



**Orthoptic
Association of
Australia Inc.**

WHAT DOES AN ORTHOPTIST DO?

Orthoptics: Ortho – Straight
Optics – Eyes

Orthoptist: University trained Allied Health Professional

Orthoptics

Orthoptists are experts in the diagnosis and treatment of Strabismus and Amblyopia.

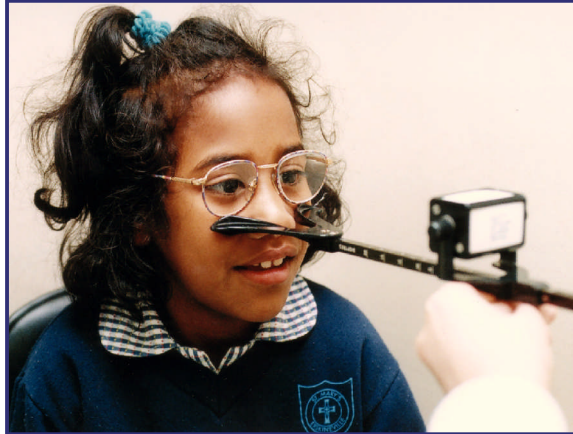
Strabismus (squint or crossed eyes)

- Can occur in children and adults
- May cause severe and permanent vision loss

Amblyopia (lazy eye, a decrease in vision that can occur in the first 8 years of life)

- Usually occurs in one eye but can occur in both eyes
- May cause severe and permanent vision loss

Orthoptists are highly skilled in treating these problems.



Ophthalmic Assisting

Orthoptists work in Ophthalmic (Eye Specialist) Practices performing the following:

- Vision and glasses testing
- Glaucoma assessment – Visual Field testing
Eye Pressure measurements
Imaging the back of the eye
Corneal thickness measurement
- Cataract assessment and measurement
- Assessment of Diabetic Eye Disease
- Assessment of Aged Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
- Assisting with minor surgical procedures
- Assessment and assisting for Eye Laser Surgery



WHERE IS AN ORTHOPTIST?

- Ophthalmic Clinics
- Public Hospitals
- Rehabilitation & Low Vision Clinics
- Private Practices
- Community Health Centres



Rehabilitation

Orthoptists offer assistance with vision impairments in order to enable independence and enhancement of lifestyle by:

- Assessment for visual aids
- Rehabilitation after stroke or head injury
- Techniques to maximise the use of any remaining sight.

QUALIFICATIONS

4 Year Full Time Bachelor degree obtained at either the University of Sydney or Latrobe University Melbourne.



Research

Orthoptists are actively involved in medical eye research nationally and internationally in such projects as:

- Genetic eye diseases
- Determining risk factors and prevalence rates of eye conditions
- Pharmaceutical drug trials

Photos by Melinda Symyuniuk & Angela Chappell