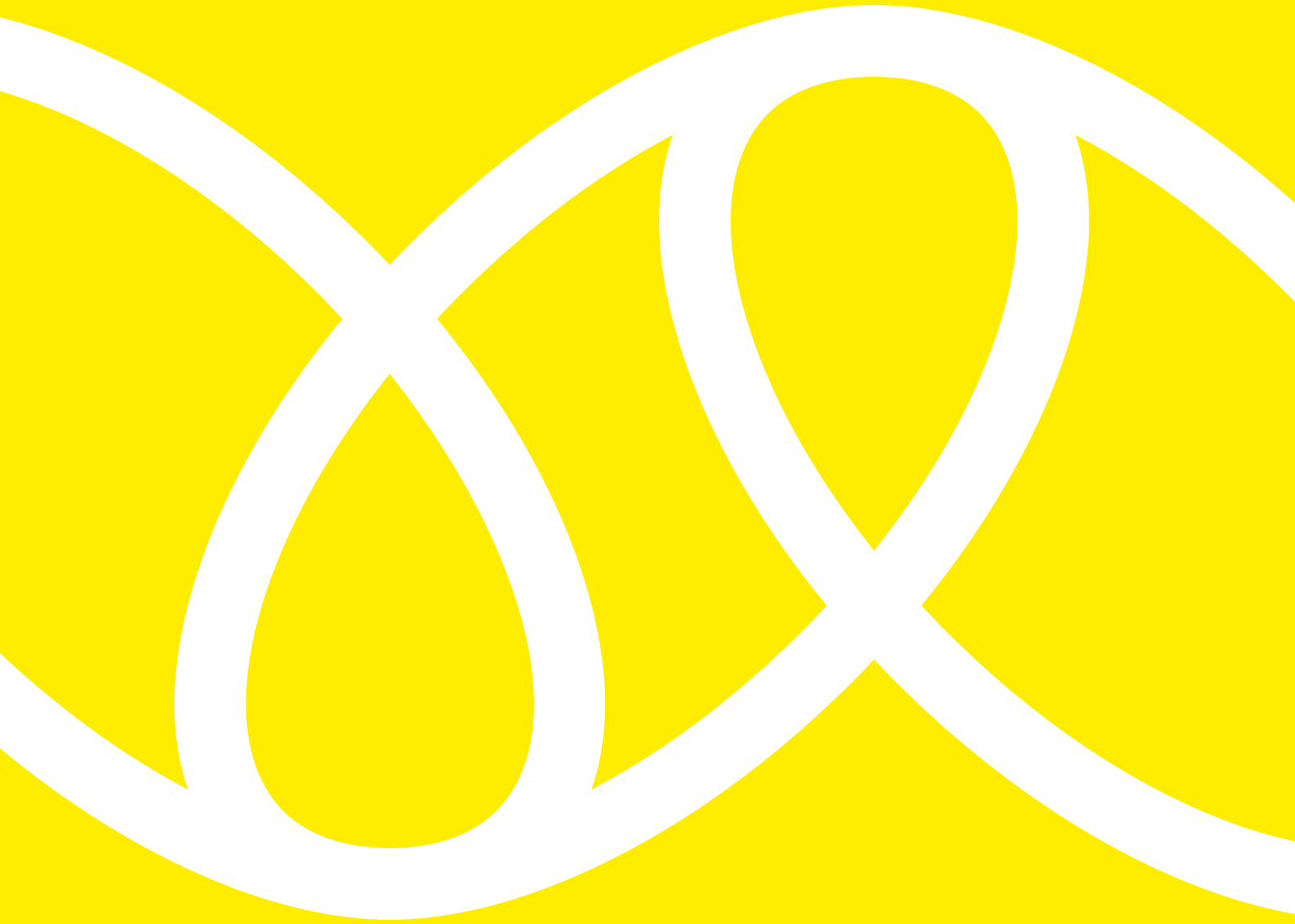


# Supporting students who have vision loss



**Vision Australia**  
Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.



# Supporting your teachers, students and families

Every student in your school is unique and they interact and learn in their own way. Much of how we learn in life is gained through our vision, so being a student with vision loss can be difficult as they need to gather information about their world in different ways. Vision Australia understands the challenges that vision loss can create for students.

