new entity, not least of which was the new amalgamated Board of Directors, our new logo and our new company structure.

Another key highlight in July 2019 was the successful delivery by OV/SA of O=MEGA19, in partnership with ODMA. This was the largest optometry clinical conference and trade fair ever held in Australia. The strong support for the event from our sponsors and exhibitors, our speakers, and the individual delegates who took time out of busy practices and lives to attend was outstanding and very much appreciated.

Membership renewal in the wake of the amalgamation was also very strong, and we were delighted that members responded so positively to the changes.

In October 2019 it was announced that OV/SA had won the bid to host the World Congress of Optometry in Melbourne in 2021. This announcement was received with great enthusiasm and pride by the Board, the secretariat, members and a range of optometric and government stakeholders. An OV/SA delegation travelled to the USA to participate in a formal acceptance ceremony and to start promoting the event to an international audience.


While the COVID-19 pandemic has required the postponement of this important event until 2023 where it will join with O=MEGA23, we remain confident that it will provide outstanding opportunities for members to participate in a truly international clinical conference, that will challenge, inspire and bring together the profession like never before.

Throughout 2019-20, we continued to deliver a comprehensive calendar of CPD events for members, including a very special one-day mini-conference in Adelaide in November 2019, which attracted around 100 members and very positive feedback.

The rural, regional and metropolitan CPD events and seminars, and projects targeted specifically to early career practitioners all continued to engage members, deliver quality CPD and educational outcomes and, ensure opportunities for members across both states to network and connect.

Member resources such as the *Assessing Fitness to Drive Clinical Guideline* and the *Locum Guide* supported members to deliver the best quality eye care they can, and to practice in a way that is tailored to their circumstances and needs.

The Guide to Healthy Eyes for Kids and Parents consumer resource was distributed to 65,000 prep children and their families in Victoria at the beginning of the 2020 school year and includes a strong call to action to parents to have their children's eye examined regularly.



Optometrists provide a vital service to the community, and the clinical interventions by many of our members have an often untold, and significant impact on the wellbeing of patients and their families. This has been no more evident than during 2020.

It was a difficult and challenging start to 2020 for many of our members directly and indirectly impacted by the bushfire crisis across both Victoria and South Australia. Members in many locations across our two states continued to deliver services to the community in difficult and testing circumstances, providing eye health care and support to patients and their families.

The significant upheaval that the COVID-19 pandemic would have on Australia was not completely apparent in mid-March 2020. OV/SA continued plans for a series of face-to-face one-day mini-conferences in Melbourne, rural and regional seminars across both states, Blue Sky 2020 conference in Adelaide and a host of other CPD events throughout the year.

By April however, it was clear that the changes that we were experiencing due to COVID-19 would be extensive and long lasting, and that these were very much uncharted waters that we found ourselves in.

OV/SA worked in close collaboration with our national organisation Optometry Australia (OA) and the other state divisions during this first half of 2020 to ensure that members were kept up to date on the latest clinical information, business support and HR and employment advice. Optometry Australia led the way for the entire optometric sector throughout the first phase of the pandemic and OA's calm, measured and ethical leadership was very much appreciated.

COVID-19 has impacted optometry and optometrists in ways not seen in our lifetimes. In this ever-changing environment it has often felt like the sand shifts under our feet every day and we're sure many members have felt that too. Advice from the federal government, from state governments, from health experts and from our national association has changed regularly and sometimes rapidly, but we have stood ready to adapt, and ultimately evolve.



President and CEO Report

Our plans to deliver a twelve-month, comprehensive calendar of CPD events for members changed during this time in line with the limitations imposed by social distancing requirements and various lockdown restrictions. We pivoted to deliver CPD online and while it may not quite be the same as face-to-face events, it did provide many with a sense of connection as well as practical, quality CPD that members have come to expect from the association.

In recognition of the significant financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on optometrists and optometry practices, we announced in mid-May that membership fees across all member categories would be halved for 2020-21. This was equivalent to six months of free membership for every member, and members also had the option to delay payment until the end of 2020 if they preferred.

This arrangement was in place for all members across Australia regardless of where they practice and was the result of wonderful collaboration between Optometry Australia and all state divisions. In no small part the deal was able to be struck through a decision taken by the Board of Optometry Australia to fund half of the fee reductions for all states. That Optometry Australia can do this for all state divisions says much about their leadership, financial prudence, and steadfast desire to preserve the collective strength of the association.

Optometry Victoria and Optometry South Australia as separate businesses were strong and financially well run – together OV/SA is demonstrably stronger. We determined that the very significant shortfall in membership revenue we would experience in 2020-21 as a result of fee reductions would be funded through reserves without the need to take on debt or reduce member services.





Advocacy on behalf of members and the profession has never been more important than throughout the changing environment of COVID-19. Together with our national association we advocated at state and federal levels in an effort to ensure that optometry can emerge from this pandemic well placed to continue to care for the health and wellbeing of our patients.

