

## **Glaucoma New Zealand**

Glaucoma NZ is a non-government-funded registered charitable trust established in 2002 to eliminate blindness from glaucoma.

It is the only service in New Zealand specifically for people with glaucoma providing credible and accurate information, support, and education to people living with or caring for someone with glaucoma.

GNZ Membership, information and services are free.

Glaucoma NZ aims to eliminate blindness from glaucoma through:

- Enhancing public awareness about glaucoma
- Supporting and informing people with glaucoma
- Participating in education of health professionals involved in glaucoma care
- Supporting research into glaucoma in NZ

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the name given to a group of eye diseases where the optic nerve at the back of the eye is slowly destroyed. The nerve fibres progressively die, first removing the peripheral (side) vision the peripheral (side) vision first. Visual loss is very slow and often undetected until quite advanced. This eyesight loss cannot be regained.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in New Zealand. It is estimated that over 100,000 New Zealanders currently have glaucoma, with 50% unaware they have it.

If glaucoma is detected early enough, treatment can prevent progression and preserve eyesight.

Although older people are at a higher risk for glaucoma, people of all ages, including babies and young adults, can get glaucoma.

Contact Glaucoma NZ to receive:

- A free glaucoma information package with printed information
- Our regular “Eylights” publication three times a year
- Invitations to free public meetings in your area
- Opportunity to join support groups locally

[info@glaucoma.org.nz](mailto:info@glaucoma.org.nz) or phone 0800 452 826