

**TO ASSIST BLIND & VISION IMPAIRED
PEOPLE OF QUEENSLAND**



**QUEENSLAND
SUPPORT GROUPS**

Large Print

Prepared and Distributed by
QUEENSLAND BLIND ASSOCIATION INC.

**26 Warwick Street, Annerley Qld 4103
PO Box 444, Annerley Qld 4103**

Telephone:	(07) 3848 8888
Free call: Regional Areas	1800 753 253
Fax:	(07) 3848 6989
Email:	qba@qba.asn.au
Website:	www.qba.asn.au

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Queensland Blind Association Inc.

The Queensland Blind Association Inc. has provided practical support for Blind and Vision Impaired people of Queensland for over 70 years.

The Association of approximately 800 members, which receives no direct Government support, aims to help Blind and Vision Impaired people to lead independent and fruitful lives.

Vital services, which are provided by the Association to its members, may include the following:-

- Information and referral service.
- The first White Cane or 'Vision Impaired' or 'Blind Badge' is given free to all new members from February 2011.
- A 50% discount on one white cane is available to each Member per year.
- Financial assistance towards rates, electricity, house repayments, rental assistance, white & brown goods and home maintenance.
- Tea & Coffee vouchers for our senior retired folk.
- Low vision products on sale from our Resource Department to the public. Discounts apply to membership.
- Reading service by appointment.
- Access to QBA Computer User Group.
- Audio, large print or email Newsletters.
- Publications available in normal print, large print & on our website
 - Catalogue of Low Vision and Talking Products
 - Concessions Booklet
 - Directory of Agencies to Assist Blind & Vision Impaired People
 - Directory of Queensland Support Groups
 - Directory of Suppliers of Adaptive Technology
 - Directory of Suppliers for Building Modifications
 - Directory of Bursaries, Scholarships, Grants & Funding Information

You do not have to be a member to access some of our services.

Any queries can be directed to this office by telephoning: **3848 8888**.

The information in this booklet is an alpha listing of Support Groups, which provide services and support for Blind and Vision Impaired people in Queensland.

Against each agency is a basic and brief description of the services they provide. This publication has been compiled by the Queensland Blind Association Inc. to assist Blind and Vision Impaired people either in a professional or personal capacity.

WHITE CANES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO LEGALLY BLIND PERSONS

The Queensland Blind Association Inc sells White Canes to Legally Blind Persons only. If you are not a member, proof of legal blindness must be presented (e.g. your DSP Blind or Aged Blind Concession Card) to purchase a White Cane. Canes are sold only as a “Symbol of Blindness”.

Incorrect use may be a danger to the user, pedestrians and all road users. We highly recommend that persons receive measurement and training from professional trainers, as correct length and style are a must.

Disclaimer

Queensland Blind Association Inc. has attempted to ensure the information in this booklet is accurate. However, we do not warrant that the information is accurate or complete nor will we be liable for any loss suffered by any person because they rely in any way on it. We do not endorse and are not responsible for the views, products or services offered or provided by other agencies in this booklet.



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BRISBANE

ALBANY CREEK AVEO LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Aveo Retirement Village, 61 Explorer Drive,
Albany Creek Qld 4035
Meets: 4TH Friday of each month
Time: 2.00pm
Contact: Joan Telephone: 3325 4348

BALD HILLS LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre
730 Gympie Road, Lawnton Qld 4501
The Betty Blake Building
Meets: 1st Friday of each month
Time: 9.30am to 12 noon
Contact: Michael & Maureen Telephone: 0412 876 915

BAYSIDE LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Donald Simpson Over 50's Leisure Centre,
172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland Qld 4163
Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
Time: 10.00am to 12 noon
Contact: Iris Telephone: 0421 271 989

BRIDGEMAN DOWNS SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Bridgeman Downs Retirement Village,
42 Ridley Road Bridgeman Downs Qld 4035
Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month in Private Dining Room
Time: 2.00pm
Contacts: Andrew Telephone: 3263 6157

CITY LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Catholic Centre, Lower Ground Floor,
143 Edward Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Meets: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 10.00am –12 noon
Contact: Maureen Telephone: 3266 3452

NUNDAH LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Nundah Historical Society Rooms
(Rear of Nundah Library), 1 Bage Street, Nundah Qld 4012
Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
Time: 9.30am – 12 noon
Contact: Maureen Telephone: 3266 3452

RETINA AUSTRALIA (QLD) INC.