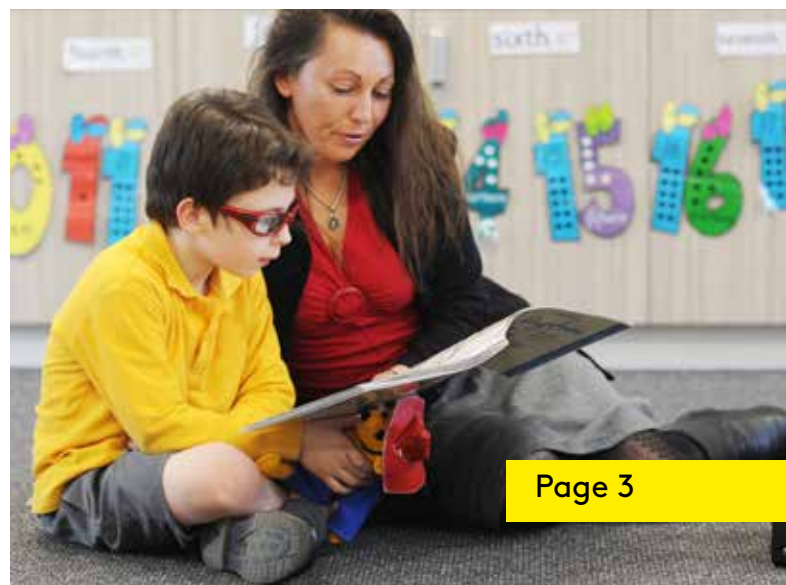
We are funded by the Queensland Government Department of Education, Specialist Disability Support in School (SDSS) Program to provide direct professional therapy services and consultation in schools for eligible students who are blind or have low vision. The program aims to support the individual learning requirements for each student within their educational setting. Programs and interventions are designed to maximize your students learning potential and ability to access the curriculum. These are provided by our occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech therapists, psychologists and orientation and mobility specialists who all specialise in vision loss support.

## When to refer

Refer your student if they:

- Don't want to participate in sport or physical education class
- Sit awkwardly at their classroom desk
- Consistently ask for help in the classroom
- Complete worksheets and activities very slowly
- Have trouble reading and spelling
- Don't want to play or are always by themselves
- Rely on other students to take them to the bathroom or lunch areas
- Have difficulty remembering how to get from one place to another

**Jack,**  
Vision Australia client



# Team members that visit schools

## Physiotherapists

- Assist students to gain good posture at the classroom desk which helps them listen better and learn
- Support students to learn the physical skills so they can participate in the sports that they want to, in physical education classes and on the playground

## Occupational therapists

- Help students participate and learn in the classroom
- Recommend the best place for the student to sit
- Help them to organise their desk so they know where everything is
- Assist them with their pencil grip or computer typing
- Introduce them to equipment that will make learning quicker and easier

## Speech pathologists

- Work with students to improve their language and literacy skills so they are engaged with all material and can reach their learning milestones
- Support students to learn conversational and social skills so they connect with their friends and peers on the playground

## Orientation and mobility specialists

- Help students to move around the school and classroom independently
- Help to build confidence
- Assist students to understand where they are in school, where their classroom is and how to get to different areas in the school

## Psychologists

- Support to adjust to vision loss
- Assistance to develop problem solving, resilience and social skills
- Help to build self-esteem and confidence

# Available programs

As well as providing individual support, Vision Australia also offer two other programs.

## Group programs

- Sessions run inside the school for students where teachers have identified they have a common goal

## Intensive programs

- Tailored, in school sessions, over a 4-6 week period to quickly improve students learning skills
- Training for school staff to deliver individual exercise programs, designed by Vision Australia specialists, for students

We can also provide training sessions for your faculty to gain an understating of vision impairment and ways in which they can help students reach their full potential.