In the early stages of social distancing restrictions there was a very real risk of a complete shut-down of optometry practices. Optometry Australia advocated to the Federal Government for practices to remain open to provide essential and emergency eye care for patients, a call that was heard by the Federal Department of Health who accepted this position.

OV/SA wrote to the lead ophthalmologists in each of the public hospitals in South Australia and Victoria, the South Australian and Victorian chapters of RANZCO and the South Australian Department of Health and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, to reiterate the benefits of optometry practices remaining open for emergency and essential eye care. We also highlighted the benefit to patients of remaining in their local community for eye care where possible, the potential to reduce the burden on the public health system and, to free-up ophthalmology to focus on critical surgical or COVID-19 related care.

The majority of responses to these letters were positive, with a number of ophthalmologists expressing interest in talking further about opportunities to collaborate, once the crisis phase of the pandemic is over.

OV/SA advocated for optometry access to the Victorian Business Support Fund which has provided grants to business significantly affected by the pandemic. And also continued the ongoing support and advocacy for the optometrist role at the Modbury Hospital in South Australia, worked closely with the Victorian and South Australian governments, and looked for opportunities to further the role of optometry as a key deliverer of primary eye care services and preventative care, to the community.

2019-20 has genuinely been a year like no other in our living memory. Once again we thank all our members for your ongoing support of the association, for your resilience in the face of significant adversity and, for your dedication and care for your patients.

It has been said often, that these are unprecedented times. However we will endure as a profession, and we will grow stronger, together.

Elise Pocknee-Clem
President

Pete Haydon
Chief Executive Officer

Board and Committees

Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) is managed by a Board of Directors elected from the membership. The key function of the Board is to ensure the good governance of the organisation. While undertaking this important work the Board considers the broad trends affecting the membership and the profession.

The Board must contain a minimum of three and a maximum of ten Directors. Up to two external Directors can be appointed who will bring specific skills and experience to the Board that it feels it lacks, while the Board can also appoint members to the role of Associate Director.

Associates can participate in Board meetings and discussions and view Board papers, however the Associate is not a full Director and carries no liability or responsibility for any Board decisions, and can't be counted in quorum or vote.

OV/SA appreciates the time and consideration given to the association by all our Directors and Associates.

The names of those who held office and attended meetings during the year (including the AGM and a strategic planning meeting) are seen below.

The Board is assisted in executing its duties through support by two subcommittees:

- The Governance Committee: Anne Weymouth (Chair), Murray Smith, Rowan Prendergast, and Elise Pocknee-Clem.
- The Audit Committee: Timothy Lo (Chair), Allison McKendrick, Jason Tan, and Stephanie Callisto.



Rowan Prendergast
who attended six meetings

Murray Smith
(National Director),
who attended eight meetings.

Allison McKendrick
who attended eight meetings.

Anne Weymouth
(Vice President)
who attended seven meetings.

Timothy Lo
(Treasurer),
who attended seven meetings.

The Board wishes to thank the management committees who assist greatly in making sure OV/SA services are led by optometrists, for optometrists. In particular, the Board thanks:

- CPD committee, which is Timothy Lo (Chair), Andrew Anderson, Anthea Cochrane, Suit May Ho, Elena Macris, Genevieve Napper (until June 2020), Bao Nguyen and Mitchell Walker. Susan Cooper (WCO), Richard Grills (ODMA), Bina Patel (WCO), and Karen Sparrow (WCO) also attended some meetings in early 2020 in relation to the O=MEGA/WCO collaboration.
- The Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA) committee, which is Pooja Bhindi (from May 2020), Stephanie Callisto (resigned February 2020), Jillian Campbell, Laura Carson, John De Francesco (from May 2020), Rowena Fuller, Hayley Gobell (from May 2020), Luke Higgins (resigned February 2020), Lyn Hsieh (resigned February 2020), Zenia Jaitley, Patrick Mac, Marcelle Malka (from May 2020), Jo Rohrlach, Alek Sims (from February 2020), Katrina Yap and Mina You (from May 2020).
- State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA), which is Jason Booth (Chair), Loucia Calder, Jelle de Bock, Lauren Field, Karen Hawkes, Lisa Ho, Stuart Holden, Alex Jaworski (resigned February 2020), Senthil Murugappa and Viki Nikas.
- State Advisory Committee Victoria (SACV), which is Mitchell Anjou (Chair), James Armitage, Rod Baker, Jessica Chi, Mark De Paola, Phillip Fent, Malcolm Gin (resigned March 2020), Kerry Hart, Graham Lakkis, Alice McLennan, Genevieve Napper (until June 2020), Ken Thomas and Kon Zagoritis.



Elise Pocknee-Clem
(President),
who attended
eight meetings.

Cassandra Haines
who attended
seven meetings.

Kurt Larsen
who attended
eight meetings.

Jason Tan
(Associate),
who attended
eight meetings.

Stephanie Callisto
(appointed as Associate in
Feb 2020), who attended four
meetings.
Not pictured.

