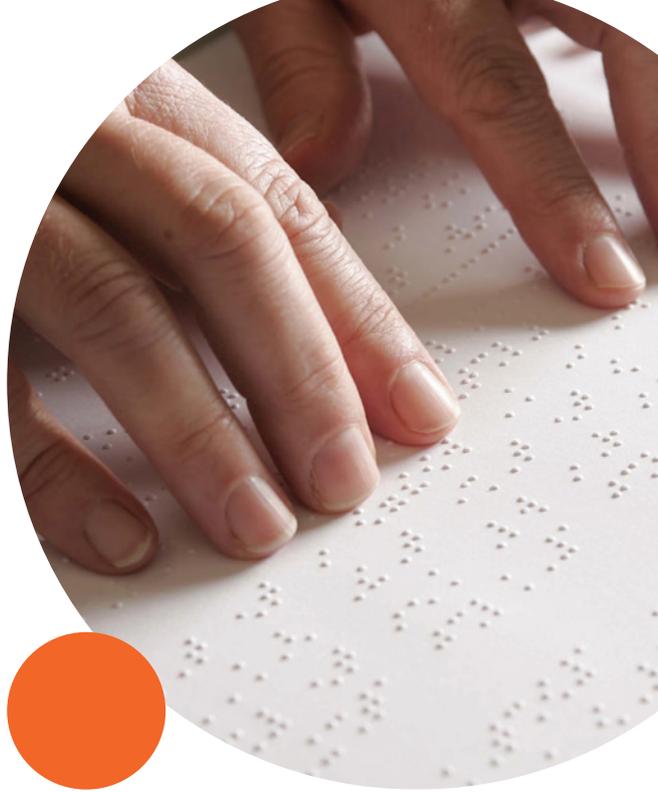




# Our Vision, Your Impact

To tatou Matakite,  
To Paanga



Join our exclusive membership programme to help ensure more Kiwis who are blind, deafblind or have low vision can live the lives they choose

# Introducing

## ‘Our Vision, Your Impact’

### **Our vision is of a country where sight loss is no barrier**

For more than 130 years, we’ve been here to create opportunities and remove barriers for New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind or have low vision.

Our work began with an Auckland school and residence for children who would have otherwise been shut out of mainstream education.

Today, Blind Low Vision NZ offers a vast range of services to help people with sight loss get around safely, connect with others and pursue careers they love. We advocate for a society where everyone can access good eye health care, and blindness, deafblindness or low vision doesn’t hold anyone back from living lives of their choosing.

But every day, another six New Zealanders turn to us for support – and as our population ages, age-related eye conditions are increasing.

**That’s why I’m inviting you and other very special supporters to join our powerful new membership programme – Our Vision, Your Impact. By stepping up your investment, you can help Blind Low Vision NZ meet the growing need in our communities, and fast-forward our work to build a fairer country for all.**

Thank you for your consideration and your extraordinary support.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mulka'.

**John Mulka**  
Chief Executive  
Blind Low Vision NZ

# Will you help grow our impact – and yours?

Blind Low Vision NZ invites you to join our exclusive supporter membership programme 'Our Vision, Your Impact'. We recognise that you are already a strong and valued supporter and we now invite you to consider committing to an annual donation to make a significant and sustained impact.

Joining with other loyal supporters to make this generous ongoing commitment would help enable us to plan and prepare for the increasing demand we are experiencing for our services, and to be able to fund some key growth areas which will help manage this demand and better serve our clients' needs.

The first is our Youth and Employment support service helping young people transition into good careers by breaking down barriers to recruitment and providing support for ongoing career success.

The second is our Policy and Advocacy work; in recent years, Blind Low Vision NZ has worked with the government and other organisations to get more equality and accessibility for New Zealanders with vision loss. However, there is so much more we could do with security of funding.

Lastly, demand for our services is growing steeply with six more people every day requesting access to rehabilitation, counselling, technology skills, mobility training and more.

Knowing that we have sustained funding would make a huge impact to Blind Low Vision NZ clients. In return, as a member of 'Our Vision, Your Impact' there are several tiered membership benefits we can offer including progress updates and exclusive invitations (detailed on page 11) to acknowledge your support as a member.



