

Fact Sheet

Glaucoma New Zealand

Glaucoma New Zealand is a charitable trust formed to save sight by preventing blindness from glaucoma.

Glaucoma is one of the leading health issues affecting New Zealanders.

- Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in New Zealand. Early detection, appropriate diagnosis and the most appropriate treatment can prevent the loss of vision that occurs from this potentially devastating disease.
- Glaucoma affects 2% of the population over the age of 40 years.
- One out of every 10 adults over the age of 70 has glaucoma.
- Although older people are at a higher risk for glaucoma, people of all ages including babies and young adults can get glaucoma.
- Glaucoma is known as the 'silent thief of sight' because it is a disease of the eye that can remain without symptoms for a number of years while visual loss is slowly occurring.
- With proper care less than 2% of patients with glaucoma will go blind.

Glaucoma NZ aims to offer an approachable, informative service to people suffering from glaucoma, their families, and health care professionals involved in glaucoma diagnosis and treatment. We also promote awareness of glaucoma in our community. Services offered by Glaucoma NZ include:

- A glaucoma membership information package.
- Regular public meetings to educate people with glaucoma, to help them understand their eye disease and the best treatment of it.
- "Eyelights": our regular newsletter.
- Fact Sheets: information on specific aspects of the glaucomas.
- Public awareness campaigns to aid early detection of glaucoma.
- www.glaucoma.org.nz

