



MEDIA RELEASE:
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GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA - SUPPORTING WORLD SIGHT DAY

World Sight Day held this year on Thursday, 8 October, is a global awareness-raising day with the ultimate aim to draw attention to eye health and vision care.

Helping Australians to see more clearly is the theme for World Sight Day 2009 and will focus on the need for all Australians to get their eyes tested regularly so that can save their sight as they age.

Stewart Blair, Mobility Services Manager at Guide Dogs Victoria says, "Loss of independent mobility can have a devastating effect on people's sense of freedom and independence."

"Our aim at Guide Dogs Victoria is to train people to maximise use of their remaining vision and other senses to develop safe and independent mobility skills such as pedestrian safety. We do this by use of mobility training, which may include the use of mobility aids such as a white cane or a Guide Dog. The nature and extent of vision loss differs from person to person, so Guide Dogs Victoria works with individuals to find the right mobility solution to meet their needs."

Despite deteriorating vision, Guide Dogs Victoria can assist clients to optimise their remaining vision and use their other senses to compensate as much as possible for the vision loss. Programs aim to help clients to quickly regain their confidence, build their self-esteem and regain some level of independent mobility.

If you, a friend or a family member is vision impaired, you may wish to contact Guide Dogs Victoria on (03) 9854 4444 to discuss the options. All services, including Orientation & Mobility and Guide Dog Mobility, are provided free of charge throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria.

**For more information on Guide Dogs Victoria or to make a donation,
call toll free 1800 804 805 or visit www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au**