

14 June 2023

Ms Legend Lee  
Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy  
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

By email to: [lee@ranzco.edu](mailto:lee@ranzco.edu)

Dear Ms Lee

**Re: Vision 2030 and beyond Aotearoa New Zealand**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the draft [Vision 2030 and beyond Aotearoa New Zealand](#). We have previously consulted with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists on this plan. The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 7900 members, including more than 5600 qualified psychiatrists, and is guided on policy matters by a range of expert Committees including the Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee.

The RANZCP commends the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists on the draft. The RANZCP agrees that access to eye health care is of critical importance to ensuring the wellbeing of society and [is a fundamental right](#) per the World Health Organisation.

The RANZCP would like to highlight the intrinsic link between [physical and mental health](#). Routine physical health assessment, including vision checks, are best practice when treating people with a mental health condition. The RANZCP recommends that the effects of vision impairment on mental health is emphasised. Mental health is affected by, and affects, our ability to observe and inhabit our community and society at large. [Recent studies](#) show that vision impairment has a profound effect on people's experience of loneliness and the prevalence of depression and anxiety. This is further exacerbated amongst Māori – the RANZCP commends the draft for raising the issues of inequity of current health access.

The RANZCP welcomes further consultation on the [Vision 2030 and beyond Aotearoa New Zealand](#). To discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via [nicola.wright@ranzcp.org](mailto:nicola.wright@ranzcp.org) or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Moore  
**President**

Ref: 3983