

73RD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY – RESUMED
Australia's written statement on Agenda item 11.7

Australia commends the WHO for its enduring work, technical support and guidance to Member States in improving the provision of and access to comprehensive eye care.

In the context of at least one billion people living with preventable or correctable vision impairment, Australia notes with concern the rising global rates of vision impairment and blindness due to ageing populations, environmental issues, and behavioural and lifestyle changes. Without renewed and refocussed action, vision impairment will pose a significantly increased personal burden on individuals, and financial burden on health systems.

Australia was pleased to co-lead, with Indonesia, the development of the resolution on *integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness* adopted earlier this year. The resolution is an important step towards ensuring that eye health is promoted in health systems as part of universal health coverage worldwide. We look forward to continuing to work with the World Health Organization and Member States in taking forward the recommendations in the resolution and the 2019 World Report on Vision.