Member engagement and services

Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) provides member services and support to a diverse community of optometrists at every stage of their career. OV/SA remains the only independent voice for optometry across our two states. With around 89 per cent of optometrists in Victoria and South Australia members of the association, our members and their profession are clearly at the centre of all of our work.

Member CPD events - a strong adjunct to our conferences

This year 2019-20, has once again been one of strong and direct engagement between OV/SA and our members. However the impact of COVID-19 has meant a significant increase in online instead of face-to-face events, from mid-March through to the end of June 2020.

The regional CPD seminars in 2019-20 were a combination of face-to-face and online events, reflecting our strong focus on continuing to deliver member events throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Three seminars were held face-to-face in November 2019 in the regional locations of Traralgon, Warrnambool and Port Lincoln. These events were well attended by local members and provided a great opportunity for local networking as well as good quality CPD education.

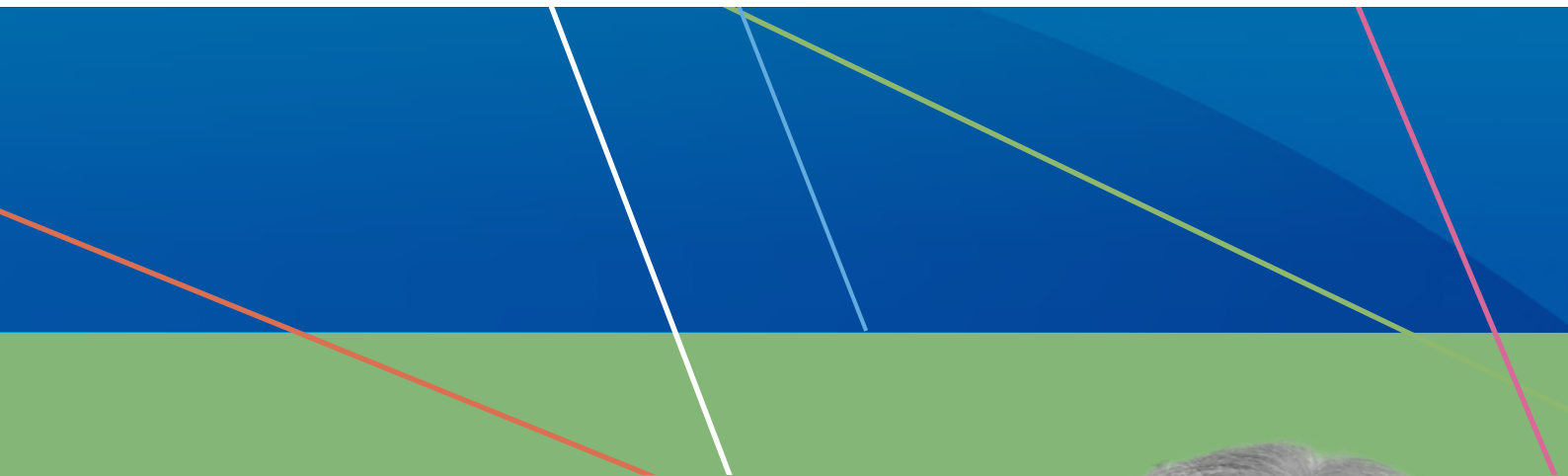
Face-to-face events that had been planned for April 2020 for Ballarat, McLaren Vale and Mildura unfortunately had to be cancelled due to social distancing and travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19. The seminars were instead delivered online with a slightly shortened program, as a matinee and separate evening session in June 2020. In total more than 300 members attended one of these two online sessions.

Guest speaker Richard Lenne's presentation 'Can I treat this patient?' provided participants with an overview of the clinical use of therapeutics to treat patients with a wide variety of presentations. Richard addressed some of the factors that influence a decision to treat, rather than refer a patient, and he provided some examples on the

varied presentation of Herpetic eye disease and a grading scale for the assessment and management of ocular chemical trauma. Richard also discussed the potential adverse outcomes of glaucoma treatment. Members attending a face-to-face event received 6T CPD points (with assessment) with 4.5T CPD points (with assessment) available for those attending the slightly shorter online event.

In November 2019 our special end of year member CPD event at the Melbourne Museum saw over 120 members attend in-person. Guest presenters Dr Laura Downie and Timothy Martin spoke about anterior eye issues with a focus on dry eye and the use of steroids in particular patients. Members received 6T CPD points (with assessment).

In June 2020 the 'Enhancing patient care in the public health system' seminar was targeted specifically to Adelaide members and delivered in partnership with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network. Based on evidence gleaned from the consulting optometrist pilot project at Modbury Hospital, the seminar brought to light some optometry referral practices negatively impacting waiting times and patient care at Modbury Hospital. Presenters ophthalmologist Dr Sudha Cugati, consulting optometrist Jacqui Warren and Optometry Australia's Ben Hamlyn delivered practical and informative talks that ensured that optometrists have all the information they need to refer effectively. Over 70 members attended this online event, and participants received 4.5T CPD points (with assessment).



