



# Annual Report 2021-2022



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# President and CEO report

We are proud of the way our members have continued to navigate and adapt through the constantly changing environment of COVID-19, and how they have demonstrated a strong commitment to the eye health of their communities. To help navigate a period of changing restrictions, we supported members by staying in close touch with the governments of both states and were able to send out important clarifying information specific to optometry at critical junctures throughout the year.

The team at OV/SA has continued to work flexibly to offer a range of services for members and undertake advocacy on their behalf, often from our homes in Melbourne. That said, we were delighted to once again host face-to-face events and visit members in their practices between April and June.

In the pages of this short annual report, you will see a window into the many ways we continued to serve our members over the year. A theme of this report is the multitude of ways we have worked with other organisations and individuals to progress our strategic objectives. This includes the involvement of our advisory committees and Board as well as external groups – thank you to all for your contributions.

We have been working for many years to use the expertise of optometry to help patients who are on the very long waitlists for public ophthalmology in South Australia. One of the highlights this year was our engagement with the SA Outpatient Redesign Steering Committee, which gave us the opportunity to highlight the importance of prioritising access to eye healthcare. We were also delighted to strengthen our work with other stakeholders in tackling the unacceptable waitlists for public ophthalmology, beginning with a roundtable in May that included heads of

ophthalmology, Flinders University, patient groups, optometrists, and other valuable contacts. We also engaged our members in South Australia with grass roots advocacy using 'One Click' software to write to MPs in the lead up to the state election.

In Victoria, in addition to helping our members respond to the frequently changing goalposts associated with the COVID-19 mandates, we strengthened our relationships with the Victorian Health Sector Network in preparation for the state election to be held in November 2022. Earlier in 2022, we re-invigorated our approach to the World Congress of Optometry being run in conjunction with our eagerly anticipated biennial conference, O=MEGA (a partnership with ODMA), taking place in September 2023. Our work this year included re-envisioning the event as a fully integrated program and laying the groundwork to maximise our network's participation with a call for abstracts from the optometric community. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for Australian optometry and optometrists and we urge you to save the dates 8-10 Sept 2023 in your CPD planning diary.



Finally, CEO of seven years Pete Heydon finished up with OV/SA in November 2021. The momentum created by Pete was carried forward by Interim CEO Michelle Marven, and following a rigorous recruitment process we welcomed our new CEO Ilsa Hampton in February 2022. Ilsa has quickly become familiar with the people and issues of our industry, and has brought fresh energy and perspectives to the work of Optometry Victoria South Australia. The Board wishes to express its thanks to Ilsa, Pete, Michelle, and to the entire OV/SA team and advisory committees for their dedication to our members as we come out of lockdown and through the change of leadership in our organisation.



Elise Pocknee-Clem  
President



Ilsa Hampton  
CEO

## Board and committees

Optometry Victoria South Australia is managed by a Board of Directors elected from the membership, and the key function of the Board is to ensure the good governance of the organisation. As part of this 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 with specific skills and experience can be appointed to the Board, while the Board can also appoint members to the role of Associate Board Member.

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 a quorum or vote.

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

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

- Governance Committee: Anne Weymouth (Chair), Elise Pocknee-Clem, Cassandra Haines and Jason Tan
- Audit Committee: Timothy Lo (Chair), Allison McKendrick, Jason Tan, and Kristin Guppy (from Dec 2021).

The names of those who held office and attended meetings during the 2021-22 year (including the AGM and a strategic planning meeting) can be found below.

