

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Information Day



## Webinar Event

Save Sight Institute

Saturday, 18 September 2021

**Zoom Link:** <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/82731281864>



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

*We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and  
law of the Country on which the University of  
Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to  
those who have cared and continue to care for  
Country.*

# Service Provider Drop In Sessions

## 12:00 – 12:30pm

### **Blind Sports and Recreation NSW/ACT**

**Isabella Ninmo, Program Manager**

**Jason Stubbs, General Manager**

Blind Sports and Recreation NSW/ACT is the peak organisational body in New South Wales in providing sport and social recreation for community members with blindness and low vision. Their mission is to support people with low vision and blindness to access all active recreation and sports.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/BlindSportsInfoDay>

### **Cataract Kids Australia**

**Megan Prictor, Director**

Cataract Kid aims to improve the visual outcomes of children with cataract. They strive to enhance the support and information provided to families, work with clinicians to optimise treatment outcomes and link with researchers to improve the flow of information.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/CataractKidsInfoDay>

### **Cure Blindness Australia**

**Michael Astrinos, Vice President**

Cure Blindness Australia's mission is to fund research which will lead to a cure for retinitis pigmentosa (RP), the leading cause of youth blindness and the leading cause of blindness in the working age population. They aim to provide information and support in any practical way to those affected by RP and related conditions.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/CBAInfoDay>

# Service Provider Drop In Sessions

## 12:00 – 12:30pm

### Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

**Paul Hartley**, Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is the leading provider of Guide Dogs and orientation and mobility services that enable people with low vision or blindness to navigate their communities safely and independently.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/GuideDogsInfoDay>

### NextSense

**Ana Radis**, Therapist Consultant/Co-ordinator

NextSense is Australia's largest non-government provider of therapy, education, cochlear implant and diagnostic services for people with hearing loss or vision impairment, supporting thousands of adults, children and their families each year. Services are provided at sites located across Australia and through tele-practice service for clients living in regional areas.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/NextSenseInfoDay>

### Paralympics Australia

**Sarah Skidmore**, Participation & Pathways Coordinator (NSW & ACT)

Paralympics Australia helps Australians with disabilities participate in sport and compete at the Paralympic Games through partnerships with governments, business, sporting bodies and the community.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/ParalympicsInfoDay>

**Passcode:** paralympic



# Service Provider Drop In Sessions

## 12:00 – 12:30pm

### **Usher Kids Australia**

**Emily Shepard, Co-Founder and Director**

Usher Kids Australia is committed to making a difference for those families whose children have been diagnosed with Usher syndrome in Australia. As well as providing direct support to children with Usher syndrome and their families, Usher Kids Australia works to create a conduit for clinicians, researchers, service providers, educators and the general public to come together in the care for children with Usher syndrome.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/UsherKidsInfoDay>

### **Vision Australia**

**Stephanie Micallef, Ali Dimarco and Natasha Singh, VA Service Providers**

Vision Australia is a leading national provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. They work in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to help them achieve the possibilities they choose in life. They support more than 25,500 people of all ages and life stages, and circumstances.

**ZOOM LINK** – <https://bit.ly/VAInfoDay>

**The following presentations and the Educators Breakout Session will be recorded for the use of the Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney.**

## 12:30pm - Welcome



### **Professor Peter McCluskey**

Professor McCluskey is Director of the Save Sight Institute located at Sydney Eye Hospital and Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Sydney. Peter is an inflammatory eye disease specialist with more than 25 years experience in the field. His primary clinical focus is vision-threatening chronic inflammatory eye disease. He is a passionate teacher who has lectured and been a principal invited speaker at conferences around the world.

## 12:35pm - Keynote Speaker



### **Nas Campanella**

Nas is the ABC's Disability Affairs Reporter.

Nas is totally blind and has a neurological condition called Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) which means she can't read Braille.

After completing a Communications degree at the University of Technology Sydney, majoring in journalism she started with the ABC as a cadet. Nas has worked as a regional reporter in south eastern New South Wales and then as a triple j newsreader for seven years. In taking on this role, Nas became the first blind newsreader in the world to read and operate the studio for herself live to air.

Nas has volunteered abroad creating disability awareness training programs for the United Nations and has held several board positions in the disability sector.

## 1:05pm – Employment Expertise



### **Natalie Kaine**

Natalie is a senior practitioner for children and young people at Vision Australia where she has worked for 21 years as a paediatric occupational therapist. Her area of expertise is the development and delivery of services to children/adolescents with blindness and low vision. Natalie's interest in career education and employability preparations for children and young people with vision impairments has led her to research the topic as a PhD candidate with the Faculty of Medicine and Health at The University of Sydney.

## 1:25pm - 10 Minute Break

## 1:35pm – TAFE Opportunities



### **Jodie Hoyer**

Jodie is Project Manager for the implementation of TAFE NSW's Disability Inclusion Action Plan, raising awareness and developing strategies to support access and inclusion of education, training and employment pathways for people who are blind or vision impaired. She previously worked as a Teacher Consultant with a vision specialisation for 25 years.