Member engagement and services



Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA)

The committee have continued to develop their support and services to early career members throughout 2019-20 with a strong focus on events for members across both states.

Committee members represent the diversity of Optometry Victoria South Australia's early career membership, working in metropolitan and rural practices, across corporate and independent optometry. Following the amalgamation of the South Australian and Victorian ECO committees from 1 July 2019 and, after some committee resignations, applications were sought from members in both states interested in joining the committee. OV/SA was delighted to receive a number of very high quality applications from early career members. A list of current committee members is included on page 7 of this report.

In August 2019 ECOV/SA held their first regional face-to-face seminar in Geelong. The event entitled 'Getting the most out of your therapeutics' was held at Deakin University and was targeted to local early career optometrists and optometry students. Guest presenters were Amanda Edgar and Hayley Birch. Participants received 6T CPD points (with assessment).

The ECOV/SA Back to Basics: glaucoma seminar was also held face-to-face in August, in Adelaide. Guest speakers were ophthalmologists Dr Paul Athanasiov and Dr Nick Warren and optometrist Jacqui Warren. Participants received 6T CPD points (with assessment).

In November 2019 ECOV/SA delivered the joint 'Viral keratitis and dry eye' CPD seminar in the Makers Hall at The Craft & Co in Collingwood, in partnership with Alcon. This much anticipated in-person event attracted just under 100 members on the night, who enjoyed a delicious three-course meal and drinks. Guest speakers were optometrist and Alcon representative Megan Zabell and ophthalmologist Dr Georgia Cleary. Participants received 4.5T CPD points (with assessment).

Two additional face-to-face ECOV/SA seminars were held at the beginning of March 2020, just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'Managing your finances effectively' seminars were held in both Melbourne and Adelaide. Guest speaker and optometrist Kelly Gibbons provided participants with practical ideas for making the most of their income. Participants received 2 non-clinical CPD points.

In June 2020 the first online CPD seminar for ECOV/SA had a focus on eyelid surgery and cosmetic surgery risks. Ophthalmologists Dr Jonathon Kam and Dr Charles Su provided information about current facial cosmetic treatments that carry ocular risk and insights for recognising potentially adverse outcomes. Over 330 members attended this event and participants received 6 CPD points (with assessment).

The ECOV/SA committee were also active in a range of other activities and initiatives throughout 2019-20. They participated in the Student meet-up and Career Expo for final year students held at O=MEGA19 in Melbourne in July 2019, where committee members delivered presentations and networked with final year students. An online Careers Expo was also held in May 2020 which again involved ECOV/SA committee members. This was the first time that final year students from the three universities in Victoria and South Australia could come together, and the event was well attended by final year students from across the two states.

Member engagement and services

The ECOV/SA committee participated in Optometry Australia's National ECO Think Tank held in Tasmania in August 2019. To inform their contribution to the Think Tank the committee conducted a survey of early career members prior to the event, to identify key issues and priorities to take to the meeting. Around 100 early career members completed the survey, and the results informed not only the committee's contribution to national advocacy, but also the idea to develop a new member resource 'Making the most of your KPI's'.

During 2019-20 ECOV/SA committee members also participated in presentations to optometry students across a range of year levels at Deakin University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne. Committee members also attended OV/SA's Immediate Graduates dinner in October 2019.

Student and Recent Graduate Engagement

Students are the future of the profession. In 2019-20, with the support of University staff, OV/SA once again presented to optometry students in their second last and final years of study. Staff, Board Directors and ECOV/SA committee members participated in these sessions to students at Deakin University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne.



The sessions provided students with practical information on managing risk when practising, employment contracts and considerations, registering with AHPRA, obtaining a Medicare provider number and requirements associated with using Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Sessions also focused on the advocacy work of the association. All presentations also included an overview of OV/SA and the benefits of membership.

The Student meet-up and Career Expo held during O=MEGA19 in Melbourne in July 2019 was very successful, with around 40 students from Deakin University and the University of Melbourne attending. The following year in May 2020, an online Career Expo was held with around 100 students from all three universities attending. At both events, presentations focused on potential career pathways, and employment opportunities. A clinical panel session was also held as part of the June 2019 event, while a careers panel session was included in both events.

Exhibitors who were planning to employ new graduates were able to meet and engage with future optometrists either face-to-face at the July 2019 event, or by submitting a pre-recorded video to the 2020 online event, which enabled students to contact employers directly after the session to follow up on any opportunities.

A face-to-face Immediate Graduate dinner for Deakin University graduates was held in October 2019. The social movement and travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the April 2020 event for both Flinders University and University of Melbourne graduates could not be held face-to-face. Instead OV/SA distributed Uber Eats and Visa vouchers directly to Immediate Graduate members, so they could still have dinner on us, but in the comfort and safety of their own home.