# Youth & Employment

## Make sure everyone has a pathway to careers they love.

Employment and underemployment continue to be an issue for blind and low vision Kiwis – despite the wealth of talent they can bring to our under-resourced job market.

Blind Low Vision NZ has a long history of helping people like Ese into fulfilling jobs, which are in line with their skills and dreams in life.

But we need help to grow our life-changing employment programmes, and inspire more businesses to partner with us on tailored work opportunities.

Your investment will help bring more New Zealanders like Ese the personalised

support they need to break into the job market – from professional mentoring to interview coaching.

You'll be there to help young Kiwis make the leap from study and work, and older Kiwis return to study so they can move up the career ladder or start new careers altogether.

Your generosity means that people like Ese can always dream big about their futures. You'll make sure they have the work opportunities they deserve, and that in every workplace they'll be celebrated, supported and included.



**Your support empowers young people like Imogen to live the life they choose.**



**“Blind Low Vision NZ helped give me stability and the opportunities that have helped set me up for life. It means so much to me. Thank you.”**

**Ese Aumalesulu**

Ese is a talented musician who had his heart set on becoming a music teacher. But after graduating with a music diploma, his job applications were knocked back time and time again.

He remembers: “To be told I have this amazing gift and then to have it crushed by what people thought about my blindness was incredibly disheartening.”

Thankfully, Ese could turn to Blind Low Vision NZ – and kind supporters like you. You helped him apply for jobs, brush up on interview techniques, and find a placement for a dream job in an Auckland primary school.

Ese said: “I was overwhelmed with emotion when I got the job. I was so grateful for the support from Blind Low Vision NZ and for the school to see an opportunity for their kids.”

Your generosity also meant Ese had the technology and support he needed to thrive at work.

Ese is adored by his students – especially the group who he taught to play musical instruments and then took on to win New Zealand’s best-known school band competition!

# Policy & Advocacy

## Knock down barriers – build fairer laws – improve eye health.

We all deserve to be able to travel safely, to find the information we need, and to be part of the communities around us.

That's why Blind Low Vision NZ advocates so that people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision can do all this – and live as fully independent citizens.

We are a powerful advocate to government, drawing on research and people power to drive improvements in areas such as technology, building design, public spaces and transport.

We're also working with partners around the globe to open up learning

opportunities and access to information for people everywhere who are blind or have low vision.

Together, we've made wonderful progress in shaping a more accessible New Zealand and world. But advocacy and policy change is long, complex work – and we have many important battles ahead.

Your extra support is needed to tear down the everyday barriers that continue to hold people back who are blind or have low vision. Together, we can transform social and economic policy and build a society where every Kiwi counts.



## Advocacy wins that supporters like you have been a part of:

- New Zealand became one of the first countries to include access requirements in disability law in 1975.
- The rights for people with disabilities were enshrined in five pieces of New Zealand legislation between 1990 and 2008.
- In 2019, the Copyright Amendment Bill was passed to give equal access to information and publications for people who are print disabled.
- Campaigned for accessibility legislation from 2015-2022, resulting in the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill introduction in 2022.

## Together we can break down barriers to access.

“I encounter access barriers whenever I am out and about with my white cane, especially when I am alone. I am grabbed, pulled, shouted at, patted, questioned, ‘helped’ without asking, and harassed by the public.

“Every time the environment I’m in makes me visibly struggle - in the eyes of others - it reinforces the idea that disabled people always require help and ‘saving’.

“Every time a disabled person encounters a barrier that causes them to stay at home, it makes seeing people with disabilities – going about their daily lives – an even rarer sight.

“I want the NZ government to remove the barriers - physical, financial and social - to disabled people’s access to public spaces, activities and general life.” – Susan, #AccessDeniedDiaries



# Client Services

## Support Kiwis to live their best lives, every day.

From taking public transport to paying bills, daily living can be hard, stressful and even dangerous when you have no or limited sight.

With help from generous supporters like you, we offer tailored solutions to help New Zealanders with vision loss overcome their challenges and live with safety, happiness, freedom and connection.

Our teams pair people with amazing Guide Dogs, and support them to explore the world together. Every day, donations like yours also help New Zealanders adapt their daily routines, make their homes accessible, and move around confidently using white canes.

