



## Making eye health a priority for GPs

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Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) has partnered with the Victoria Department of Health (DH) and Vision 2020 Australia to improve detection of eye disease across Gippsland.

Gippsland PHN is one of five primary health networks across Victoria to implement the pilot project. Ten Gippsland general practices were awarded \$7,000 to focus on embedding eye health preventative care within their practice.

Gippsland PHN Acting Chief Executive Officer, Angela Jacob, said general practice played a crucial role in reducing avoidable blindness and vision loss, and its associated burden of disease.

“The impacts of vision loss are multifaceted,” she explained. “By implementing this pilot project, Gippsland general practices will develop sustainable quality system improvements to embed eye health in primary care, that includes focussing on increasing engagement with local optometrists and ophthalmologists.”

Many eye conditions are preventable if detected and treated early. Regular eye examinations can identify avoidable blindness and vision loss.

While eye disease can occur at any age, the risk factors include:

- being over 40 years of age
- smoking
- hypertension
- diabetes
- having a family history of eye disease

For more information, including eye health education and quality improvement resources, visit <https://gphn.org.au/what-we-do/integrating-the-health-system/digital-health/>

### ENDS

*Gippsland PHN is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. Primary Health Networks are predominantly funded by the Australian Government to tackle identified national objectives and priority areas. Visit: [gphn.org.au](https://gphn.org.au)*

**For more information, contact Tracy VanderZalm at Gippsland PHN on 0447 491 345.**