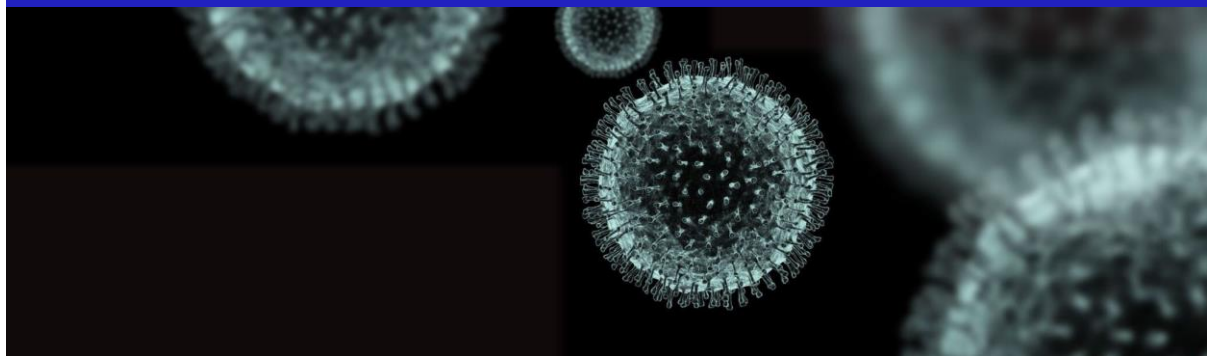


COVID-19 AND OPTOMETRY



Victoria

Masks still required in healthcare premises

While mask rules have changed in Victoria, masks are still required indoors in certain settings, including publicly accessible areas of health care premises, which includes optometry private practices. This requirement extends to patients, clinical staff and administrative staff. For more, read [our website](#) or the [government's website](#), which will be updated soon.

Furlough exemption

Allied health practitioners, including optometrists and administrative staff who are close contacts of a COVID-19 case are [exempt from furlough requirements](#) if they cannot work from home and meet certain other requirements. [Check out Saturday's email update to members for more.](#)

Random COVIDSafe compliance checks

The Victorian Department of Health is carrying out COVIDSafe compliance checks on businesses, including optometry practices. Compliance officers are generally calling ahead and

sending an email reminder about what is required to [meet the requirements](#). Check out Saturday's email update to members for more.

Cash grants for businesses

The Victorian Government has announced a [stimulus package](#) to support businesses. This includes offers such as \$500 to support businesses to buy air purifiers or ventilators, \$5,000 to improve ventilation through building works, \$1,200 to help digitise businesses, and access to sessions to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and support staff.

COVID vaccination third dose

The Victorian government is encouraging anyone who hasn't yet had a COVID-19 booster shot to do so. The third dose is already mandatory for optometrists and optical staff - keep on top of deadlines for [Victoria](#) and [read about the benefits](#) of the vaccine.

South Australia

Mask requirements

There has been no changes to mask requirements in South Australia. As always we will continue to closely monitor updates and feedback.

Cash grants for businesses

The SA Government has announced [new Business Hardship Grants](#). Cash grants of up to \$11,000 will be paid to businesses - including optometry practises - that had 50 per cent reduction in turnover in February 2022, compared to February 2020. This includes an additional \$1,000 for businesses in Adelaide CBD to support the city's ongoing economic recovery.

COVID vaccination third dose

The South Australian Government is encouraging anyone who hasn't yet had a COVID-19 booster shot to do so. The third dose is already mandatory for optometrists and optical staff - keep on top of deadlines for [South Australia](#) and [read about the benefits](#) of the vaccine.

Got a question?

Look out for our COVID emails and check out the [COVID pages on our website](#) for more.

LATEST NEWS

OV/SA calls for greater collaboration as solution to ophthalmology wait times

Our Policy and Advocacy Team has been working hard to meet with South Australian MPs to propose solutions to the excessive wait times for public ophthalmology care in the state. This includes exploring opportunities for greater collaboration with optometry in the delivery of public care to reduce wait times. We are also seeking collaboration on the state-wide standardised referral criteria for public ophthalmology to ensure patients that can be seen by optometry are not being added to wait lists unnecessarily, as well as exploring innovative models - such as the [Modbury pilot](#) - to enhance eye health collaboration in the public sector.

The team recently met with the SA Shadow Health Minister, is seeking a meeting with the SA Health Minister, is liaising with SA Health, and talking with several other health stakeholders. We are also looking at ways to make it easier for optometrists to advocate as individuals. Watch this space for more information on what you can do to support the campaign.

World Glaucoma Week 6-12 March



Ahead of [World Glaucoma Week](#) in early March, Glaucoma Australia is holding the 7 Sights in 7 Days challenge. By taking part you'll not only raise money for specialised patient support services that improve treatment outcomes and prevent vision loss, you'll also spread the word on how important it is to Treat Your Eyes to regular check-ups. Find, Snap and Share 7 amazing sights in your neighbourhood while you fundraise to end glaucoma blindness.

[Find out more and register now.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

OV/SA volunteer committee member

applications: deadline extended!

Are you passionate about your profession and interested in the CPD we offer? Why not get involved in our committees and have a say in the services we deliver. Applications are now open to OV/SA members to become a volunteer CPD or ECOV/SA committee member.

ECOV/SA Committee

Our Early Career Optometrist committee works to support member optometrists who are up to ten years from graduation to grow professionally through identifying and developing CPD and networking opportunities, specifically targeted to the needs of this group.

We strongly encourage optometrists who are regionally or rurally based to consider these positions as we want to ensure representation from all geographical areas. Members have the option of attending meetings virtually. Expressions of interest close on 7 March.

