



ORTHOPTIC AWARENESS WEEK

8-12 MARCH 2010

DIABETES AND YOUR EYES

In Australia, approximately 800,000 people have diabetes. Apart from the systemic complications that diabetes can cause, it can also adversely affect the eyes. Both treated and untreated diabetes can lead to **Diabetic Retinopathy**, a pathological condition of the retina (the back of the eye).

Several Australian studies have found that 35 to 49% of diabetics have Diabetic Retinopathy. However, it is possible that 200,000 people in Australia are affected by Diabetic Retinopathy but not aware of it.

Diabetic Retinopathy **can reduce a person's sight.**

Timely treatment can be effective preventing vision loss or further progression of the disease. It is recommended that all people with diabetes should **have a full eye examination at least every 2 years.**

What is an Orthoptist?

Orthoptists are allied health professionals who specialise in the diagnosis and management of disorders of eye. They are an integral part of the eye health care team and work in a variety setting including specialist eye clinics, public hospitals, low vision agencies and research centers. Some of the common eye conditions orthoptists investigate, monitor and assist treating include: diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract, macular degeneration, and refractive error (need for glasses).

Where can I study Orthoptics?

La Trobe University, MELBOURNE
Bachelor of Health Sciences / Master of Orthoptics (4 Years Full Time)

Master of Orthoptics (Graduate Entry)
(2 Years Full Time)

University of Sydney, SYDNEY
Master of Orthoptics (Graduate Entry)
(2 Years Full Time)