Director	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Elise Pocknee-Clem (President)	7	7
Anne Weymouth (Vice President)	7	6
Timothy Lo	7	6
Murray Smith (OV/SA Nominee on National Board – resigned from OV/SA board December 2021)	3	3
Allison McKendrick	7	7
Cassandra Haines	7	7
Jason Tan (leave of absence from 11 April 2022)	7	5
Stephanie Callisto (Associate Board member then Director from April 2022)	7	4
Laura Carson (Associate Board member then Director from December 2021)	7	6
Kirstin Guppy (Director from October 2021)	5	4
Kurt Larsen (resigned 25 October 2021)	2	2

The Board wishes to thank the advisory committees, who assist greatly in making sure OV/SA services are led by optometrists and are focused on community eye health. In particular, the Board thanks:

- CPD committee, consisting of Timothy Lo (Chair), Andrew Anderson, Anthea Cochrane, Isaac Curkpatrick, Suit May Ho, Kristina Iacovangelo, Jeremiah Lim, and Mitchell Walker
- The Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA) committee, consisting of Alek Sims, Chelsea Lane, Grace Hand, Hayley Gobell, John De Francesco, Jo Rohrlach (until January 2022), Kaavya Nair, Liam Hua, Linda Bui, Mina You, Pooja Bindi, Rowena Fuller (until January 2022), and Simi Sarin

- State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACV/SA), consisting of Jason Booth (Co-Chair), Mitchell Anjou (Co-Chair), Alice McLennan, Cameron Girgenti (until March 2022), Graham Lakkis, Hui Ming Goh, James Armitage, Jelle de Bock, Jessica Chi, Ken Thomas, Karen Hawkes (until November 2021), Kerryn Hart, Kon Zagoritis (until March 2022), Lauren Field (until March 2022), Lisa Ho, Loucia Calder, Mark De Paola, Paige Lynch Phillip Fent, Rod Baker (until August 2021), Sarah Case, Senthil Murugappa, Stuart Holden, and Viki Nikas

Each year, our members are invited to submit an expression of interest to join an OV/SA committee. Members are selected based on the needs of the committee to ensure that the diversity of our membership is represented.



*Left to right:*

Kristin Guppy, Elise Pocknee-Clem, Timothy Lo, Stephanie Callisto, Allison McKendrick, Anne Weymouth, Jason Tan, Cassandra Haines, Laura Carson

# Member engagement and services

Optometry Victoria South Australia provides member services and support to a diverse community of optometrists at every stage of their career, and 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 everything we do.

## Member CPD events: a strong adjunct to our conferences

This past year has once again been one of strong and direct engagement between OV/SA and our members, despite the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we successfully delivered a wide range of member CPD and other experiences online, we were pleased to return to face-to-face events in April 2022. See below for a comprehensive list of all our CPD offerings over this past year.

Date	CPD event/activity title	F2F/Online
<b>2021</b>		
26 July	Regional Series - Retinal emergencies during COVID and other tales – Combined Gippsland, Metro Melbourne <i>Speaker: Malcolm Gin</i>	Online
27 July	Regional Series - Retina emergencies and oddities, a rural perspective – Combined Metro Adelaide, Barossa, Mt Gambier <i>Speaker: Mitch Hancock</i>	Online
30 August	CPR Refresher Training	Hybrid
31 August	CPR Refresher Training	Hybrid
2-4 September	SRC Online 2021	Online
13 September	ECOV/SA Keratoconus <i>Speaker: Georgia Cleary and Jess Chi</i>	Online
11 October	ECOV/SA Anterior Eye <i>Speaker: Paul Anathasiov and Rebekah Hopps</i> <i>Venue: Majestic Hotel, Adelaide</i>	F2F
20 October	OV/SA Mandatory Vaccinations for Victorian optometrists and practice staff Webinar (Melbourne) <i>Speaker: Emma Dalley, Industry Legal Group</i>	Online
3 November	OV/SA Mandatory Vaccinations for Victorian optometrists and practice staff Webinar (Adelaide) <i>Speaker: Emma Dalley, Industry Legal Group</i>	Online