Jingyi Chen
won the Academic
Award (Deakin)



Zoe Zhang
won the Academic Award
(University of Melbourne)



Alexis 'Ceecee' Zhang
won the OV/SA Postgraduate
Travel Grant



Chamini Wijesundera
won the ECO Education
Grant (Vic)

OV/SA Awards and Grants

The OV/SA Academic Award is for final year optometry students who epitomise the highest commitment to patient care. The \$1,500 prize is awarded to a final year student who demonstrates outstanding clinical aptitude, commitment to evidence-based practice and professionalism. In 2019-20 the award was won by Jingyi Chen (Deakin University) and Zoe Zhang (University of Melbourne). Flinders University students will be considered for the Academic Award for the first time in 2020-21.

The ECO Education Grant (Vic) was developed by the ECOV/SA committee and was generously sponsored by Victorian ophthalmologist Dr Christolyn Raj. An outstanding pool of applications was received from early career members during October 2019, and the successful applicant for the \$1,500 grant was Chamini Wijesundera.

The OV/SA Postgraduate Travel Grant was won in 2019-20 by Alexis 'Ceecee' Zhang. Ceecee's research aims to understand the attitudes and practice behaviours of optometrists towards recommending nutrition interventions, in the form of dietary changes or supplements, to patients with ocular disease.

OV/SA's State Advisory Committees

OV/SA's State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA) and State Advisory Committee Victoria (SACV) provide advice and input to the CEO and secretariat staff on emerging issues in the optometry field; clinical and technical optometric advice and feedback; guidance on policy issues and, input into the development or updating of member resources and information. The committees meet twice a year, and are consulted throughout the remainder of the year as required. They provide valuable support and advice. A list of the committee members is available on page 7 of this report.



Member engagement and services

Vision Initiative

The Vision Initiative (VI) aims to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss by delivering integrated health promotion programs and support. As a member of the VI steering committee OV/SA provided strategic advice to the program, as well as optometric-specific and operational advice to the VI project team to support the development and implementation of various initiatives.

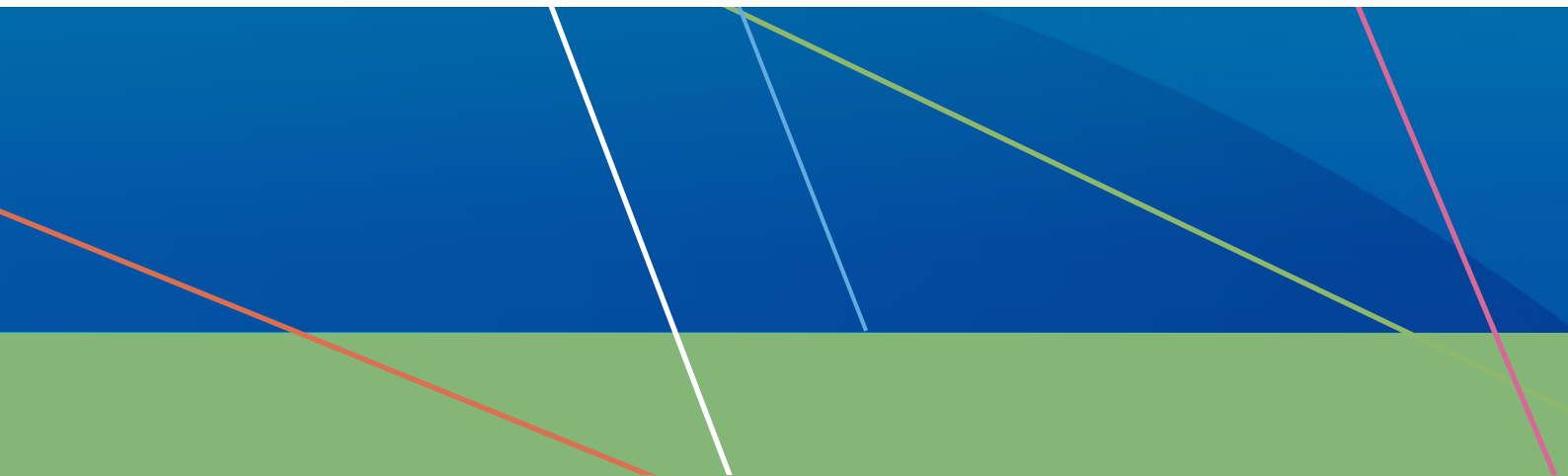
Key highlights included an eye health presentation in Arabic to over 100 community members in the north-west of Melbourne by OV/SA member and optometrist Amir Shenouda. The presentation was also live-streamed on Middle East Radio 87.6FM to over 1,400 people. OV/SA played a key role in the development of online training modules for GP's, diabetes educators and bi-lingual health educators working at the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. We also updated our Optometry Scope of Practice factsheet for distribution by the VI to GP's, pharmacists and practice nurses.

