

# OUR DOCTORS



## Dr Christolyn Raj

MBBS(HONS) MMED MPH&TM FRANZCO INT.FAAO

**Dr Christolyn Raj (she/her) is a Melbourne-trained ophthalmologist. One of her subspecialty areas is refractive cataract and laser-assisted cataract surgery; she worked closely with those who pioneered this technique in Australia during her post-fellowship years. Dr Raj continues to be actively involved in research in optimising cataract surgical care, education and co-management, recently developing a patient-specific app about the cataract surgery journey (the app is available at [eyewise.net](http://eyewise.net)).**

Dr Raj is passionate about educating and empowering the community. She is a producer of the community radio show, *Your Health Matters*, on station 94.1FM 3WBC, which reaches a wide audience with important public health messages. Dr Raj has also featured on *A Current Affair* to promote the need for diligence in monitoring chronic eye disease. As a member of the RANZCO Public Health Committee, she regularly liaises with key stakeholders, policy makers and the media to advocate for crucial aspects of managing macular and diabetic eye disease.

Dr Raj continues her philanthropic work with Vision Australia, a not-for-profit organisation devoted to caring for vision-impaired individuals. She is an active member of Achilles Australia as a fully trained sighted guide and is frequently involved in community programs that educate the community on good eye health sponsored by Sight for All. Dr Raj has also been an avid supporter of mental health campaigns including AMA Peer Support and Laps for Life.

Her philanthropic work in the area of indigenous eye health is remarkable. Having worked in indigenous communities during her medical training through the John Flynn Scholarship Program, she empowers her teams to be both culturally aware and receptive.

Dr Raj's early research with investigators at the Save Sight Institute in New South Wales looked at pathological processes of drusen that led to the irreversible sequelae in age-related macular degeneration. This research contributed to the understanding of this disease process and has been instrumental in determining how the disease is managed today. Today, she dedicates much of her clinical research to investigating the pathological processes behind other retinal diseases, in particular diabetic retinopathy and retinal vein occlusion.

Dr Raj has co-authored a chapter on diabetic retinopathy in a renowned medical textbook – *Textbook of Vascular Disease*, Elsevier Press. She has pioneered clinical trials investigating outcomes of patients presenting with cataract and diabetic retinopathy, which have been presented at RANZCO and European ophthalmology conferences.

Dr Raj's research also focuses on optimising outcomes from cataract surgery, and she has recently published in several peer-reviewed ophthalmic journals on this topic. Her research team developed Eyewise, an app being used nationally to help patients better understand their journey through cataract surgery.

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Victoria
- RANZCO Clinical Term Supervisor and RANZCO Examiner
- Convener, RANZCO ophthalmology seminar for pre-RACE candidates
- Clinical Examiner, University of Melbourne Medical School, Victoria
- Examiner, Ocular Therapeutics Course, Australian College of Optometry
- Mentor, Medical School Mentorship Program, University of Melbourne, Victoria
- Mentor, Women's College Alumni Mentorship Program, University of Sydney, New South Wales



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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reviewer for ophthalmology publications in *Case Reports in Ophthalmology*, *Australian Journal of General Practice* and *Clinical and Experimental Optometry*
- Keynote speaker at national and international ophthalmic conferences including RANZCO, Melbourne Ophthalmic Alumni, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Specsavers National Seminar Series, SOE European Ophthalmology Congress, Victorian College of Optometry Seminar Series and the Orthoptics Australia Conference
- Author for the ophthalmic magazine, *Mivision*
- Author for Australian Medical Association Intern Diary
- Producer/co-host of community radio show *Your Health Matters* on 94.1FM 3WBC
- RANZCO Public Health Committee Member
- Australian Vision Foundation Fundraising Committee Member
- Past President, Indigenous and Public Health Office, Doctors in Training, Australian Medical Association
- Past Victorian Ambassador for Doctors in Training, Australian Medical Association

## AWARDS

- European Society of Ophthalmology Best Clinical Poster Presentation (2025)
- Convener's Award for Excellence, RANZCO Ophthalmology Seminar (2016)
- Certificate of Excellence in Teaching: Lecturer (Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences), University of Melbourne Clinical School (2014)
- Best Clinical Poster, American Ophthalmology Association (2010)
- Perth Eye Foundation Bursary, Invited Speaker, RANZCO branch meeting (2007)
- JJ Hunter Bursary for research in ophthalmology, Australian Medical Association (2005)
- Rotary International Scholarship – cataract and refractive surgery, India (2005)
- John Flynn Scholarship (2002–2006)

## LOCATIONS

### VISION EYE INSTITUTE

Consults at the following Vision Eye Institute clinics:



### BLACKBURN SOUTH CLINIC

156 Canterbury Rd, Blackburn South VIC 3130

**T:** (03) 9877 6288 **F:** (03) 9894 2691



### CAMBERWELL CLINIC

27 Denmark Hill Rd, Hawthorn East VIC 3123

**T:** (03) 9882 1347 **F:** (03) 9882 3312



### COBURG CLINIC

97 Bell St, Coburg VIC 3058

**T:** (03) 9354 8611 **F:** (03) 9354 9136

### VISION HOSPITAL GROUP

Operates at the following Vision Hospital Group facilities:

### CAMBERWELL DAY SURGERY

27 Denmark Hill Rd, Hawthorn East VIC 3123

**T:** (03) 9882 1347 **F:** (03) 9882 3312



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