# Member engagement and services



Date	CPD event/activity title	F2F/Online
<b>2021</b>		
15 November	CPR Refresher Training	Hybrid
21 November	SRC Mini Conference	Online
29 November	ECOV/SA Neuro-optometry <i>Speaker: Rahul Chakrabarti and Jeremiah Lim</i>	Online
<b>2022</b>		
January 7	Student Presentation Webinar: 2nd Year Deakin University Students	Online
February 15	Careers Expo – Flinders University	Online
February 21	ECOV/SA CPD event - Practical Paediatric Prescribing: Spectacle and therapeutic prescribing tips webinar	Online
March 1	Student Presentation Webinar: 4th Year Flinders University Students	Online
March 2	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Port Lincoln SA <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i>	Online
March 16	Careers Expo – Melbourne University	Online
March 22	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Traralgon <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i>	Online
March 28	OV/SA Annual Charity Golf Day <i>Venue: Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club</i>	F2F
March 31	Early Childhood Eye Health in SA <i>Joint webinar with Sight For All</i>	Online
April 2	ECOV/SA Peer Mentoring Dinner Mildura <i>Venue: The Office Wine Bar and Lounge</i>	F2F
April 4	ECOV/SA: Cataract and Refractive Surgery in Eyes with Corneal Dystrophies <i>Speaker: Dr Aanchal Gupta</i> <i>Venue: The Majestic Hotel</i>	F2F
April 5	Immediate Graduates Dinner – Flinders University <i>Venue: The Majestic Hotel</i>	F2F
April 26	Immediate Graduates Dinner – University of Melbourne <i>Venue: Berth Docklands</i>	F2F

# Member engagement and services

Date	CPD event/activity title	F2F/Online
<b>2022</b>		
May 1	ECOV/SA Peer Mentoring Dinner – Wangaratta <i>Venue: Watermarc Dining</i>	F2F
May 3	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Mildura <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: The Office Wine Bar and Lounge</i>	F2F
May 17	ECOV/SA Complex Corneal Presentations: Tips and tricks on how to manage them <i>Speaker: A/Prof Elaine Chong and John Komser</i> <i>Venue: The Castle Hotel</i>	F2F
May 24	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Ballarat <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: Oscars Hotel</i>	F2F
May 25	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Warrnambool <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: Lady Bay Resort</i>	F2F
May 31	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – McLaren Vale <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: McLaren Vale Function Centre</i>	F2F
June 6	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Melbourne Matinee <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: OV/SA Carlton</i>	F2F
June 6	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Melbourne Evening <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: OV/SA Carlton</i>	F2F
June 20	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Adelaide Matinee <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: Art Gallery of South Australia</i>	F2F
June 20	Regional Series – Anterior Eye – Adelaide Evening <i>Speaker: Daryl Guest</i> <i>Venue: Art Gallery of South Australia</i>	F2F
June 26	ECOV/SA Peer Mentoring Dinner Eyre Peninsula <i>Venue: Mamma Lou's</i>	F2F



### Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA)

The committee has continued to develop its support and services for early career members throughout 2021-22 with a strong focus on member events across both states.

Committee members reflect the diversity of OV/SA's early career membership, with representation from those working in ophthalmology practices as well as across metropolitan and rural practices in both corporate and independent optometry. A list of current committee members is included on page 4.

Across September and October 2021, ECOV/SA held anterior eye and keratoconus-themed seminars in South Australia and Victoria respectively. These sessions attracted interactive CPD hours and were well received. Despite circuit-breaker restrictions causing the session in Victoria to be brought online with very short notice, the event still attracted almost 350 participants. The session in South Australia was also popular and sold out shortly after registrations opened, with 65 registrations for the event.

The ECOV/SA neuro-optometry and neuro-ophthalmology seminar was also held online in November featuring optometrist Dr Jeremiah Lim and ophthalmologist Dr Rahul Chakrabarti as speakers. This webinar covered the highly requested issue of how to manage patients presenting with neurological concerns. This session had over 200 registrations and attracted 2.5 interactive CPD hours.

The first session in 2022 was the ECOV/SA Practical Paediatric Prescribing: Spectacle and Therapeutic Prescribing Tips webinar held in February, featuring speakers Tim Fricke and Associate Professor Ann Webber. Participating optometrists had the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the common ocular medicines employed in paediatric optometry practise, as well as extend their knowledge of refractive and prismatic prescription options. More than 500 registrants attended the webinar with 2 therapeutic interactive CPD hours available.



## Member engagement and services

The ECOV/SA cornea-themed seminars were the first in-person ECOV/SA CPD seminars held in 2022. In the seminars, members were presented with challenging anterior eye case studies and the best ways to manage them. Both these sessions were sold out events.