Tailored Advice and Industry News

OV/SA provided professional and clinical advice to members throughout 2019-20 that was immediate, confidential and tailored. This included information on CPD requirements, registration renewal including effectively managing AHPRA audits, visual standards for driving requirements, managing patient health records, requirements when working as a locum, and industrial relations and employment issues.

We also kept members informed about industry news and issues by producing hard copy editions of *Scope*; monthly editions of the online e-Wink newsletter; maintaining communication with members through the OV/SA Facebook page, and regularly updating content on the Optometry Australia website.





Conferences

Our flagship events for 2019-20 were undoubtedly our two-day national conference O=MEGA19 which was held in Melbourne in July 2019 in partnership with the Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association (ODMA), and the one-day mini-conference A Day in November held in Adelaide in November 2019.

O=MEGA19

O=MEGA19 was the inaugural conference in the new OV/SA events program.

The conference, alongside the trade show, was the largest ever gathering of the profession and the industry in Australia. Over 1,100 clinical conference delegates were joined by trade show visitors, masterclass attendees and industry representatives. Overall, we looked after almost 3,500 people across the three days.

We were very grateful to our business partners for this ambitious project ODMA, and all of the sponsors and exhibitors who supported O=MEGA19 so strongly. Without their backing we could not have brought everyone together so successfully.

Members clearly enjoyed not only the high quality clinical lectures, and the fun and vibrant networking opportunities, but also the chance to see, and buy, some of the latest products.

The underperformance of the EduPro online assessment system on the Friday and Saturday morning was disappointing, however we worked closely with all attendees to ensure everybody's CPD points were accurate.

That one disappointment aside, we were very pleased with O=MEGA19. The feedback we've received from the people that were there has been overwhelmingly supportive of our desire to respond to member needs and make it happen, and the way it came together.

Blue Sky presents: A Day in November

'Blue Sky presents: A Day in November' was the first one-day mini-conference to be delivered by OV/SA, and it certainly proved popular with members who came from across South Australia as well as interstate.

The clinical theme of the conference was anterior eye. Guest speakers were ophthalmologist Dr Ben Connell, clinician scientist Dr Laura Downie and, optometrist and Senior Clinical Teaching Instructor Tim Martin.

The mini-conference format provided delegates with a full day of lectures that covered a wide range of topics from topography and dystrophies, to steroids use, to dry eye insights and future perspectives, and updates from the DEWS II research and resulting diagnostic toolkit.





A case-study panel with all three speakers was also a highlight of the event.

Participants received up to 18T CPD points (with assessment) for attending the full day.

The anterior eye theme continued through the busy trade fair, with each of the exhibitors providing relevant products and services for delegates to peruse.

CPR refresher training was provided prior to the conference lectures, with approximately twenty members taking advantage of the opportunity to update their certificate. Sundowner drinks at the end of the event provided a great opportunity for delegates to relax and network before heading home.



World Congress of Optometry

In November representatives of the OV/SA secretariat and CPD committee attended the third World Congress of Optometry (WCO) in Orlando, Florida, where it was formally announced that Australia had won the bid to host the fourth World Congress in Melbourne in 2021.

The trip was incredibly successful with around 500 expressions of interest obtained from delegates from around the globe. The Australian booth in the trade fair was very popular throughout the Congress, with the secretariat staff highly visible in their Akubra hats and outfits that displayed the Australian logo and branding. Give-aways of mini-koalas, magnets and other merchandise were also very well received and attracted a lot of attention and good will.







Government relations, advocacy and promotion

OV/SA membership enables us to lead, protect and promote optometry and members' standing as eye health experts. There is strength and influence in numbers. OV/SA supports the fight to reduce the erosion of Medicare benefits; expand optometrists' capacity to charge what they are worth, and expand scope of practice.

COVID-19 advocacy

In March 2020 OV/SA wrote to the relevant South Australian and Victorian government departments, state RANZCO Chairs and the Heads of public hospital ophthalmology outpatient clinics. We wanted to ensure that government and health professionals knew that essential eye care could be accessed in local communities, potentially reducing strain on hospital emergency departments and GP clinics.

The letters also highlighted that optometrists could assist in reducing hospital waiting lists through referral of non-urgent cases back to the community, where clinically indicated. Overall the letters were positively received by key stakeholders and resulted in additional meetings about key issues.

OV/SA also attended regular meetings with the Victorian Chief Allied Health Officer as COVID began to impact Australia. These meetings provided an important opportunity to highlight the key role optometrists play in primary eye care in the community, and ensured that OV/SA could share the latest information and developments with members.

We also contributed to Optometry Australia's COVID Hub on the website, promoted information and resources to members and supported individual members as they navigated this unknown territory.

Public hospital advocacy

OV/SA has continued to actively advocate for the optometrist role at Modbury Hospital in South Australia to be made permanent. The pilot project has operated for a number of years, working collaboratively with the public ophthalmology clinic to reduce patient waiting times and ensure that referrals to the clinic are appropriate and necessary. OV/SA has provided direct support to the optometrist, regularly liaised with the lead ophthalmologist and clinic staff, and advocated the benefits of the project to a range of key South Australian government representatives.