Your support helps Kiwis who are blind or have low vision to harness life-changing adaptive technology – from their smart phones to the voice activated ‘Alexa’ smart

speaker. You make sure they can still find information at their fingertips, and stay in touch with the world around them.

Blind Low Vision NZ also provides a vast library of accessible books, so no-one is cut off from the joy of stories and imagination.

From one-on-one counselling to financial assistance, we’re here to help people cope with both the practical and emotional difficulties of sight loss.

But the demand for our services is enormous – and growing by the day. By stepping up your investment, you’ll make sure we can keep being there for every Kiwi who turns to us.

You’ll help fund the wonderful solutions that allow people across our country to wake up every day and live the lives they want.

“Normal tasks, like opening a can of food, or going to the grocery shop and lugging stuff home became too hard. For the first time in my life, I felt incapable. I was grieving the loss of my lovely, loving husband as well as my independence.

“Until I found Blind Low Vision NZ, I just thought people went blind and they had to walk around with a white cane. I had no idea there were so many services, tools and wonderful people to support me.

“I’ve now done cycling journeys, marathons, boot camps and wilderness adventures – all thanks to Blind Low Vision NZ. They have been my rock and I can’t thank them enough. I wouldn’t have the health, determination and vision I have today without them.”

June Heatt



**“After my husband died,  
my sight loss hit home  
because I couldn’t move  
around as I used to.”**

**June Heatt**

# How to join 'Our Vision, Your Impact'

To join quickly and securely, just scan the QR code on the bottom of the right hand page or go to our website at [www.blindlowvision.org.nz/yourimpact](http://www.blindlowvision.org.nz/yourimpact). Alternatively, you can join over the phone by calling our Supporter Care Team on **0800 366 283**

To enrol via post please tear off and complete this form and return it to us in the pre-paid envelope enclosed.

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Phone</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>DOB</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Donor ID</b> (if known)	<input type="text"/>

**"Yes** I would like to make a real impact and support blind and low vision Kiwis by joining Our Vision, Your Impact"

**Annual amount \$**

**Pledge:**  Annually for three years  
 Annually for  number of years (my choice)  
 Ongoing

**I would like to support:**  Policy and Advocacy  
 Youth and Employment  
 Client Services

**I wish to make my gift by:** Credit card  
 Visa  MasterCard  Amex  
Card number     -     -     -      
Expiry   -    
Cardholder name   
Cardholder Signature

Automatic payment via online banking  
**Account Name:** Blind Low Vision NZ  
**Account Number:** 02-0192-0028330-09  
Please indicate the date of your payment

For other ways to donate, please call our Supporter Care team on 0800 366 283

**Tear off this form and post it back in the pre-paid envelope or to the following address:**

**Philanthropy team**  
Blind Low Vision NZ  
Private Bag 99910  
Newmarket  
Auckland 1149

**Or scan the form and email to us at [philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz)**

# Membership

## What will your impact be?

You are invited to join 'Our Vision, Your Impact' at the level of giving that is right for you. Below is a list of the three membership tiers and the exclusive benefits of each.

Membership Tier	Benefits
<b>Champion</b> \$1,000 - \$2,500 annual giving	Twice yearly updates about the difference you're making Membership certificate Invitations to special Blind Low Vision supporter functions
<b>Ambassador</b> \$2,500 - \$5,000 annual giving	<b>All of the above, plus:</b> Thank you birthday card Acknowledgement of your support on our website "Roll of Honour" Access to exclusive videos of the work you're supporting
<b>Visionary</b> \$5,000 + annual giving	<b>All of the above, plus:</b> Exclusive club membership gift Behind the scenes tour of Blind Low Vision's work Acknowledgement of your support in our Annual Report

To learn more about the transformative difference you can make by joining this high impact programme, please call our Philanthropy team on **0800 366 283** or email them on **[philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz)**

You can also sign up quickly and securely online, by scanning the QR code.





Your support means the world to New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind or have low vision.

**Thank you**



[blindlowvision.org.nz/yourimpact](https://blindlowvision.org.nz/yourimpact)

0800 366 283

[philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:philanthropy@blindlowvision.org.nz)

PO Box: Private Bag 99910, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