The ECOV/SA committee was also active in a range of other activities and initiatives throughout 2022. Committee members participated in regional peer mentoring lunches and dinners where early career optometrists were provided an opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals to discuss regional challenges, such as moving to new regional settings while establishing a career. These meetings were

held first in Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and later Mildura and Wangaratta in Victoria. A session was planned in Victor Harbor in South Australia, but was postponed due to difficulty in scheduling mutual availability among the small number of ECOs in the area.

During 2021 and 2022 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.





### Student and recent graduate engagement

Optometry students are our future. In 2021-22, 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 important information for those entering their professional careers, including practical information on managing risk when practising, employment contracts and considerations, registering with Ahpra, obtaining a Medicare provider number, the 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 Career Expo sessions for Flinders University and the University of Melbourne were held online due to pandemic restrictions, but remained successful, with a focus on potential career pathways and employment opportunities. A career panel session with early career optometrists representative of diverse optometry settings was, as usual, very well received. Exhibitors planning to employ new graduates were also able to provide video presentations to be viewed by future optometrists at this event. A Deakin University Careers Expo will be held later in 2022.

Face-to-face immediate graduate dinners for all universities were also held throughout the year. At these dinners, we celebrated the beginning of the graduates' professional life, and members had an opportunity to reconnect with their peers, many of whom have not seen each other since graduating.





# Member engagement and services

## OV/SA awards and grants

The OV/SA Academic Award is for final year optometry students who epitomise the highest commitment to patient care as selected by the university faculty. The \$1,500 prize is awarded to a final year student who demonstrates outstanding clinical aptitude, commitment to evidence-based practise, and overall professionalism. In 2021-22 this award was won by Tristan Fernandez (Deakin University), Georgina Liapis (University of Melbourne), and Claire Thomas (Flinders University). Congratulations!

## State Advisory Committee Victoria South Australia (SACV/SA)

In October 2021, SACV/SA amalgamated from the previously separate State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA) and State Advisory Committee Victoria (SACV). SACV/SA provides 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 committee meets twice a year to provide valuable support and advice and is consulted throughout the remainder of the year as required. A list of the committee members is available on page 4.

## Vision Initiative

Vision Initiative (VI) is a program of Vision2020. It 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 of our support of the VI project team included:

- Strategic consultation on provision of eye health educational modules to non-eye healthcare providers
- Clinical review of the 'Advanced Eye Health Training Module' for members of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)
- Clinical review of 'An Introduction to Eyes' module for members of Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA)
- Eye health training presentations delivered by OV/SA member optometrists to community allied health providers in a range of settings. This included Seymour Community Health, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health Centre, Nathalia Cobram Numurkah Health, and other community health providers in specific geographical areas. We thank our OV/SA members Sarah Case, Claudia Cerni, Geoffrey Demare, Mark DePaola, Elisse Higgenbotham, Chelsea Lane, Audrey Ng, Beverley Sacho, Marline Sery, and Jared Slater for their time and dedication in delivering these presentations
- In May 2022, OV/SA member Simone Hibbert acted as panellist and presenter alongside representatives from Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) in an eye health webinar entitled 'Community Health: Supporting People with Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)'. This webinar was a part of VI and MDFA's Macular Month eye health awareness campaign for a healthcare provider audience

## Tailored advice, industry news and regular EDMs

OV/SA provided professional and clinical advice to members throughout 2021-22 that was immediate, confidential, and tailored to their needs.





# Conferences

## O=MEGA23/World Congress of Optometry

This year we have started to gear up to deliver the World Congress in conjunction with our largest biennial event, O=MEGA. We are working closely with all our key partners, including the World Council of Optometry, the Optical Dispensers and Manufacturers Association, and conference organiser Arinex. In addition to the Program Committee, we have formed a Conference Committee where we discuss the event as a whole.

We also began to engage key organisations and individuals to join the Conference Committee, including a call for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation, which was finalised at the beginning of the 2022/23 year.

The Program Committee is working hard to ensure a diverse and exciting conference that meets the needs of our members, as well as creating opportunities for optometrists to make new connections and catch up with old friends.

