



SAVE SIGHT
INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME

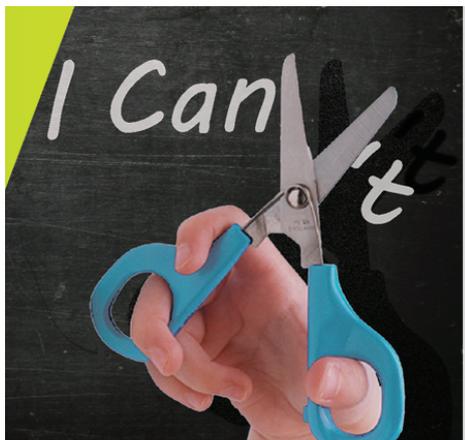


Making Connections 2016

An information day for teenagers, young adults, parents, carers and teachers.



Saturday 27th August
St Andrew's
Cathedral School
Town Hall Square, Sydney
9.30am - 4.30pm



Supported by The QBE Foundation

*Graeme Innes AM
and Rachael Leahcar*



PROGRAMME

9.30am	Registration and Refreshments
10.00am	Opening Remarks
10.05am	Harrison Kirkwood - Recent HSC Graduate and SSI Youth Ambassador <i>The hunt for Harrison</i>
10.15am	Rachael Leahcar - Artist and Performer <i>Finding my voice</i>
10.40am	Connor McLeod - High School Student and Accessibility Advocate - <i>When the world's just gotta change</i>
10.50am	Sacha Thomas - High School Student and SSI Youth Ambassador <i>Conversations with my younger self</i>
11.00am	Jonathan Goerlach - Elite Paratriathlete <i>Tools for healing and transformation</i>
11.15am	Break
11.30am	Graeme Innes AM - Former Human Rights Commissioner, Disability Discrimination Commissioner and President of the Attitude Foundation. <i>Finding A Way</i>
12.00pm	Professor John Grigg - Head, Discipline of Clinical Ophthalmology, The University of Sydney (Save Sight Institute), Paediatric Ophthalmologist. <i>The future of eye care in Australia</i>
12.15pm	Professor Robyn Jamieson - Head, Discipline of Genetics, The University of Sydney (Save Sight Institute), Eye Geneticist. <i>Personalised medicine and the research process</i>

12.30pm	Lunch	
1.00pm	Sara Hirst - University Student <i>If life had report cards</i>	<i>Breakout Workshop for Teens Healthy Heads</i> Presented by headspace Camperdown
1.15pm	Ann Larkins - Sydney Catholic Schools <i>A day in the life of a Vision Support Teacher</i>	
1.30pm	Mary Hawkins - National Disability Insurance Agency <i>The NDIS for kids with low vision and blindness</i>	<i>Breakout Workshop for Teens</i> Presented by Vision Australia Career Planning
2.00pm	Vicki Papadopoulos - headspace Camperdown <i>Helping kids keep their heads healthy</i>	<i>Breakout Workshop for Teens Travelling Independently</i> Presented by Guide Dogs NSW/ ACT
2.30pm	Break	
2.45pm	Guide Dogs NSW/ACT <i>Pokemon Go - just for fun or a useful O&M tool?</i>	<i>Breakout Workshop for Parents/Carers of Under 5's The Early Years & School Readiness</i> Presented by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC)
3.00pm	Greg Alchin - Accessible Technology Specialist <i>Connecting with the best that technology has to offer</i>	
3.30pm	Krystel Keller - Blind Citizens Australia <i>Know your rights</i>	Ask an Ophthalmologist: <i>Dr Caroline Catt (Paediatric Ophthalmologist)</i> <i>Dr Con Petsoglou (Corneal Specialist)</i> <i>C/Prof Stephanie Watson (Corneal Specialist)</i>
3.45pm	Lisa Maude - Centre for Disability Studies, The University of Sydney <i>Tertiary studies support for students with low vision and blindness</i>	
4.00pm	Donna Purcell - Diversity and Inclusion Specialist <i>Employment opportunities and a better future for people with a vision impairment or who are blind</i>	
4.30pm	Close of proceedings, optional drinks and nibbles (parental supervision required).	

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Harrison Kirkwood recently graduated from high school, and in 2016 became a youth ambassador for the Save Sight Institute. Born with Peters Anomaly, Harrison lost most of his sight as a teenager.

Harrison will share his views on how to navigate some of the big decisions that face young adults as they transition from childhood to adulthood.



Since her appearance on the first season of The Voice Australia, legally blind singer/songwriter Rachael Leahcar has performed for audiences around Australia and overseas.

Rachael has gone from strength to strength, securing a record deal with Universal Music, releasing three top 10 ARIA charting albums since 2012 and touring a cabaret show in 2015.

Rachael will be speaking about her experience living with Retinitis Pigmentosa, adventures on and since The Voice Australia, advice for others, and much more.



