

Antiscratch lens coatings are not generally available with VES lenses and tints may only be provided with specific clinical indication. Non-spectacle low vision aids and ultra-violet coatings are also not available.

A surcharge of \$17.50 is payable for the replacement of lost or broken glasses or lenses within two years of previous Victorian Eyecare Service subsidy and is limited to one pair of replacement glasses every two years.

Where is the service available?

The 'directory of participating practices, optometrists and ophthalmologists' lists the current practice and location address details of practices and the names of the optometrists and ophthalmologists at each practice location in country Victoria that participates in the Victorian Eyecare Service. A copy of this directory can be requested on the attached application form and will be sent to you when we write to acknowledge your application. See also the VES website www.aco.org.au/images/stories/ves_app_11.pdf.

The participating optometrists listed in the directory are able to examine your eyes and provide glasses in the VES. Alternatively you can have your glasses prescribed by one of a panel of participating country ophthalmologists at their country practice address and then have the glasses dispensed by one of the participating optometrists.

What do I do now?

You need a claim form, or online claim number, to obtain benefits through the Victorian Eyecare Service. To obtain a claim form, fill in the application form attached to this brochure and post it to:

Victorian Eyecare Service
Corner Keppel and Cardigan Streets Carlton 3053
Telephone 1300 303 125 Facsimile 9349 7498

Online applications can be completed at www.ves.org.au and claim numbers are issued immediately for online applications if you are eligible.

Additional application forms may be requested from the VES office or printed from the VES website www.aco.org.au/images/stories/ves_app_11.pdf.

There may be a **waiting time** as demand for the VES support can be high.

From the directory you can choose the VES participating practitioner you wish to see and make your own appointment.

If you have an urgent need for eye care you should discuss your problem with a participating practitioner as soon as possible.

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However, if you wish to obtain VES subsidy for glasses, you may wish to wait until a claim form or online claim number is issued.

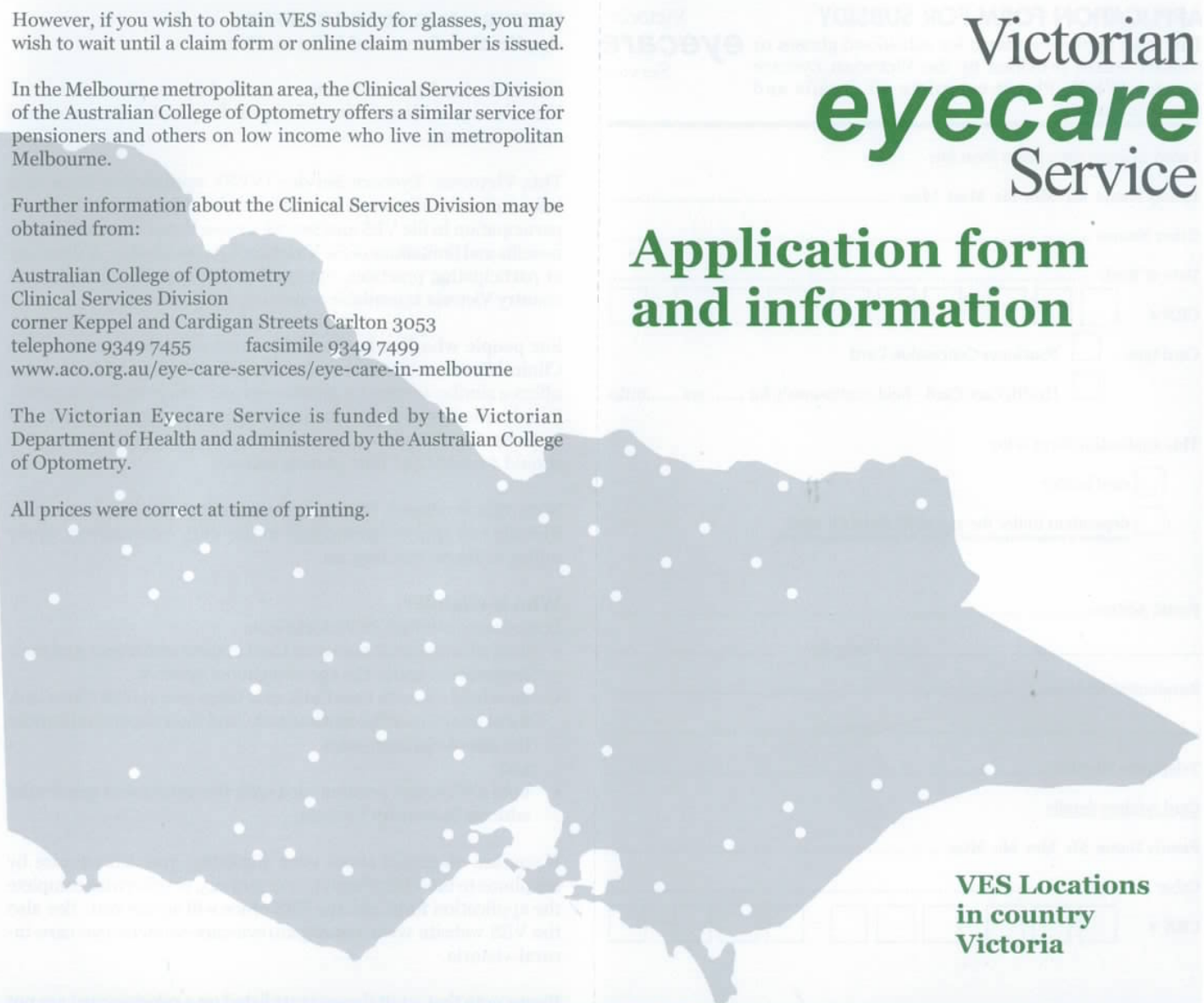
In the Melbourne metropolitan area, the Clinical Services Division of the Australian College of Optometry offers a similar service for pensioners and others on low income who live in metropolitan Melbourne.