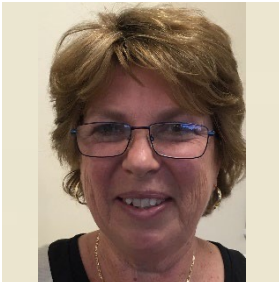
Jodie is totally blind, losing her sight due to a retinal dystrophy diagnosed at the age of 15.

# 1:55pm - Education Transitions



## **Paul Hartley**

Paul is an experienced Orientation and Mobility (O&M) specialist and specialises in Early Childhood and environmental access. He is a major contributor to Sydney Youth group O&M programs and will be presenting at this year's VISCON on collaborative practise for O&M in the school context.



## **Claire Mahony**

Claire is a Specialist Teacher (Vision Impairment). She works at NextSense and across K-12. Claire has come from a mainstream background, teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities as well as some time teaching adults at TAFE. Claire loves the difference that technology is making to her vision impaired students.



## **Ana Radis**

Ana is the coordinator for NextSense Early Learning Program for Vision Impairment. Ana has a background in Occupational Therapy and has worked at NextSense for the last thirteen years where she has gained most of her sensory impairment experience. She has a particular interest in the use of technology in the field of disability and education and its application to the children she works with.

## 2:35pm – Paralympic Q&A



### **Jonathan Goerlach**

Diagnosed with Usher Syndrome, Jonathan is Australia's first male vision impaired triathlete to compete at the Paralympic Games, and placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the event at Tokyo 2020. Leading up to Tokyo, Jonathan has had some great results, including first placings in World Paratriathlon Series races Devonport, Edmonton and on the Gold Coast.



### **Amy Ridley**

Diagnosed with pan uveitis, Amy plays the Paralympic sport of Goalball. She has represented her state as a junior at the Australian Goalball Championships and the Pacific School Games and was a member of the Australian Team that won the silver medal at the Youth World Championships in 2019. Tokyo 2020 was her rookie season for the Belles, helping bring the Belles into the quarter finals.



### **Brodie Smith**

Brodie is a 22-year-old sports athlete from Maitland, NSW who is also blind.

Diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease known as Retinitis Pigmentosa, Brodie plays the Paralympic sport of Goalball and represented Australia at the Tokyo 2020, helping bring the Belles to the quarter finals. Brodie is also currently studying to become a secondary school teacher in History and Drama at the University of Newcastle.

## 2:50pm - 10 Minute Break

## 3:00pm – Technology Q&A



Apple Consultants Network



### Greg Alchin

Greg is an award-winning inclusive design specialist, keynote speaker and disability advocate with over 30 years' experience across education, community, commercial and government contexts. Greg's interest's encompasses accessibility standards, inclusive education, smart connected homes, digital wayfinding, inclusive publishing, privacy and inclusive procurement of ICT.

## 3:20pm - Keynote Speaker



### Ria Andriani

Ria is a transcriber/proof-reader at Vision Australia alternative format transcription team. She works with braille, braille music and tactile graphics. Ria also works as a freelance writer and musician. She has written on accessibility, arts and lifestyle for [the Guardian](#), [SBS](#), [Overland](#) literary journal and [Unbias the News](#) project.

## 3:45pm – SSI Research Updates



### **Dr Elisa Cornish**

Dr Cornish is a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Sydney. She is actively involved in Ophthalmology Registrar and Medical Student teaching and the Inherited Eye Disease Unit at Save Sight Institute, where she has a special interest in electrophysiology.



### **Professor John Grigg**

Prof Grigg is Head, Specialty of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health at the University of Sydney, and a group leader of the Eye Genetics Research Unit at the Save Sight Institute. His research interests are genetic eye disease, glaucoma management and electrophysiology of the visual system.



### **Professor Robyn Jamieson**

Prof Jamieson is Head, Discipline of Genetic Medicine and Professor of Genomic Medicine at The University of Sydney. She leads the Eye Genetics Research Unit at The Children's Medical Research Institute, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Save Sight Institute.



### **Associate Professor Matthew Simunovic**

A/Prof Simunovic leads the Retinal Disease and Rescue Group at Save Sight. He is a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Sydney Eye Hospital and the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. His research interests include emerging treatments for retinal diseases and experimental vitreoretinal surgery.



# 4:00pm - CLOSE OF MAIN EVENT

Professor John Grigg

## 5 MINUTE BREAK TO TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

***Thank you to all of you for supporting this event, and a special thanks to our speakers, exhibitors, organisers and our MC, Michael McGuire.***



Michael is a husband to the love of his life and the father of two powerful daughters one of whom just happens to be deaf and the other who is blind (aged 10 and 5). Between 2 quail, 3 dogs, and 4 chickens they are quite the menagerie.

