

OUR DOCTORS



A/Prof Michael Lawless

MBBS FRANZCO FRACS

Given his long-standing interest in refractive surgery, A/Prof Lawless has decided to focus his time on his refractive practices at Vision Eye Institute's Bondi Junction, Chatswood and Hurstville clinics. In part, this decision was made to meet the demand from patients who wish to have A/Prof Lawless perform their refractive surgery. Additionally, A/Prof Lawless wanted to create more time for his involvement in and commitment to the advancement of laser eye surgery – specifically SMILE – through research, teaching and as a guest lecturer both nationally and internationally.

Due to focusing his time on his laser clinics, A/Prof Lawless no longer accepts referrals for cataract consultations.

A/Prof Michael Lawless is one of Australia's most experienced eye surgeons, having performed more than 30,000 surgical procedures. He was the first surgeon to perform first-generation LASIK in Sydney in 1995 and the first Australian surgeon to perform laser cataract surgery with a femtosecond laser in 2011. In early 2022, A/Prof Lawless was the first ophthalmologist in Australia and New Zealand to perform SMILE® Pro and one of the first in the world to perform LASIK using the Zeiss VisuMax 800 laser system.

A/Prof Lawless is a Clinical Associate Professor at Sydney Medical School (University of Sydney) and is recognised throughout the world as an authority on laser eye surgery. He is frequently invited to present at major international conferences.

A/Prof Lawless' refractive expertise encompasses LASIK, ASLA/PRK and SMILE®.

BACKGROUND

A/Prof Lawless graduated from the University of Sydney with his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. After completing his residency at the Royal Newcastle Hospital, he served as a Surgeon-Lieutenant with the Royal Australian Navy. He then commenced specialist ophthalmology training at the Sydney Eye Hospital. This was followed by two years of sub-speciality education through a fellowship in corneal surgery at Flinders University in South Australia, and a second fellowship in corneal and refractive surgery at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York.

A/Prof Lawless has held multiple clinical appointments. Following the completion of his sub-speciality training, he went on to hold long-term positions as Ophthalmic Visiting Medical Officer at the Royal North Shore Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Sydney. He was also the former Head of Ophthalmology at the Northern Sydney Area Health Service and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He is currently a Consultant Ophthalmologist for the Australian Defence Force.

A/Prof Lawless has held senior leadership roles in several prestigious clinical teaching institutions. During his earlier years of teaching, he was the Director of Ophthalmology at the Northern Clinical School and Clinical Senior Lecturer at Sydney Medical School. He was also the Director of the Cataract and Refractive Surgery Degree at the Sydney Medical School from 2011 to 2021, and continues his role at Sydney Medical School as Clinical Associate Professor. Prof Lawless's passion for teaching extends to community outreach programs, where he has been involved in the development of ophthalmology teaching programs with the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India and similar programs in China and Vietnam.

A/Prof Lawless has a strong track record of clinical research in corneal, refractive and cataract surgery. He has served as principal investigator in many clinical trials, including monofocal and multifocal IOL studies in cataract patients, and conductive keratoplasty and refractive laser surgery trials for patients with hyperopia and myopia. At present, he is involved in clinical trials for intraocular lenses to correct presbyopia.

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He is also involved in research studies looking at the progress of the clinical application of SMILE laser eye surgery, and trifocal and extended range of vision intraocular lenses.

A/Prof Lawless is a notable member of the ophthalmic community. He has more than 110 publications in peer-reviewed journals, written numerous book chapters and is an editorial board member for multiple leading ophthalmology journals. He is the Cataract Section Editor for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology's journal, *Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology*.

In 2014, Prof Lawless published the award-winning book *The Naked Eye*, co-authored with Prof Gerard Sutton. His far-reaching influence in teaching and clinical research has ensured his place in major international ophthalmic meetings, where he is regularly invited as guest lecturer and keynote speaker. From 2009–2013, he was convenor of cataract and surgery programs for the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (FRANZCO)
- Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (FRACS)
- Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, United Kingdom (FRCOphth)
- Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (FAAO)

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Strategic Surgical Portfolio Advisory Council, Alcon (2018–present)
- Director, Australian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (1999–present)
- Medical advisory board, Alcon/LenSx (2011)
- Executive committee member and international steering committee member, International Society of Refractive Surgery/American Academy of Ophthalmology (2003–2006)
- President, International Society of Refractive Surgery (2001)

AWARDS

- President's Award, All Indian Ophthalmology Society, Kolkata (2016)
- Independent Publishers Award for *The Naked Eye*, co-written with Professor Gerard Sutton (2014)

- Senior Achievement Award (for services to education in ophthalmic surgery), American Academy of Ophthalmology (2012)
- Founders Award, International Society of Refractive Surgery (2005)
- Honour Achievement Award (for services to education in ophthalmic surgery), American Academy of Ophthalmology (1999)
- Cedric Cohen medal for first place in the RANZCO ophthalmology entrance examination (1982)

LOCATIONS

VISION EYE INSTITUTE CHATSWOOD

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VISION EYE INSTITUTE HURSTVILLE

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