Further information about the Clinical Services Division may be obtained from:

Australian College of Optometry
Clinical Services Division
corner Keppel and Cardigan Streets Carlton 3053
telephone 9349 7455 facsimile 9349 7499
www.aco.org.au/eye-care-services/eye-care-in-melbourne

The Victorian Eyecare Service is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and administered by the Australian College of Optometry.

All prices were correct at time of printing.



VES Locations
in country
Victoria

Victorian eyecare Service

Application form and information

Low cost eye care and glasses

for pensioners and others of
limited means who live in
country Victoria

Victorian Eyecare Service
telephone: (03) 1300 303 125
Australian College of Optometry
telephone: (03) 9349 7400
corner Keppel and Cardigan Streets Carlton 3053
facsimile: (03) 9349 7498
ABN 18 004 235 250

APPLICATION FORM FOR SUBSIDY

This is an application form for subsidised glasses or contact lenses provided by the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES). Please complete all details and return to the VES.

Victorian
eyecare
Service

I wish to apply for a claim form for:

Family Name Mr Mrs Ms Mast Miss

Other Names

Date of Birth

CRN # - - -

Card type Pensioner Concession Card
 Health Care Card - held continuously for yrsmths

This application form is for:

- card holder
 dependant under the age of 18 listed on card
complete a separate application form for additional dependants

Postal Address

..... Postcode

Residential Address

..... Postcode

Telephone Number

Card holders details

Family Name Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Other Names

CRN # - - -

Signature of card holder

- please send a copy of VES 'directory of participating practices, optometrists and ophthalmologists'

Post this application form to:

Victorian Eyecare Service
corner Keppel and Cardigan Street
Carlton 3053

VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE Application form and information

The Victorian Eyecare Service is funded by the Government of Victoria to provide eye care at low cost for pensioners and others on low incomes.

This Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) 'application form and information' brochure can be used by country Victorians to apply for participation in the VES and provides some detail about eligibility, benefits and limitations of the Victorian Eyecare Service. A 'directory of participating practices, optometrists and ophthalmologists' in country Victoria is available separately (details below).

For people who live in the Melbourne metropolitan area, the Clinical Services Division of the Australian College of Optometry offers a similar service for pensioners and others on low incomes. People who live in the Melbourne metropolitan area are not able to access the VES through country participating practitioners but should contact the Clinic (details below).

With this brochure, Victorian pensioners who live in country Victoria can apply to participate in the VES. Alternatively, apply online at www.ves.org.au

Who is eligible?

Permanent residents of Victoria who:

- hold a Pensioner Concession Card in their own name, and their dependants under the age of eighteen years or
- have held a Health Care Card, or is listed on a Health Care Card, for at least 6 months continuously, and their dependants under the age of eighteen years and
- hold a Victorian pension card with the permanent residential address in country Victoria.

If you are uncertain about your eligibility, you can enquire by telephone to the VES office on 1300 303 125, or otherwise complete the application form and the VES office will advise you. See also the VES website www.aco.org.au/eye-care-services/eye-care-in-rural-victoria.

Please note that adult dependants listed on a pension card are not eligible for VES.

What are the benefits? What will it cost?

The consultation fee will usually be bulk billed to Medicare if your eyes are examined by a VES participating optometrist. However, if you have had your eyes examined by another optometrist in the last two years the VES optometrist may charge you a consultation fee. A refund of approximately half this fee is available on presentation of a receipted account to Medicare. If you see an ophthalmologist, the

fee for the examination may be bulk billed to Medicare or you may have to pay a fee and Medicare will refund 85% of the schedule fee.

You will be required to pay part of the cost of any glasses and contact lenses supplied through the VES. The participating optometrist will claim the balance of cost from the VES.

If you need glasses, they may be provided for \$42.20 (including GST) for reading and distance glasses, \$56.70 (including GST) for bifocal glasses or \$98.20 (including GST) for progressive glasses. If you re-use your present spectacle frame you will pay \$17.50 towards the cost of reading or distance lenses, \$32.00 for bifocal lenses or \$70.00 for progressive lenses. Your present spectacle frame must be of suitable quality and in very good condition to be used with new lenses. Lenses cannot be fitted to rimless or nylon rim frames in the VES, or to VES standard frames more than two years old.

You will have a choice of a range of attractive, good quality spectacle frames. If you decide to purchase a spectacle frame other than one of the standard frames from your VES practitioner you will pay the full cost (plus the applicable GST) of the frame you choose but the lenses will be provided for \$39.00 for reading and distance, \$53.50 for bifocal and \$95.00 for progressive. VES subsidy for new unused frames purchased elsewhere is generally not available.

Progressive lenses can only be provided through the VES when there is clear clinical indication determined by the practitioner and only a limited and basic range of progressive lens designs is available.

Contact lenses are only available if the prescription meets fixed clinical criteria and your payment will be \$53.50.

Patient payments up to the cost of the patient lens contribution as a deposit may be requested by the VES practice at the time of ordering glasses.

What are the limitations?

VES benefits are only available to eligible patients and participating practitioners must confirm your eligibility.

VES benefits are available only if glasses or a change of glasses is clinically necessary. This clinical need will be determined by the VES participating practitioner.

Only one pair of reading glasses and one pair of distance glasses or one pair of bifocal or one pair of progressive glasses may be subsidised by the VES every two years. Progressive glasses can only be provided when there is clear clinical indication determined by the practitioner and only a limited and basic range of progressive lens designs is available through the VES.

Not all lens types are available through the VES.