## SRC Online

The virtual clinical conference was held in place of O=MEGA21, which we unfortunately had to postpone due to continuous restrictions and disruptions to travel.

As a result, we transferred the education component online with approximately 950 optometrists joining the conference over the three days.

We had some excellent speakers from across our industry who offered insightful and topical presentations on topics such as pediatrics, therapeutics, and more.







# Conferences





### SRC Mini online

Following the success of SRC Online and the demand for more CPD to be available for members virtually, SRC Mini was delivered as a one-day conference to cover the topic of myopia.

We received a great turnout for our first ever SRC Mini Conference, which has paved the way for more one-day conferences to be included in the OV/SA calendar. Watch this space!

### OV/SA Conference Committee

Ilsa Hampton (CEO OV/SA)  
 Anthea Cochrane (OV/SA Education Consultant)  
 Lisa Busuttil (OV/SA Member Events Coordinator)  
 Timothy Lo (OV/SA Board Director and Treasurer)  
 Michelle Marven (OV/SA Member Services and Policy Manager)  
 Lyn Hsieh (OV/SA Policy and Advocacy Coordinator)  
 Jennifer Hall (OV/SA Business Support and Operations Manager)  
 Simon Hanna (OA Head of Education and Clinical Policy Manager)  
 Alyssa Callaghan (WCO Operations and marketing Manager)  
 Susan Cooper (WCO Managing Director)  
 Kristin Guppy (OV/SA Board Director)

In attendance:

Alessandra Damant (Arinex)  
 Erin Kelly (Arinex)

### O=MEGA23/WCO4 Program Committee

Timothy Lo (Chair)  
 Ilsa Hampton (CEO OV/SA)  
 Anthea Cochrane (OV/SA Education Consultant)  
 Lisa Busuttil (OV/SA Member Events Coordinator)  
 Andrew Anderson (University of Melbourne)  
 Suit May Ho (Fred Hollows Foundation)  
 Mitchell Walker (Optical Superstore)  
 Isaac Curkpatrick (Quinn & Co Eyecare, Echuca)  
 Kristina Iacovangelo (Vision Eye Institute)  
 Jeremiah Lim (Flinders University)  
 Susan Cooper (WCO Managing Director)  
 Sandy Block (Prof Emeritus - Illinois College of Optometry and WCO ICO-President-Elect)  
 Alyssa Callaghan (WCO Operations and marketing Manager)

We also acknowledge Richard Grills from the Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association (ODMA) who passed away on 12 July 2022. He was an integral part of the O=MEGA23/WCO4 Program Committee in both 2021 and 2022. Richard brought extensive knowledge of the optical industry and had a great passion for the sector expressed over many decades of commitment.



# Government relations, advocacy, and promotion

OV/SA membership fees help us provide resources which lead, protect, and promote community eye health and optometry generally, as well as members' standing as eye health experts. As an organisation, we support the expanded scope of practise of optometrists to prescribe oral medications for eye health conditions. In addition, we support optometry as a primary care solution to reduce increasingly long public ophthalmology wait times.

## COVID-19 advocacy

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, OV/SA has worked closely with the Chief Allied Health Officer (CAHO) in Victoria and the Chief Allied and Scientific Health Officer (CASHO) in South Australia, the Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), and Optometry Australia to quickly respond to restrictions implemented by state governments.

We continued to attend regular meetings with the CAHO/CASHO and AHPA following key government announcements and worked with Optometry Australia to develop joint member EDMs that accurately interpret and communicate government directives. Through this process, we have built sound working relationships with the CAHO/CASHO in both states as well as AHPA, and strengthened our relationships with other allied health organisations.

During the SA lockdown in July 2021, optometrists were initially unable to deliver any clinical care, despite being considered an essential service. OV/SA wrote to the South Australian Health Minister and CASHO advocating for optometrists to open and practise, and in these letters we highlighted the significant impacts that delayed care had on the eye health of the community. The letters were positively received by key stakeholders and resulted in OV/SA successfully advocating for optometrists to be able to deliver urgent and essential care, with the Level 5 restrictions changed to reflect this four days into the seven-day lockdown.

