

# Eye health in Australian Residential Aged Care

## Purpose of the study

- To estimate the burden of eye diseases among older Australians in residential aged care.
- To evaluate utilisation of eye health care within a year of entry into residential aged care.



## Key findings

### The prevalence of eye conditions in residential aged care was high.

- **44%** of residents had at least one eye condition.
- **33%** of residents had at least one chronic eye condition such as glaucoma or cataract.
- Around **5%** of residents were living with blindness.

### Use of eye health services was low in residential aged care.

- **Less than half** of residents with an eye condition, accessed an eye health care service within a year of entry into residential aged care.
- Of the total eye health services used, optometric services (eye assessment/vision services) accounted for almost **90%** of eye health care services used.
- **70%** of residents with an eye condition used at least one eye medication within a year of entry into residential aged care.
- **37%** of residents were dispensed an antibiotic medication to treat eye infections.



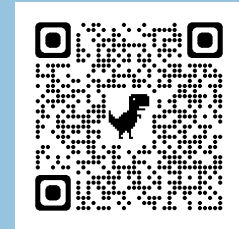
## Who was included

# 409,186

Older people (aged  $\geq 65$  years) who entered permanent residential aged care in Australia between 2008 and 2015.

Data from the Registry of Senior Australians was used for the analysis

Further detail can be found in the paper. Scan the QR code.



Prevalence of Eye Conditions, Utilization of Eye Health Care Services, and Ophthalmic Medications After Entering Residential Aged Care in Australia. Khadka J, Ratcliffe J, Caughey GE, Wesselingh SL, Inacio MC. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2021;10(14):3

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## Key messages

**There was a high prevalence of eye conditions in residential aged care. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive eye assessment upon entry into permanent residential aged care.**

**Access to optometric services is vital for good eye health and the wellbeing of residents.**