OV/SA CPD Committee

Our CPD committee's role is to provide ideas and advice about the OV/SA CPD program, including O=MEGA, Blue Sky and SRC Mini, to ensure we continue to provide a high quality clinical education program that appeals to a broad range of members.

We strongly encourage our South Australian members to apply for these positions as we want to ensure representation from all geographical areas. Expressions of interest close on 7 March.

[Review the terms of reference and apply now.](#)

Optical dispensing studies traineeship scheme deadline

The Australasian College of Optical Dispensing has enrolled over 1,200 students to its Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing in the last 12 months, through a federal government traineeship program. The [Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements \(BAC\)](#) program, which supports employers to take on new apprentices and trainees, sees participating employers receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the apprentice's gross wage paid. The scheme is due to close for new applications on 31 March. [Want to encourage your staff to take part before the cut off?](#)

RESEARCH

Clinical trials



Contact lens use: Research teams at Flinders University, University of Canberra and University of New South Wales have been awarded a grant to investigate the use of contact lenses with eye drops to see if combination myopia therapy is more effective than these products alone.

The pilot study will specifically investigate combining MiSight contact lenses with atropine 0.05% eye drops, which have shown to slow the rate of myopia progression by around 50%.

The team is recruiting 8-12 year old children with low to moderate myopia, who have not previously used myopia therapy, for a six month period. South Australian-based optometrists who want to refer participants, you can [find out more and register here](#).

Glaucoma and diabetic eyecare: Researchers from the University of New South Wales are investigating the fidelity and potential effectiveness of an intervention designed to improve the appropriateness of glaucoma and diabetic eyecare provided by Australian optometrists. The iCareTrack team is conducting this research with A/Prof Isabelle Jalbert as Chief Investigator.

The research study is looking to recruit optometrists who are registered to practice in Australia and provide care for people with diabetes or people with or at risk of glaucoma. They must also be in full-time employment at the one practice location. For more information, email m.toomey@unsw.edu.au or r.gyawali@unsw.edu.au, or [register your interest here](#).

CPD AND EVENTS

OV/SA Annual Golf Day



Tickets are selling fast for this year's social tournament, which will be held at Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club on Monday 28 March. Through sponsorship, OV/SA is able to offer a reduced price giving you the opportunity to play on one of Australia's most prestigious courses, while also raising money for [Sight For All](#).

The event is open to anyone, from beginners to experienced golfers so don't be shy if you have never played before. Get a team together and come and join in the fun while raising money for charity. [To register, download the application form](#).

Learning plans at the ready

Have you started your 2022 CPD learning plan? In line with your OBA CPD registration requirements, we encourage you to start developing your next annual CPD cycle learning plan if you haven't already. [Get planning now.](#)



Date	Event type	Details	State	CPD hours
21 February	Webinar	EODV/SA: Practical paediatric prescribing	VIC/SA	TBC
2 March	Regional webinar series	Port Lincoln: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	SA	2.5TI
22 March	Regional webinar series	Traralgon: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	VIC	2.5TI
4 April	Webinar	EODV/SA: Interesting corneal cases	SA	TBC
1 May	Seminar	EODV/SA: Interesting corneal cases	VIC	TBC
3 May	Regional seminar series	Mildura: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	VIC	2.5TI
18 May	Conference	SRC Mini: Anterior Eye	SA	TBC
18 May	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
24 May	Regional seminar series	Bairat: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	VIC	2.5TI
25 May	Regional seminar series	Warrambool: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	VIC	2.5TI
31 May	Regional seminar series	Moolren Vale: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	SA	2.5TI
6 June (day & evening)	Regional seminar series	Melbourne: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	VIC	2.5TI
20 June (day & evening)	Regional seminar series	Adelaide: Anterior Eye & Diabetic Macular Oedema	SA	2.5TI
17 July	Conference	SRC Mini: Anterior Eye	VIC	TBC
17 July	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
1 August	Webinar	EODV/SA: Diabetes	VIC/SA	TBC
9 August	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
5 September	Regional seminar series	Shepparton: Subject TBC	VIC	2.5TI
6 September	Regional seminar series	Bendigo: Subject TBC	VIC	2.5TI
12 September	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
13 September	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
26 September	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
27 September	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
3 October	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
4 October	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
24 October	Seminar	EODV/SA: Build your wealth, build your health	SA	TBC
25 October	Regional seminar series	Barossa: Subject TBC	SA	2.5TI
6 November	Training	CPR	VIC	N/A
11-12 November	Conference	Blue Sky	SA	TBC
11 November	Training	CPR	SA	N/A
14 November	Seminar	Melbourne Museum: Subject TBC	VIC	2.5TI
28 November	Seminar	EODV/SA: Build your wealth, build your health	VIC	TBC

EODV/SA events are targeted at early career optometrists, up to 10 years from graduation. Regional series are open to all members. Our events are FREE for members, with the exception of conferences and CPR training. For more about any of these events, head to www.optometry.org.au/institute-of-opticians/cpd-events/ or contact OV/SA on (03) 9552 9100 or office.ovsa@optometry.org.au.

*As at January 2022. Subject to change.

OV/SA launches calendar of events

In case you missed it, we recently launched the 2022 OV/SA events calendar, helping you get those much needed CPD hours throughout the year. This year we put together a poster for you to save to your desktop or print out so you never have to miss an event.

[Download our events calendar now.](#) You can also head to our website to [read more about all the events and book your place.](#)



Optometry Victoria South Australia
28 Drummond Street, , Carlton VIC, 3053

[Unsubscribe](#)