



## **In-person one-day conference: Anterior Eye Conditions and Systemic Diseases**

Grab a ticket to our first face-to-face one-day conference in Melbourne for two years. As well as a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues in the flesh, [SRC Mini: Melbourne](#) at the Pullman Albert Park will provide up to 8 CPD hours in an interactive, educational and fun and COVIDSafe in-person setting.

Invite your workmates and make a serious dent on meeting those all-important CPD requirements, while enjoying engaging presentations and yummy catering.

[Register now to secure your place!](#)

## **NEWS**

### **SA public eyecare wait-times round table makes headway**

On the back of [OV/SA's campaign](#) to reduce wait-times for public eyecare in South Australia, we held a round table with key stakeholders to see what can be done. We want to thank those who attended including ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, university representatives and Aboriginal health representatives. We had such a positive response to the first meeting that we'll be hosting a second meeting in Adelaide in July to accommodate those that weren't able to

attend the first meeting. This will further inform and drive our efforts to achieve tangible solutions to the issues identified, in partnership with the South Australian eye health sector.

## Workforce Survey results announced

A big thanks to the 149 members who responded to our recent workforce survey. The main takeaway from the results is that many of you are having difficulty recruiting non-optometry practice staff.

It was encouraging to see 80 percent have not had more difficulty recruiting optometrists in the past six months. However, we're concerned that 58 per cent of you are having difficulty recruiting non-optometry practice staff. This is mostly affecting practice owners in inner Melbourne (40 percent) followed by outer Melbourne (28 per cent). A small number of practice owners in regional Victoria and metropolitan and regional SA are also having difficulty.

The main reasons cited was an insufficient pool of suitable workers. It was also mentioned that the pandemic had changed how people feel about public-facing work.

In response to the survey results we have identified several actions, which include talking with Optical Dispensers Australia on potential areas for collaboration.

## Membership renewal opens

**You speak, we listen**

And this is what we heard...



**58%**

of survey respondents are having difficulty recruiting non-optometry practice staff

\*Results taken from the OV/SA Workforce Survey 2022. Keep an eye on your inbox for the full survey results soon.



Our 2022-23 membership renewal is now open. With 88 percent of practicing optometrists OV/SA members, we support the majority of optometrists in our two states. This year we've launched a [new career break member category](#), and will be waiving admin fees for monthly payments for everyone.

Have a listen to what our CEO, [Ilsa has to say](#) about the benefits of membership and renew [before 30 June](#).

## OV/SA membership fees explained



FREE CPD events, accredited conferences with subsidised registration for members



State advocacy campaigns to boost conditions and perception of optometry



Regular news, COVID updates, clinical and business resources



Member support and engagement: practice visits, emails, phone calls, committees



Funds paid to OA for national initiatives and your insurance



## Postgraduate travel grants

OV/SA Postgraduate Travel Grants applications are now open. For those doing postgraduate study after completing your optometry degree, we have two grants which can benefit, including the National Conference Grant worth \$500, and International Conference Grant worth \$1,000. Hurry, applications close 10 June.

[Read more and apply.](#)

## OV/SA Postgraduate Travel Grants applications *open!*

We're here to support you

The grants are aimed at members doing postgraduate study after completing their optometry degree

- National conference grant worth \$500
- International conference grant worth \$1,000



## Austrroads to update 'fitness to drive'

The national driver medical standards Assessing Fitness to Drive have been updated. The new medical standards, which optometrists must abide by, will support health professionals to assess patients' ability to drive safely. The 2022 edition will be effective and accessible from 22 June. OV/SA will provide comprehensive updates on what the changes mean for you and your practice. In the meantime a summary of changes is available on the [Austrroads website](#).

An additional change not highlighted in the summary, is the wording around the use of Humphrey visual fields analyser or equivalent. The national guidelines now note specifically that a Medmont binocular VF printed off in level map mode is accepted as equivalent to a Humphrey. This reflects changes secured in 2019 following advocacy by OV/SA with Victorian driving licensing authority, VicRoads.



We're pleased to see this is now enshrined in the national requirements. We're currently advocating at the state level regarding mooted changes to requirements related to patients undergoing orthokeratology, and will advise members of any state-specific requirements if and when they're finalised.

## Careers Expo

Looking for staff? Optometry Queensland Northern Territory is holding a careers expo for final year students at Queensland University of Technology and invites practice owners to advertise any positions vacant. To be involved, simply email [infoqld@optometryqldnt.org.au](mailto:infoqld@optometryqldnt.org.au), detailing your practice name, location, contact person, best number and email to make contact, and some words to entice students to make contact.

## LGBTQIA+ safe healthcare podcast

Providing safe healthcare for LGBTQIA+ communities as a practitioner is the focus of the latest podcast from Ahpra and the National Boards. Listen to clinical neuropsychologist and Board member of the Victorian Pride Centre Dr Judy Tang, and clinical psychologist and Senior Research Fellow Dr Lee Cubis discuss this important issue. [Listen now.](#)

# COVID-19

## Reminder: mask and vaccination requirements

### South Australia

The South Australian Public Health Act 2011 has been updated with many existing requirements remaining the same. [Masks are still mandatory](#) in healthcare settings including optometry practices for patients 12 and over, and all optometry staff, unless a valid exemption applies.

COVID-19 vaccination requirements for healthcare workers also remain. This means everyone working in optometry settings must be vaccinated against COVID-19 with a third dose (booster).

## Victoria

Face [masks are still mandatory](#) for everyone aged 8 and above while visiting a hospital, care facility or public space in a healthcare setting, including allied health settings. This means all optometrists, front of house staff and patients must continue to wear a face mask in the practice.

The Victorian Government is continuing to do compliance visits in a range of businesses, including optometry practices. Compliance officers will usually email first and remind practices about the ongoing requirement for business (including optometry practices) to have a COVIDSafe Plan.

Want more? Check out our website for the latest updates for [Victoria](#) and [South Australia](#).

## Small Business Ventilation Scheme

The Victorian Government ventilation scheme - part of its [stimulus package](#) to support businesses - has opened. This includes offers such as \$500 to support businesses to buy air purifiers or ventilators and up to \$5,000 to improve ventilation through building works.

You have until 24 June to apply. [Read more and apply now.](#)

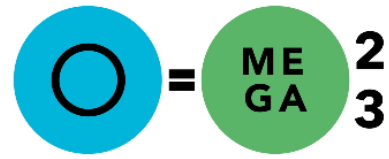
# EVENTS

## Add these events to your calendar

In addition to [SRC Mini: Melbourne](#), we're gearing up for lots of events!

- Adelaide [matinee](#) and [evening](#) seminars with Assoc. Prof. Daryl Guest on 20 June
- [Blue Sky](#) Adelaide on 11-12 November
- Plans for [O=MEGA23/ WCO4](#) in September 2023 have begun in earnest!

In the meantime, keep your eyes on the [Institute of Excellence](#) for details of other OV/SA events in the second half of 2022.



## OUR MEMBERS

### We remember two members

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two former OV/SA members, Associate Professor Leo Hartley and Dr John Nathan. We acknowledge their significant contribution to optometry and send our condolences to their families.



Optometry Victoria South Australia

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