During September 2021 in Victoria, we continued to strongly advocate to government for regional Victorian optometry practices to return to routine care in line with the lifting of restrictions in those regions. We worked collaboratively (via Optometry Australia) with AHPA and wrote three letters to the Victorian Minister for Health, all of which were also sent to the Chief Health Officer and CAHO, the staff of which we worked with directly. This soon resulted in meetings convened by AHPA with the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and the allied health professional associations on 30 September and 7 October. At that meeting it was confirmed that allied health in regional Victoria could return to routine care immediately.

Following OV/SA advocacy for optometry inclusion, the Victorian Government gazetted approval for registered optometrists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to help bolster the vaccine workforce. This was an enormous step and signified recognition of optometry as a skilled part of the primary care workforce.



### Public Ophthalmology advocacy

OV/SA successfully convened the first of two South Australian optometry and public ophthalmology roundtable meetings, one in 2021/22 and another in 2022/23, which brought together a range of eye health clinicians and stakeholders to identify and begin conversations addressing long patient wait times for public ophthalmology care. OV/SA has continued discussions with attendees and other relevant interested groups to develop and implement practical solutions.

### Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC)

OV/SA recognised in the early stages of South Australia's Outpatient Redesign Project that the Clinical Prioritisation initiative was critical in significantly reducing public ophthalmology waiting lists. OV/SA wrote letters to South Australia's Health Minister and the Chief Allied and Scientific Health Officer highlighting the community need for ophthalmology referral criteria to be a top priority and next on their list. At the same time, we coordinated and wrote a letter on behalf of the South Australia Aboriginal Eye Health Working Group seeking the introduction of an ophthalmology Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC), including that it prioritise access to care for Aboriginal people. We know from South Australia Health that ophthalmology is next in line for CPC review, and we will be representing optometry on the working group as the work continues into 2022/23.

### Statewide Referral Criteria (SRC)

The Statewide Referral Criteria (SRC) in Victoria provides clear guidance to clinicians referring to public Victorian hospitals about which patients will be seen in specialist clinics and what investigations are required to support safe and appropriate triage. Building on our work after the implementation of public ophthalmology referral criteria in May 2021, we continue to engage with Heads of Ophthalmology in public hospitals and other stakeholders to further establish the role of optometry in the wider eye health sector.

### VicRoads and South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport advocacy

The new edition of Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) was released 22 June 2022. One major change in the "Medical standards for licensing – vision and eye disorders" requirements related to the inclusion of orthokeratology provisions, and initial concerns brought to OV/SA regarding the challenges that police were having in recognising individuals undergoing orthokeratology were quickly mitigated. Working with Optometry Australia, OV/SA successfully advocated to VicRoads to reduce and streamline new Victorian and South Australian specific requirements regarding orthokeratology, significantly reducing the administrative burden on optometrists.

After years of advocacy, OV/SA also successfully secured inclusion of optometry representation on the Victorian Department of Transport's Medical Fitness to Drive Working group. Optometry representation means that the profession's views and perspectives will be considered when informing and supporting initiatives aimed at improving health practitioner knowledge and practise related to medical fitness to drive.



