



Date:

MP name:

MP address:

Dear Member of Parliament,

As a resident in your electorate, I am seeking your support for the recommendations in Macular Disease Foundation Australia's Victorian Election Agenda, *Better Vision for Victorians*.

About macular disease

- Macular disease is Australia's leading cause of blindness, affecting more than 1.9 million people, including an estimated 377,000 Victorians with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Progressive loss of central vision can prevent people from reading, driving, recognising faces, working, and living independently.
- Macular disease results in the progressive loss of central vision which affects the ability to recognise faces, read, drive, work and many other aspects of daily living.
- The current treatment for some advanced forms of macular disease is regular eye injections, with most treatment provided in private ophthalmology clinics with significant out-of-pocket costs. The national median total cost of living for people with macular disease and receiving eye injection treatment is \$3,621 a year.
- Economic modelling commissioned by Macular Disease Foundation found that federal, state and territory government investment in more affordable and accessible treatment could help 22,000 more Australians remain on treatment over the next decade, prevent avoidable blindness and severe vision loss, save governments more than \$2 billion, and reduce patient costs by over \$1 billion.



Macular Disease Foundation's recommendations

Macular Disease Foundation Australia is seeking your support to make the preservation of sight a Victorian Government priority.

1. Embed a statewide macular disease support service

Partner with Macular Disease Foundation Australia to integrate the evidence-based **Eye Connect** support service across all public hospital ophthalmology outpatient clinics treating macular disease. This would ensure people diagnosed with macular disease receive consistent access to information, education, psychosocial support and practical assistance from the point of diagnosis, helping them stay informed, connected and engaged in their care.

2. Reduce the transport burden for people in regional, rural and remote Victoria

Increase support through the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) by improving reimbursement rates and removing the co-contribution requirement. These changes would help reduce the financial and logistical burden of travelling long distances for regular eye injection appointments, making it easier for people to access the sight-saving treatment they need.

3. Strengthen public eye injection services across Victoria

Develop and implement a **Victorian Macular Disease Plan** to establish a coordinated approach to monitoring, planning and overseeing public eye injection services. The plan would help identify service gaps, improve consistency of care across the state, and ensure Victorians can access timely and equitable treatment regardless of where they live.

These recommendations are outlined in more detail in Macular Disease Foundation's Victorian Election Agenda, *Better Vision for Victorians*, which can be found on Macular Disease Foundation's website at www.mdfoundation.com.au

As my Member of Parliament, I hope you will support Macular Disease Foundation's recommendations as they will save the sight of more Victorians and have a positive impact upon Government expenditure.

Yours faithfully,

Signature:

Full name: