

OUR DOCTORS

Dr Christolyn Raj

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



Dr Christolyn Raj (she/her) is a locally trained ophthalmologist with special interests in retinal medicine and cataracts, including laser-assisted cataract surgery. Her other subspecialty areas include paediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus, allowing Dr Raj to run Vision Eye Institute Camberwell's first dedicated paediatric clinic.

Dr Raj has significant expertise in laser-assisted cataract surgery, having closely worked with those who pioneered this technique in Australia during her post-fellowship years. She is also highly experienced in the treatment of retinal disease including age-related maculopathy, diabetic retinopathy and retinal vein occlusion in a wide range of demographics. A key figure in retinal medicine, Dr Raj has recently established an intravitreal injection clinic at Vision Eye Institute Blackburn South.

Her work at The Royal Children's Hospital has inspired her to also set up a paediatric clinic, wherein her subspecialty areas include amblyopia, myopia progression and strabismus surgery.

Dr Raj has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her ophthalmology research and teaching. These include co-authorship of a chapter on diabetes in the *Textbook of Vascular Medicine* (Springer Press) and being a regular feature author for the ophthalmic magazine *mivision*.

BACKGROUND

Dr Raj received her Bachelor of Optometry from the University of Melbourne and worked as an optometrist for many years. She then went on to complete a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery with Honours from the University of Sydney and a Masters of Tropical Medicine and Public Health. Upon her return to Melbourne, she was accepted into the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) specialty training and completed her fellowship at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

As an active clinical researcher in the area of retinal disease, Dr Raj dedicates much of her time to focusing on diabetes and its impact on the vision of younger individuals, as well as managing retinal disease, including macular

disease and retinal vein occlusion, in the context of cataract surgery. Much of her clinical work also focuses on aspects of co-management with her optometric colleagues.

Dr Raj holds a consultant position at The Royal Children's Hospital where she runs a paediatric clinic and surgery. Alongside her physician colleagues, she has helped set up a branch of The Teddy Bear Hospital – The Teddy Bear Eye Hospital, as part of the annual Good Friday Appeal. The Teddy Bear Eye Hospital is a simulated hospital for children, which helps to motivate their interest in eye health while removing the stigma associated with visits to the ophthalmologist.

As an established academic, Dr Raj currently holds an Honorary Senior Lecturer position at the University of Melbourne in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science. She is also a current RANZCO Examiner, Clinical Supervisor and mentor, as well as an examiner for the Australian College of Optometry Ocular Therapeutics Course.

Dr Raj is passionate about educating and empowering the community on health issues. Throughout her medical career, she has been involved with various not-for-profit teams striving to raise community awareness on topical issues such as climate change and delivering outreach services to indigenous communities.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Consultant Ophthalmologist, The Royal Children's Hospital, Victoria
- Visiting Medical Officer, The Epworth Freemasons Hospital, Melbourne
- American Ophthalmology Association (International Fellow)



- Keynote Speaker at the Melbourne Ophthalmic Alumni, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Victorian College of Optometry Seminar Series, Orthoptics Australia Conference and several national ophthalmic and optometric conferences
- The University of Melbourne Medicine/Dentistry/Health Science Alumni Mentor
- Helped develop The Royal Children's Hospital Teddy Bear Eye Hospital
- Author for the ophthalmic magazine, *mivision*
- President, Indigenous and Public Health Office, Doctors in Training, Australian Medical Association (AMA DIT)
- Victorian Ambassador for Doctors in Training, Australian Medical Association

AWARDS

- Convener's Award for Excellence, RANZCO Paediatric Ophthalmology Seminar
- Best clinical research poster, American Ophthalmology Association
- Perth Eye Foundation Bursary, Guest Speaker, RANZCO branch meeting
- JJ Hunter Bursary for research in ophthalmology, Australian Medical Association
- Rotary International Scholarship
- John Flynn Scholarship

TEACHING

- Honorary Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne Medical School
- RANZCO Clinical Term Supervisor
- RANZCO Examiner
- Examiner, Ocular Therapeutics Course, Australian College of Optometry (ACO)
- Reviewer for *Case Reports in Ophthalmology*, *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* and *Australian Journal of General Practice*

LOCATIONS

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156 Canterbury Rd, Blackburn South VIC 3130

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VISION EYE INSTITUTE CAMBERWELL

27 Denmark Hill Rd, Hawthorn East VIC 3123

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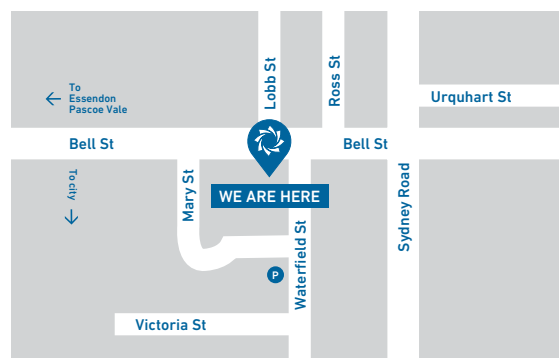


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