

Our aims

To help students with vision impairment to:

- » participate in learning experiences and opportunities, enabling them to access the curriculum in the medium they require (visual, tactile, auditory).

To help families to:

- » gain increased awareness and understanding of their child's specific vision impairment
- » develop a strong, supportive partnership with the staff in their child's educational setting
- » gain information about schooling options for their child.

To help schools to:

- » access appropriate resources and funding for vision-impaired children
- » advise about explicit teaching strategies and accommodations for these students so they are able to access all curriculum areas
- » support staff with professional development opportunities.

Referrals

Referrals can be made by:

- » Family
- » Your GP/family doctor
- » School/preschool staff
- » Other agencies such as Can:Do4Kids, Guide Dogs SA/NT, Royal Society for the Blind (RSB)
- » Health care providers such as ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrists and opticians.

Contact us

South Australian School for Vision Impaired
Statewide Support Service

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South Australian School for Vision Impaired (SASVI)

Statewide Support Service





The South Australian School for Vision Impaired (SASVI) offers a state-wide support service for students with a vision impairment.

SASVI is part of the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD), which is responsible for the education and care system in South Australia.

We provide free support for children with vision impairment in both government and non-government educational settings (eg, schools, preschools, and children's centres).

SASVI is staffed by qualified and experienced teachers who are trained in teaching students with vision impairment.

All SASVI staff have completed training in Braille Education.

For us to help a child with vision impairment, they must have:

- » a current diagnosed vision impairment
- » a recent ophthalmologist's report
- » visual acuity of 6/18 or less in the better eye after correction (wearing glasses or contact lenses), or a restricted visual field.

Signs that your child may have a vision problem

- » Sitting very close to view TV programs
- » Holding a book very close when reading
- » Sitting very close to computer screens
- » Red or watery eyes
- » Frequent eye rubbing
- » Frequent blinking or squinting
- » Not recognising familiar people from a distance
- » Struggling with ball sports
- » Tilting/turning head or closing one eye when watching TV or reading
- » Difficulty learning to read or concentrating
- » Falling behind at school
- » Complaining about headaches, blurred or double vision.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- » Observation, assessment and monitoring of functional vision
- » Information on specific eye conditions and their educational implications for learning
- » Recommendations to school staff for increased access to curriculum for students
- » Professional training and development for staff, families and others
- » Inclusion in one or two day Short Courses at SASVI specialist school
- » Access to the SASVI playgroup for birth to pre-school age children
- » Resources such as large print books, tactile resources, sloping desks, dark-lined stationery
- » Assistive technology equipment and training
- » Access to Braille and tactile resources if required
- » Support for schools in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for students with vision impairment including:
 - Braille (where appropriate)
 - Orientation and Mobility (O&M)
 - Social Skills (SS)
 - Independent Living Skills (ILS)
 - Assistive Technology (AT)
 - functional vision training
 - self-advocacy
 - recreation & leisure
- » transition to post school options.