Connor McLeod is just 16 years old, but is already having an impact on the world. Born blind, Connor's voice led to changes in the way that the NSW Department of Education treats vision impaired children, and most recently he petitioned the Reserve Bank of Australia for tactile bank notes, the first of which will be launched this year! He's been awarded the National Braille Press' Hands On! Award for these two projects. This award has previously gone to [writer] J.K. Rowling and [former US First Lady] Laura Bush, and he was the first Australian to receive it.



Sacha Thomas is 16 and was born with ocular subcutaneous albinism leading to low vision. She is currently in Year 10 and is a 2016 youth ambassador for the Save Sight Institute.

Sacha will share her experience of growing up with low vision, and her hopes for the future.





Jonathan Goerlach is an elite paratriathlete and Save Sight Institute Ambassador.

He recently returned from Rotterdam where he competed in the 2016 Paratriathlon World Championships, and will share some of his experiences adapting to life with Usher Syndrome.

In particular, Jonathan will share some of his strategies for adapting to change and overcoming obstacles, as well as discussing the role of sport for vision impaired children and teenagers.



Graeme Innes AM is an Australian company director, lawyer and public speaker.

He has been a human rights practitioner for 30 years and was Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner from December 2005 until July 2014. During that time he also served as Australia's Human Rights Commissioner for 3.5 years and as Race Discrimination Commissioner for 2 years. In 1995, Graeme was entered into the Order of Australia as a Member (AM). In 2003, he was a finalist for Australian of the Year.



Associate Professor John Grigg is passionate about helping children and adults with blinding eye conditions. He is involved in caring for patients, researching new ways to save sight and teaching the next generation of eye doctors.

John is Head of the Discipline of Ophthalmology at The University of Sydney's Save Sight Institute. He is a Paediatric Ophthalmologist and consults at Sydney Eye and Westmead Children's Hospitals.



Associate Professor Robyn Jamieson is Head of the Discipline of Genetics at The University of Sydney and an expert in the clinical genetics assessment of patients with ocular disorders, molecular genetic techniques and the analysis of mouse models of human disease.

Her research has led to insight into the genetic basis of hereditary cataracts, glaucoma and microphthalmia.

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Sarah Hirst has recently completed an Arts Degree at Macquarie University and a Public Relations course at TAFE. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Social Science at Macquarie University.

Sarah has been legally blind since birth due to a genetic condition.

With only a small amount of remaining vision, Sarah gets around independently with her guide dog.



Ann Larkins has a Masters Degree in Education, a Post Graduate Degree in Special Education, and is currently studying a Post Graduate Degree in Vision Impairment through Flinders University.

She has 29 years teaching experience, working in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, 19 of those years in the area of Special Education.

Ann is currently the Leader of Learning for students with Vision Impairment in the Eastern Region for Sydney Catholic Schools.

National
disabilityinsurance
Agency

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is gradually being rolled out across NSW. People with a permanent and significant disability are eligible to participate in the scheme, which involves a plan tailored to meet individual needs.



headspace is a national organisation dedicated to supporting young people aged 12-25. Presented by Vicki Papadopoulos (parents/teachers group) and Blake Hamilton (teenagers/young adults group) this session will address signs of declining mental health and strategies for dealing with issues in a positive and constructive way.



Pokemon Go has taken the world by storm over the past few months. Love it or hate it, there's no doubting that this form of territorial game play is here to stay.

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT will share some of the unexpected benefits of playing Pokemon Go, and may even convince some of the audience to download and have a go themselves!





Greg Alchin is an inclusive design consultant and accessibility advocate with over 30 years experience across education, community and business sectors.

Greg empowers individuals and organisations to be “more powerful than they or others think,” through innovative inclusive strategies that enable everyone to participate on the same basis straight from the start.

Greg will share some of his hints and tips on making technology work better for you.



Krystal Keller is a singer/songwriter and is also Executive Officer of Blind Citizens NSW.

When Krystal was six months old she was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma (cancer of the eye) and was completely blind by age 2.

Krystal will provide an overview of the legal protections in place to help people with a vision impairment avoid discrimination.



Lisa Maude from the Centre for Disability Studies at The University of Sydney will discuss the National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program which supports people with disability to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment, through a national network of regionally based NDCOs.

The NDCO program aims to improve links between schools, universities, vocational education and training organisations, job services and organisations that support people with a disability. It also aims to improve transitions between school and the workforce.



Donna Purcell is Diversity and Inclusion Manager at Commonwealth Bank. Her role involves developing an equitable, inclusive and accessible environment for customers, employees and the community.

As a person who is blind, Donna is passionate about creating opportunities for people with a disability to be part of an all-inclusive society with equity of access to education and employment. She has been an ambassador for the NSW Government’s “Don’t Dis My Ability” campaign for two years.

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1. Follow our official social media pages
2. Post about what you hear today – make sure you tag us so we know!



Each mention puts you in the draw to win. The more posts, the more chances you have!

Competition closes midnight Sunday (tomorrow) so you have plenty of time to get sharing.

Be creative! Content must be relevant, inoffensive and positive.



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