Venue: Brisbane City Council Library, Raddiccliffe Place,
Queen Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Meets: Monthly
Contact: Anne Housego (Secretary) Telephone: 3003 0065

SOUTHSIDE BLIND & LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Library Meeting Room, Garden City Shopping Centre,
Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122
Meets: 4th Tuesday of each month
Time: 9.30am to 12 noon
Contact: Peter Telephone: 3345 7421

WESTERN SUBURBS SUPPORT GROUP

Contact: Heather Telephone: 3374 3371

WHEELER LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Wheeler on the Park
960 Gympie Road, Chermside Qld 4032
Meets: 2nd Wednesday of every second month
Time: 2.00pm
Contact: Brian Telephone: 3350 2862

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

ABLE AUSTRALIA

Venue: Cnr High & Smith Streets, Southport Qld 4215
Meets: Every Monday & Friday
Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm
Meets: Every Tuesday - Computer Group
Time: 10.00am – 12 noon
Contact: Chris Telephone: 0427 157 978
5571 0344

AUDIO BOOKS AVAILABLE TO ALL CLUB (BATA)

Venue: Southport Library,
Cnr Garden & Lawson Sts, Southport Qld 4215
Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month
Time: 10.00am – 11.30am
Contact: Velma Telephone: 5564 1080

BEAUDESERT REGION VISION IMPAIRED PERSONS SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Blue Care Building, Duckett Street, Beaudesert Qld 4285
Meets: 2nd Monday of each month
Time: 10.00am
Contact: Marg & Roy Telephone: 5541 2562
0439 412 562

BEENLEIGH SUPPORT GROUP

Contact: Julie Tindall Telephone: 3287 1261

BRIBIE ISLAND SUPPORT GROUP FOR VISION IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Venue: Congeau House, Banya Street, Bongaree Qld 4507
Meets: 3rd Friday of each month
Time: 9.00am – 11.30am
Contact: Fred & Dorothy Telephone: 3410 0319

BUDERIM VISION IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Lindsay Gardens Retirement Village, 35 Lindsay Avenue
Buderim Qld 4556
Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month
Time: 10.00am – 12 noon
Contact: Chris Telephone: 0400 600 109

CABOOLTURE LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Shire Offices
Morayfield Rd, Caboolture Qld 4510
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month
Time: 9.30am
Contact: Maggie Telephone: 3385 9846

GOLD COAST – BLIND & VISION IMPAIRED ASSOCIATION

Venue: B.A.V.I.A. House, Kalimna Drive, Broadbeach Qld 4218
Meets: Every Wednesday of each month
Time: 9.30am
Contact: Bernard Edwards Telephone: 5576 7029
Email: bedwards@virginbroadband.com.au

IPSWICH VISION IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Ipswich Community Health Plaza
Bell Street, Ipswich Qld 4305
Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month
Time: 9.30am- 12.30pm
Contact: Les Telephone: 3202 3966
Val Telephone: 3288 2689

LOGAN DISTRICT VISION IMPAIRED GROUP

Venue: RSL Sub Branch, 42 - 44 Railway Parade,
Logan Central, Qld 4114
Meets: 1st Thursday of each month
Time: 9.00am – 12 noon
Contact: Jim Telephone: 3388 3302

REDCLIFFE BLIND & VISION IMPAIRED GROUP

Venue: Redcliffe Senior Citizens Hall (next to Fire Station)
401 Oxley Avenue, Redcliffe Qld 4020
Meets: 2nd Thursday of each month
Time: 9.30am – 11.30am
Contact: Dorothy Telephone: 3203 7831

SOUTHSIDE/PALM BEACH VIP SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Share & Care Hall, 10th Avenue, Palm Beach Qld 4221
Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
Time: 9.00am – 11.30am
Contact: Jean Shaw Telephone: 5535 7022
Gordon King Telephone: 5598 4116

SUNSHINE COAST VIP SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Kawana Bowls n' Recreation Inc,
476 Nicklin Way, Wurtulla Qld 4575
Meets: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm
Contact: Cherryl Telephone: 5479 0427

TEWANTIN VISION IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Community Centre 2, Lagoon Retirement Estate
13 Lake Weyba Street, Noosaville, Qld 4566
Meet: 2nd Wednesday of each month
Time: 10.00am
Contact: Joyce Telephone: 5474 0994

DARLING DOWNS

BLIND CITIZENS AUSTRALIA

Venue: Dr Price Rooms
Little Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350
Meets: 2nd Thursday of each month
Time: 10.00am
Contact: Joyce Telephone: 4632 6019

CLIFTON VISION IMPAIRMENT AWARENESS GROUP

Venue: Senior Citizens Hall, Clifton Qld 4361
Meets: 1st Monday of each month
Time: 10.00am – 12 noon
Contact: Gail Hungerford Telephone: 4697 3480

DOWNS ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Venue: H.E.L.P. Centre, "Laurel Brae Hall", Hill St,
Toowoomba Qld 4350
Meets: Every Wednesday of each month
Time: 9.30am – 11.30am
Contact: John Telephone: 4635 0536

TOOWOOMBA: BOOK LOVERS OF OLDER MENTALITY (BLOOM)

Venue: Toowoomba City Library, Victoria Street,
Toowoomba Qld 4350
Meets: 1st Thursday of each month
Time: 10.00am – 11.00am
Contact: Library staff Telephone: 4688 6670