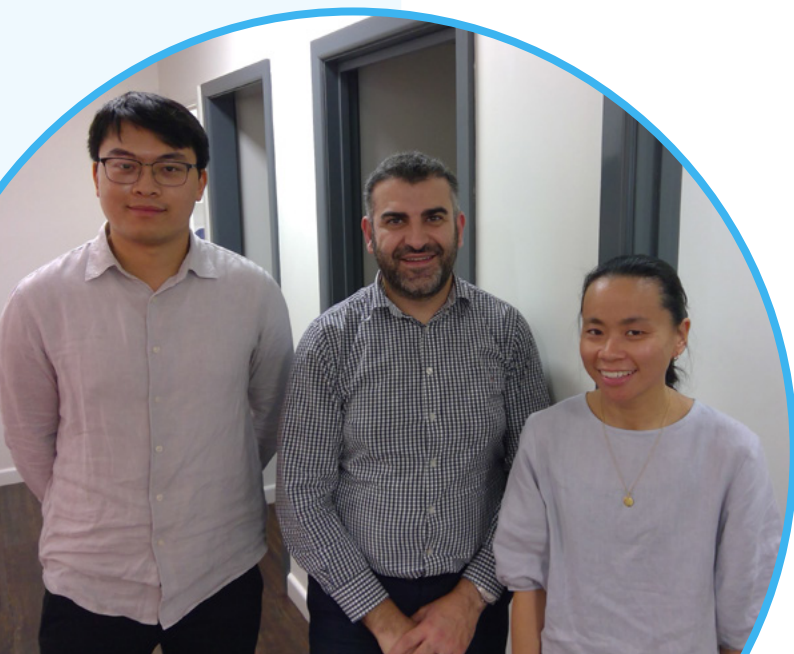
# Government relations, advocacy, and promotion

## Advocating on issues important to early career practitioners

The ECOV/SA committee conducted a survey of South Australian and Victorian early career members in March 2022 with the goal of gaining insight into members' professional concerns. The results will be discussed at the next Optometry Australia's Early Career Optometrists National Think Tank Series.

## The workforce

In response to concerns from our members about difficulties with front of house staff recruitment, we initiated a short workforce survey. We had a strong response across both Victoria and South Australia, and have been able to use this information to inform conversations with government about the need for initiatives to support optometry, particularly in regional areas. We have also drafted a workforce resource that will be released in 2022/23.







## Treasurer's report

Our financial result for 2021-22 was a surplus of \$224,982 (against a budgeted surplus of approximately \$196,082). This was largely due to reduced face-to-face member activities, driven by the ongoing impact of border closures and the Victorian government's work from home orders as governments continued to wrestle with COVID-19.

An independent valuation of our building at 28 Drummond St Carlton was undertaken on 21 August 2021, resulting in an increase of \$1.575 million to \$6,575,000.

Our primary expenditure (\$1,630,754) continues to be capitation fees paid to the National office, which provides a range of services to our members in addition to long-range national advocacy for the benefit of community eye health and the general development of optometry.

Our investment portfolio continued to provide a modest cash income (roughly \$2,000 per month) towards operational costs with its main purpose being ongoing security for our organisation to weather financial storms. That said, with international markets in such turmoil as the year wore on, our portfolio lost value this year by \$37,700. Our investment funds manager, ANZ, continued to restructure, and divested themselves from their managed funds arm due to the Royal Commission in that industry. This led to the search for a new investment manager, and we undertook an analysis of three firms alongside proposals and interviews. At the conclusion of this process, Koda Capital was chosen due to their strong understanding of the not for profit sector, the absence of conflicts of interest, and their alignment with our values including socially responsible investing.

Following a call for tender, we also chose a new auditor this year, Nexia Sydney Pty Ltd, and completed the change-over process with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, including notifying members on our website. The 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 2021-22



## Lead

- Lead membership through evolution of market and sector changes
- Improve community eye health and vision care, with a particular focus on under-served 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
Timothy Lo	Treasurer
Cassandra Haines	Director
Allison McKendrick	Director
Stephanie Callisto	Director
Jason Tan	Director
Laura Carson	Director
Kristin Guppy	Director

## Secretariat

Ilsa Hampton	Chief Executive Officer from February 2022
Pete Haydon	Chief Executive Officer until November 2021
Michelle Marven	Members Services and Policy Manager
Jennifer Hall	Business Support and Operations Manager
Melanie Andrews	Executive Assistant to CEO and Administration Support
Lyn Hsieh	Policy and Advocacy Coordinator
Lisa Busuttil	Member Events Coordinator
Greta Burgio	Communications and Publications Coordinator
Venesse Chiang	Member Liaison Officer
Anthea Cochrane	Education Consultant


## Optometry Victoria South Australia

Level 1, 28 Drummond Street,  
Carlton, Victoria 3053  
(03) 9652 9100  
office.vicsa@optometry.org.au  
optometry.org.au





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 [optometry.org.au](http://optometry.org.au)

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