OV/SA has also continued to explore other opportunities for optometry to be included and embedded in public hospital ophthalmology clinics in both South Australia and Victoria. This has included meetings with individual ophthalmologists, state government department representatives and key medical practitioners.

In Victoria OV/SA member Ken Thomas participated in an ophthalmology clinical review panel convened by the Department of Health and Human Services, which was tasked with developing state-wide referral criteria for ophthalmology public hospital units. Ken is a member of OV/SA's SACV and has a strong interest in this area. The state-wide referral criteria have been developed although implementation was delayed due to the onset of COVID-19.

Stop

Please sanitise your
hands before entering
the practice

VicRoads (Vic)

After strong and sustained representations from OV/SA, the Victorian Road Traffic Authority, VicRoads, confirmed in August 2019 that they would accept Medmont binocular fields tests as equivalent to an Esterman test, if the Medmont results are provided in a particular format. This was a significant achievement on behalf of members after many years of frustration for practitioners and patients alike.

To coincide with this development OV/SA developed a concise, chair-side member resource detailing the specifics required when assessing a patient's fitness to drive. The guideline details both the visual acuity and visual fields standards as required by AustRoads as well as updates on how to assess rideshare and food delivery drivers and riders.

Specific instructions on how to present Medmont binocular field results in a format acceptable to VicRoads were also highlighted in the resource.



Advocating on the issues important to early career practitioners

A survey of South Australian and Victorian early career members, was developed by the ECOV/SA committee and distributed to members in August 2019. The survey aim was to gain insights on the key issues of concern for these members. The issues identified in the survey were discussed at Optometry Australia's Early Career Optometrists National Think Tank. The results also led to the development of a new resource for members on KPIs in the workplace, which was released in late 2020.

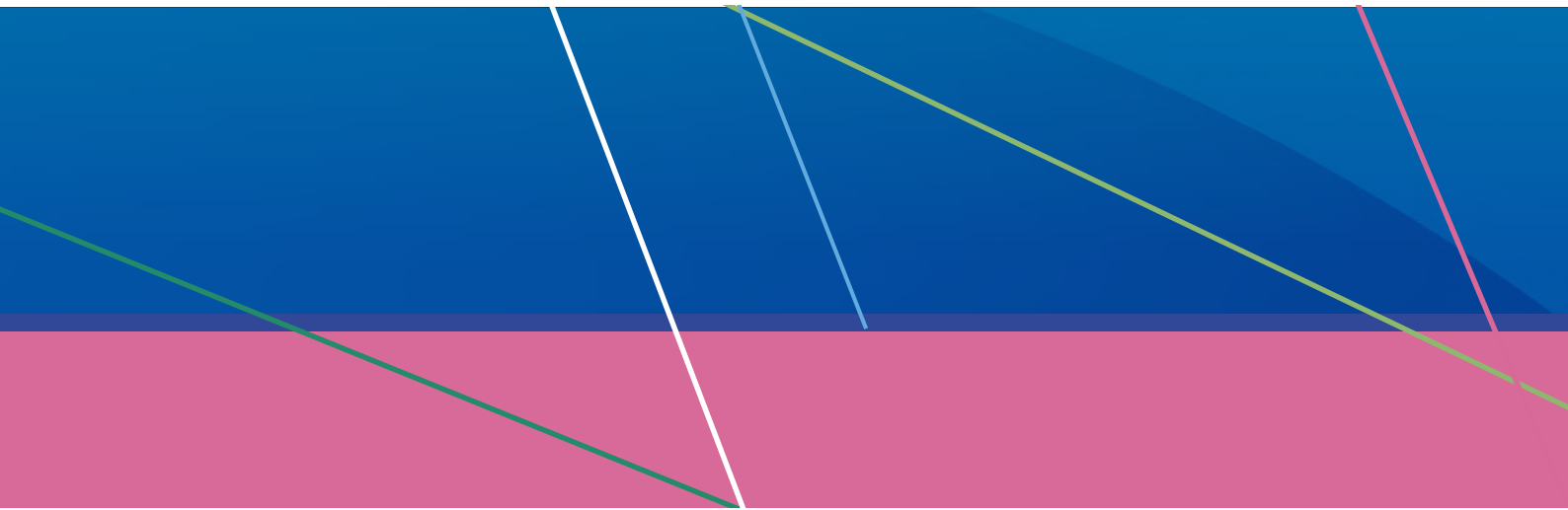
Cosmetic contact lenses (SA)

OV/SA once again wrote to non-compliant retailers during the 2019-20 financial year to remind them that novelty (or plano) contact lenses are included in the definition of contact lenses under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (SA). This means they can only be supplied to a customer who produces a current prescription for contact lenses written by an optometrist (or medical practitioner). We continued to monitor compliance and provided evidence of any further breaches to the SA Government to follow up.