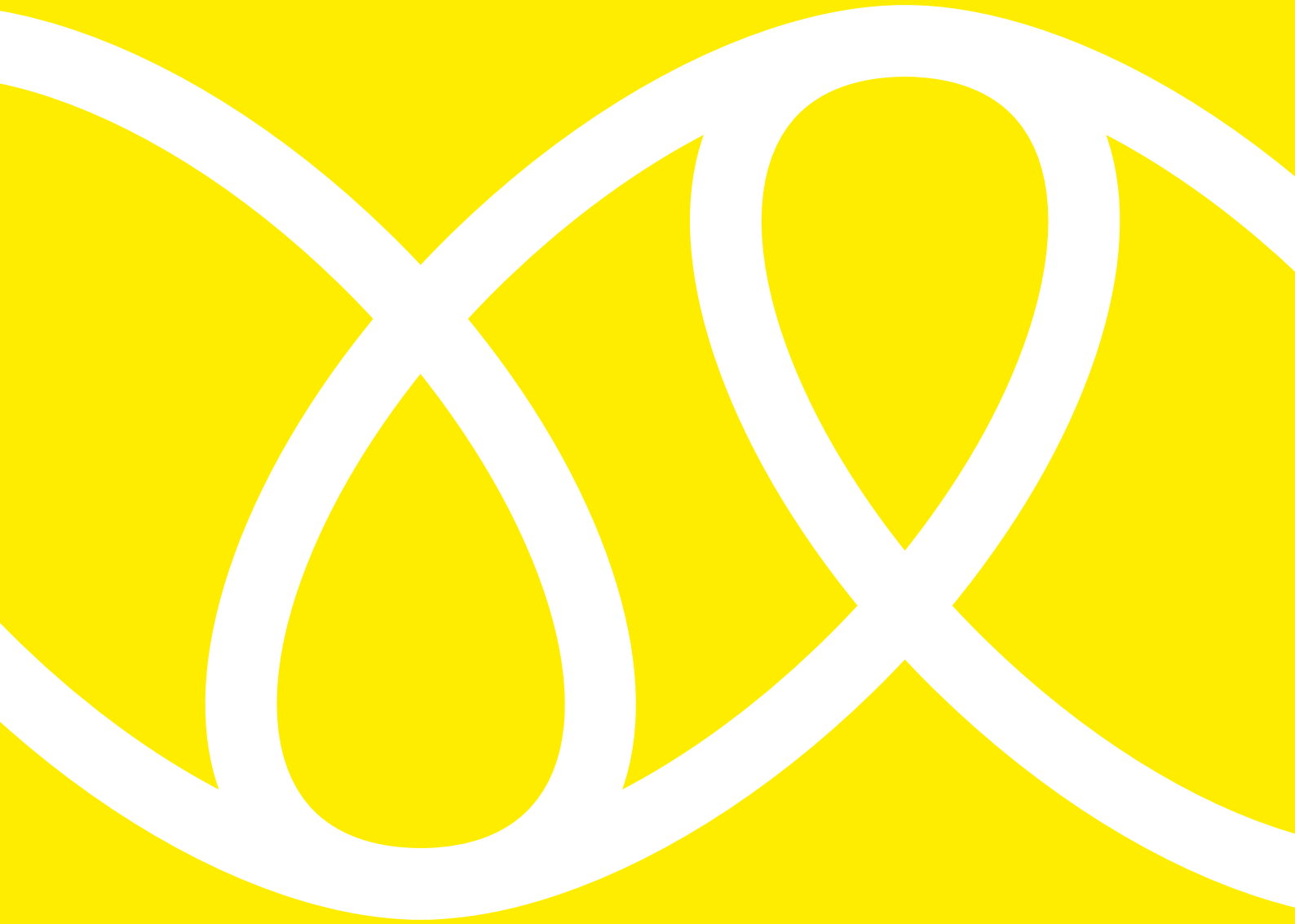
# Equipment to loan

Students with low vision or blindness can loan specialised equipment from Vision Australia. Equipment can enhance students learning and make things easier and quicker. Below is a list of the most popular equipment available.

For the complete list or to place a loan request call us on **1300 84 74 66**.



Sample equipment	Student needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large print keyboard</li> <li>• Fiddle toys</li> </ul>	Sensory resources to enhance attention and learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iPad</li> <li>• iPad Pro</li> </ul>	Connect to interactive whiteboard to view learning materials presented in class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking Typier</li> </ul>	Touch typing software
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touch typing gloves</li> <li>• Scientific Calculators</li> <li>• Finger grips</li> </ul>	Resources to enhance activities of daily living skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support bench</li> <li>• Slope Boards</li> </ul>	Equipment to enhance body posture for play and learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bell balls</li> <li>• Paper balls</li> </ul>	Physical exercise and team sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perkins Smart Braille</li> <li>• Tatrapoint</li> </ul>	Braille typewriter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acrobat Mini</li> <li>• Ruby XLHD</li> <li>• Explore 8</li> <li>• Topaz HD</li> </ul>	Handheld and standalone video magnifiers for long distance. Some can connect to interactive whiteboard or laptop.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulated glasses</li> </ul>	Visual Acuity Simulations to present to student's peers/teachers for an awareness experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning materials</li> </ul>	Various titles to loan to schools/parents (Vision and the Brain, ZIYRAones of Regulation, Understanding Loss, Life skills for Kids)



# Contact Vision Australia

Vision Australia is the leading national provider of services for people who are blind or have low vision.

We are funded by the Queensland Government, Department of Education and Training, to provide specialist disability and support in schools.

To find out more about how we can work with you and your students who are blind or have low vision call **1300 84 74 66** or visit [visionaustralia.org](http://visionaustralia.org)

## How to refer

Call	1300 84 74 66
Online referral	<a href="http://visionaustralia.org/referrals">visionaustralia.org/referrals</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:referrals@visionaustralia.org">referrals@visionaustralia.org</a>
Post	PO Box 1637, Coorparoo DC Qld 4151



@visionaustralia



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Department of Education



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[visionaustralia.org](http://visionaustralia.org)



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