TOOWOOMBA LOW VISION FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Venue: St Luke's Parish Centre
Cnr Herries and Ruthven Streets, Toowoomba Qld 4350
Meets: 1st Friday of each month
Time: 9.00am – 11.00am
Contact: GDQ Toowoomba Telephone: 4632 6944

WARWICK VIP. AWARENESS GROUP

Venue: Condamine Sports Club
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month
Time: 12.00pm – 3.30pm
Contact: Frank Telephone: 4661 8624

WIDE BAY / BURNETT

BUNDABERG DISTRICT BLIND & VIP FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Venue: Family Centre, Showgrounds, Burrum Street,
Bundaberg Qld 4670
Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month
Time: 9.00am – 2.30pm
Contact: Graeme Raines Telephone: 4151 6939
Shelly Alexander Telephone: 4152 6144

HERVEY BAY BLIND SOCIAL CLUB

Venue: Torbay Retirement Village, Exeter Street, Torquay Qld 4655
Meets: 2nd Friday of each month
Time: 9.30am – 11.00am
Contact: Vi Telephone: 4128 2492

SOUTH BURNETT VISION IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Kingaroy RSL, Corner Markwell & Sport Streets,
Kingaroy Qld 4610
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Jenny & Ken Telephone: 4163 1262
Email: jnk33@bigpond.net.au

FITZROY

BOYNE ISLAND LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Castle Tower Boyne Island Library
Wyndham Avenue, Boyne Island Qld 4680
Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month
Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Contact: Vivienne Telephone: 4973 8113
Cecily Telephone: 4973 7445

ROCKHAMPTON & DISTRICT BLIND CLUB

Venue: Eventide Home, Cnr North & Campbell Street,
Rockhampton Qld 4701

Meets: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month

Time: 9.00am – 11.00am

Contact: Jim Telephone: 4926 4738

Kevin & Muffy Telephone: 4928 2765

OR

Venue: St. Josephs Church Hall, Main & Haynes Streets,
Park Avenue, Rockhampton Qld 4701

Meets: 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday of each month

Time: 9.00am – 11.00am

Contact: Jim Telephone: 4926 4738

Kevin & Muffy Telephone: 4928 2765

ROCKHAMPTON LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Various venues

Meets: Last Tuesday of each month

Time: 9.00am – 12 noon

Contact: Kath Telephone: 4926 2801

MACKAY

MACKAY LIONS LOW VISION ACTIVITY GROUP

Venue: Masonic Hall, Wood Street,
Mackay Qld 4740

Meets: 2nd Thursday of each month

Time: 9.00am – 11.30am

Contact: Rebecca Chamberlain Telephone: 04 5111 7232

NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

TOWNSVILLE LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Oonoonba Hall, 2 Shannon St, Oonoonba Qld 4811

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 9.30am

Contact: Tony & Annette Telephone: 4729 0534

**TOWNSVILLE – N.Q. ASSOCIATION
FOR BLIND CITIZENS INC.**

Venue: 41 Armstrong Street, Hermit Park Qld 4812
Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays & 1st Sunday of each month
February through to November
Time: 10.00am – 12 noon Tuesdays
5.00pm – 7.00pm Sundays for BBQ's
Contact: Joan Telephone: 4772 2430

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

CAIRNS VISION IMPAIRED MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: Level 2, Main Street Arcade.
82 Grafton Street, Cairns Qld 4870
Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month
Time: 9.30am
Contact: Chire Telephone: 4041 3259

INNISFAIL VIP SUPPORT GROUP

Venue: DSQ Office, Shop 3, 180 Edith Street, Innisfail Qld 4860
Meets: 4th Tuesday of each month
Time: 10.00am
Contact: Rosa Telephone: 4061 8112

MARLIN COAST BLIND & V I GROUP (CAIRNS)

Venue: Suite 7, Level 2 Mainstreet Arcade,
82 Grafton Street, Cairns Qld 4870
Meets: 2nd Monday of each month
Contact: Wendy Telephone: 4056 2258
Mobile: 0407 353 858

SUPPORT GROUPS VIA EMAIL AND TELEPHONE

ALBINISM FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIA INC

Contact: Helene Johanson
Email: albinismqld@albinismaustralia.org
Website: <http://www.albinismaustralia.org/>

COLOUR BLIND AWARENESS & SUPPORT GROUP

Email: colourblind@optusnet.com.au
Website: www.members.optusnet.com.au/~doverton

THE VIP ONLINE SOCIETY

Email: dawson_ko@hotmail.com
Website: www.theviponlinesociety.org

TOOWOOMBA – TELELINK (Rural and isolated situations)

Venue: Meetings are conducted by telephone
Meets: Last Wednesday of each month
Time: 1.00pm
Contact: Guide Dogs Queensland Toowoomba
Meg Telephone: 4632 6944

VISION IMPAIRED PARENTS SUPPORT NETWORK QLD

Venue: Meetings are conducted by telephone
Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month
Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm
Contact: Lisa-Maree Mobile: 0403 272 865
Email: vipsnqld@hotmail.com