

Patient edition



A new wearable device that converts text to speech could help people who are blind or vision-impaired to read again and recognise faces.

The OrCam MyEye¹ is a small, lightweight and inconspicuous device that clips onto regular spectacle frames via magnets. Controlled with simple and intuitive hand gestures, it uses its inbuilt camera to take an image, and then converts any text to speech, allowing the person to hear what is written in front of them.

The device can decipher text from both print and digital surfaces, from any distance, and can read most type sizes, allowing the wearer to have reading vision almost comparable to someone without vision loss.

The device can identify bank notes, detect if people are nearby, and recognise up to 100 pre-programmed faces.

OrCam MyEye is available in two versions from Quantum.

In Australia, patients may be able to access the device through government programs such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Aged Care.

According to the 2016 National Eye Health Survey², more than 453 000 Australians are vision impaired or blind. The leading causes of uncorrectable vision loss in Australia are age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. ORCAM MyEye offers people suffering from these conditions and other types of vision loss the chance to read again and regain some independence.

The device has some limitations and may not suit all patients depending on the type and severity of vision impairment and their level of cognitive function.

1. quantumrlv.com.au/orcam-myeye-text-to-speech-wearable.html

2. vision2020australia.org.au/resources/national-eye-health-survey-report

Brisbane Eye Clinic

Office Hours

8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri

After Hours Eye Emergencies

An Ophthalmologist is on call for urgent cases and can be contacted by your GP, Optometrist or the Hospital.

To access expert professional care, please call the main number 07 3832 1700 (Mon-Sat 8 am – 9 pm).

Dr Erwin Groeneveld

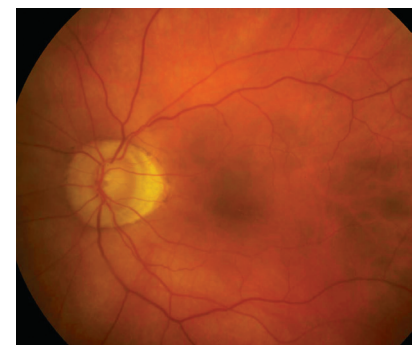
Vitreous and Retina Surgeon with expertise in Age Related Macular Disease, Retinal Vascular Disease, Glaucoma and Cataract Surgery

Dr Fiona Chan

Cataract Surgeon, with a special interest in Medical Retina and Glaucoma

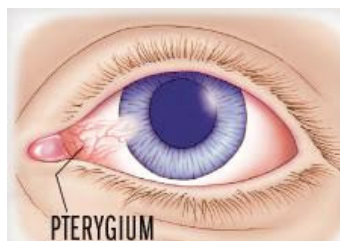
Dr John Ambler

Diseases & Surgery of the Retina, Vitreous & Macula, Glaucoma and Cataract surgery



Avoiding 'Surfer's Eye' (even for non-surfers)

UV rays from sunlight reflected off your nose can damage the white of your eye (the conjunctiva) near the nose. A wedge-shaped growth of pink fleshy tissue on the conjunctiva, although benign or non-cancerous, is a common sign of excessive sun exposure.



Known as a pterygium (pronounced ter-idge-ee-um), the inflamed and irritated tissue can grow slowly or remain stable, although in some instances pterygiums can spread towards the pupil and may require surgery to prevent permanent vision damage.

Pterygiums may also grow on the outer corner of the eye, or on both sides of the eye at the same time. One or both eyes may be affected.

Surgery is usually performed under local anaesthetic. It is recommended to have surgery before the pterygium progresses to the point where it interferes with your vision. Despite a successful surgery, a pterygium may return.

About 1 in every 100 Australians will have pterygiums. You can reduce the risk of developing a pterygium by:

- avoiding dry and dusty environments
- regularly using lubricant eye drops
- protecting your eyes from further sun damage by wearing sunglasses and a hat outdoors
- avoiding long periods in bright sunlight, especially when you are on water, which reflects the sun's harmful UV rays.

If you do notice any changes to any areas in and around the eye, please see your GP or Optometrist for an assessment.



Mobile Eye Examinations¹

Free eye examinations for patients in need

A US not-for-profit organisation has given better sight to over 1 million people in more than 40 developing countries—for free.

Vision Spring² offers communities free eye tests in 'pop-up' exam rooms. The company then pays for the production of the spectacles needed, which are sold at low cost locally.

Many people struggle to support their families simply because they can't afford glasses. Truck drivers with blurry vision strain to see pedestrians. Coffee farmers are unable to spot ripe coffee beans. Children get headaches from squinting. Students who can't see the chalk board are considered poor learners.

A simple eye exam and a pair of prescription glasses can often easily fix these issues.

In just 8 years, Vision Spring, an offshoot of spectacle retailer Warby Parker, has helped over 1 million people.

Warby Parker's³ philanthropic service is facilitated by their remarkable success in the entrepreneurial online marketplace for prescription glasses. Their unique sales platform allows customers to have their vision tested online and to choose frames which are delivered to them so that they can try them on at home before buying.

For each pair of glasses sold, Warby Parker donates a pair through Vision Spring.

This innovative approach meets first-world consumers' needs for convenience, while making a real difference to the daily lives of millions—all with a simple pair of prescription glasses.

1. [nytimes.com/2018/05/05/health/glasses-developing-world-global-health.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/05/health/glasses-developing-world-global-health.html)
2. [visionspring.org/](https://www.visionspring.org/)
3. [warbyparker.com/](https://www.warbyparker.com/)