He has worked in banking IT for 20 years, volunteers for various vision and hearing related organisations that he cares passionately about, and obsessively attends or joins every meet up, Facebook group, parent's group, conference or family camp he can find.

He also has the usual hobbies of spending time with his kids, walking their dogs and filling in NDIS paperwork.



# 4:05pm – Teenager/Young Adults Breakout Session

Zoom Link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/7441312111>

**Facilitated by:**



## **Chrissy Antonopoulos**

Chrissy is a Provisional Psychologist and Counsellor at the Vital Health and Wellbeing Centre and is currently completing her PhD in Psychology at Charles Sturt University. She has worked extensively in the health system, community service organisations and has founded a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disabilities in achieving their education and career goals.



## **Benj Gulliford**

Benj is a uni student and a competitive a Para athlete. At age 18, he reigned as NSW U20s Men's Para Shot Put Champion! He has gone to SCIVIS Space Camp in the USA with the RIDBC and attended the school's mission trip in Yarrabah (QLD) twice, as well as being in school musicals.



## **Fred Rodak**

Fred is 20 years old and lives on the NSW Central Coast. He was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa when he was 13 years old and is legally blind. Fred is pursuing his passion for maths and science and is currently completing his 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor of Science at the University of Newcastle, with plans to complete a PhD in Physics. Fred likes to swimming laps and playing video games with friends.

# 4:05pm – Parents/Carers/Adults with VI Breakout Session

Zoom Link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/83906878127>

## Facilitated by:



### **Sharon Nann**

Sharon leads a small team at NextSense supporting clients and staff to navigate all things NDIS. Although we don't have a magic wand, we have extensive experience in NDIS processes and jargon. Sharon has over 30 years of experience working in the disability sector and supporting families with NDIS funds since 2013. She is passionate about access for all people with a disability, loves problem solving and sharing stories of what has worked.



### **Megan Prictor**

Megan is the Founding Director of Cataract Kids Australia, a charity established in 2017 to advocate for better care and research in childhood cataract and provide support and reliable information to families of children affected by cataract. She and her son were both affected by bilateral congenital cataract. A particular focus at present is improving awareness of the warning signs of cataract in babies and children, in an effort to overcome the problem of delayed diagnosis.

# 4:05pm – Parents/Carers/Adults with VI Breakout Session

Zoom Link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/83906878127>

## Facilitated by:



### **Emily Shepard**

Emily is a co-founder and Director of UsherKids Australia. Emily has led the delivery several successful initiatives including the 2020 USHER IN FOCUS Webinar Series and establishment of a research collaboration with The University of Melbourne. Emily divides her time between work for both UKA and the Deafness Foundation, volunteering with various organisations, studying a Master of Public Health and raising her two children, one of which has Usher syndrome.



### **Dr Sue Silveira**

Sue is the Course Director for the Master of Disability Studies and teaches in the area of vision impairment at Macquarie University, School of Education Studies. She is also a research fellow with the NextSense Institute (formerly the RIDBC Renwick Centre). She is the chief investigator on the project which has established the Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register.

# 4:05pm – Educators Breakout Session

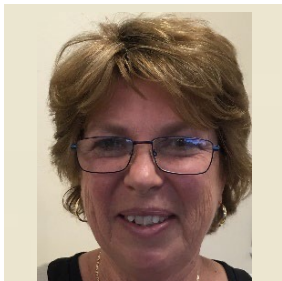
Zoom link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88275062674>

**Facilitated by:**



## **Jacqui Donnelly**

Jacqui Donnelly has over 25 years experience working with children with sensory impairment and additional disabilities. As a Specialist Teacher in Vision Impairment working in a mainstream setting, Jacqui equips teachers with strategies to overcome the challenges in making educational materials both accessible and meaningful to students with vision impairment or blindness.



## **Claire Mahony**

Claire is a Specialist Teacher (Vision Impairment). She works for NextSense and across grades K-12. Claire has come from a mainstream background, teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities as well as some time teaching adults at TAFE. Claire loves the difference that technology is making to her vision impaired students.



## **Jen Tait**

Jen is a Specialist Teacher working in the NextSense School Support Service (Vision) team. Jen has over 20 years experience working with students K-12 who are blind or have low vision. She has a particular interest in transition planning and career education for young adults with vision impairment.



**Did you know...** that Save Sight Institute, with pilot funding from the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, offers a free Patient Care Coordinator service available to anyone in NSW or the ACT with a diagnosed eye condition. The service has links with a wide network of service providers and after talking to you and developing a good understanding of your individual needs, the Care Coordinator will put together a tailored support plan to connect you with services that will help.

To contact the Patient Care Coordinator at Save Sight Institute please call (02) 9382 7300 or see our [website](#) for more information.



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**For more information**

**Faculty of Medicine and Health | Save Sight Institute**

**E** [ssi.events@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ssi.events@sydney.edu.au)

**W** <https://www.sydney.edu.au/save-sight-institute/>



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