Government relations, advocacy and promotion





Prep Bag Program (Vic)

In February OV/SA's 'A guide to healthy eyes for kids and parents' booklets were distributed to 65,000 children starting Prep at a Victorian state school in 2020.

The guide included information on maintaining good eye health, and the importance of regular eye examinations for children. It also had fun activities for kids including a maze and a cut out Eye Girl paper figure.

A strong call to action for parents to have their children's eye's examined was a feature of the guide. Parents and carers were directed to the 'find an optometrist' page on OA's *Good Vision for Life* website to find their local optometrist. All optometrists who were members of OV/SA are included in this listing.

The guide was part of the Victorian Department of Education's Prep Bag program. The Prep Bag contained a range of health and development information and resources targeted to children and their families.

Optometry resources for GPs

New and updated eye health resources were developed for Victoria and South Australia that were aimed at increasing GP awareness of optometry and optometrists.

The South Australian resources were developed with support from the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency. They included a short five minute video aimed at GP practice staff that highlighted the importance of maintaining good eye health and the services and scope of practice of optometrists. Promotional posters and a power point presentation on common eye conditions that can be used by optometrist when meeting with GPs were also included.

The Victorian 'Optometry scope of practice' fact sheet was included as part of the Vision Initiative (VI) eye health promotion project. The fact sheet was included in the VI GP kit, and outlined the scope of practice and skills of optometrists and referral pathways. The fact sheet was accompanied by a 'GP referral to optometric services' form designed to prompt GPs to include key information in a referral to an optometrist.

HealthPathways (SA)

HealthPathways is web-based information portal supporting primary care clinicians to plan patient care through primary, community and secondary health care systems within South Australia. HealthPathways are designed to be used at the point of care, primarily for general practitioners but they are also available to hospital specialists, nurses, allied health and other health professionals within South Australia.

In February 2020 OV/SA developed a submission to HealthPathways on proposed changes to the referral pathway for patients presenting with, or at risk of developing, diabetic retinopathy.



Treasurer's Report

For the 2019-20 year the association reports a surplus of \$396,129 (against a budgeted surplus of approximately \$175k) after providing for income tax and revaluation of financial assets.

The surplus largely relates to better than plan performance in member revenue alongside government assistance provided during the initial months of the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, revenue performed approximately nine per cent better than plan, while expenses were approximately one per cent below plan.

O=MEGA19 generated a surplus of approximately \$317k against a budgeted surplus of \$325k. The reason for this slight underperformance against budget was the decision taken by the Board to allow some complimentary registrations for key industry and profession stakeholders to assist in 'building the O=MEGA brand'.

The Board will continue to pursue surpluses in 'odd' years where O=MEGA is held. This allows for small deficits to be run, if needed, in 'even' years where Blue Sky is generally held to ensure overall financial strength of the association while maintaining forward-looking, quality member services.

Audited Financial Reports for Optometry Victoria South Australia Limited have been completed, and an unqualified opinion in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 has been issued. The Financial Reports for the organisation have been published on the OV/SA website, and reports have been distributed to members attending the AGM, which will be attended by the auditor.



Timothy Lo
Treasurer





Strategic Goals for 2019-20

Lead



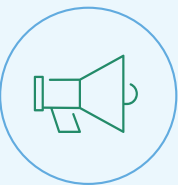
- Lead membership through evolution of market and sector changes
- Improve community eye health and vision care, with a particular focus on under-serviced populations
- Uphold and promote professional standards
- Drive positive outcomes for optometry through collaborative projects and initiatives in South Australia; evolve relationships with SA Health and other key stakeholders through Health Pathways etc.

Engage



- Inspire collegiality in membership
- Enhance social media engagement
- Promote OV/SA to optometry students
- Provide outstanding member resources and information

Promote



- Work to further develop professional practice toolkits for members
- Improve engagement with GPs, pharmacists and other health care professionals

Create an enduring organisation



- Ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Ensure organisational capability
- Drive efficiencies and avoid duplications by being a collegial and dynamic member of the federation



Board

Elise Pocknee-Clem	President
Anne Weymouth	Vice President
Murray Smith	National Director
Timothy Lo	Treasurer
Kurt Larsen	Director
Cassandra Haines	Director
Allison McKendrick	Director
Rowan Prendergast	Director
Stephanie Callisto	Associate Director
Jason Tan	Associate Director

Secretariat

Pete Haydon	Chief Executive Officer
Michelle Marven	Member Services and Policy Manager
Jenny Hall	Business Support and Operations Manager
Sue Mason	Member Events Coordinator (until February 2020)
Lisa Busuttil	Member Events Coordinator (from February 2020)
Libby Boschen	Special Advisor Member Services and Policy South Australia
Madeleine Deveson	Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (to September 2019)
Lyn Hsieh	Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (from February 2020)
Melanie Andrews	Governance Liaison, Finance and Administration Officer
Margaret James	Member Liaison, Events Support and Administration Officer (until April 2020)
Anthea Cochrane	Education Consultant



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