



Care

Helping dementia-friendly eyecare happen around the world



What is the focus of the research?

Launching a pioneering, dementia-friendly eyecare training course to international optometrists.



Why is this important?

People living with dementia are less likely to access eyecare, putting them at increased risk of preventable eyesight loss.

There are no resources or training opportunities for optometrists to improve their understanding of dementia and give them the clinical confidence to adapt standard testing to accommodate different levels of dementia.

In 2020, Dr Coleman, in consultation with Dementia Advocates, developed an online training course to help

optometrists deliver quality eyecare services to people living with dementia.

Many other countries also lack dementia-friendly eyecare services and education. So, Dr Coleman will present the training course at the Alzheimer's Disease International Conference in Poland.

She will also present her work to the next generation of eyecare professionals at training schools in the United Kingdom.



What will it mean for people with dementia?

- Eyecare services adapted to their specific needs.
- Reduced risk of preventable eyesight loss.
- Tailored advice for looking after their eyes at home.



Who's undertaking the research?

Dr Marianne Coleman, The University of Melbourne

Dr Coleman is a clinical vision research fellow at the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, and the Australian College of Optometry's National Vision Research Institute.

She has been involved in a variety of health services research projects for older adults living with long-term conditions. Her previous research about the ability of people living with dementia to judge distances received an award from the UK Royal Society of Medicine.

The title of Dr Coleman's project is *Helping dementia-friendly eyecare to happen everywhere*.