



**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT
(For Visually Impaired and Normal Vision)**

**Performance of Vision-Related Everyday Activities under Low Lighting
Conditions**

QUT Ethics Approval Number 2000000626

Research team

Principal	Mr Dinesh Venugopal	PhD student
Researcher:		
Associate	Professor Sharon Bentley	Principal Supervisor
Researchers:	Professor Joanne Wood	Associate Supervisor
	Dr Alexander Black	Associate Supervisor
	Ms Sophie Walker	Master of Optometry
	Student	
	Ms Lauren Kennedy	Master of Optometry
	Student	
	Ms Theresa Xiang	Master of Optometry
	Student	
	Ms Kate McLennan	Master of Optometry
	Student	
	Ms Rhea Kumar	Master of Optometry
	Student	
	Ms Anna Spilsted	Master of Optometry
	Student	

**School of Optometry and Vision Science, Faculty of
Health Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is being undertaken as part of a PhD study for Dinesh Venugopal and as part of a Master of Optometry study.

Many people with eye conditions experience problems with everyday activities, particularly under low light levels. The purpose of this project is to develop a set of tasks to measure performance of vision-related everyday activities under low light levels and to compare performance for those with and without various eye conditions. The research team is inviting people aged 18 years or over who have either normal vision or an eye condition causing visual impairment to participate. In addition, you must be free of walking/mobility/balance impairments, be able

to understand spoken English instructions, have adequate hearing for conversation, and have sound cognitive/mental processing abilities to participate.

The aim of this study is to develop a new vision-related tool to assess how well certain everyday tasks can be performed in low lighting conditions.

What does participation involve?

Your participation will involve one session at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, QUT Kelvin Grove campus that will require approximately 1.5-2.0 hours of your time (including breaks). The session will involve standard vision and eye testing, completing questionnaires and performing a variety of everyday tasks under normal and low light levels in an indoor environment.

Vision testing and clinical procedures will be carried out in standard and low light levels to measure your central and peripheral vision, and check the health of your eyes. All tests and procedures are standard, non-contact and used routinely in optometric practice.

You will be asked to respond to two questionnaires that include questions on difficulty experienced in performing everyday tasks under low light levels, such as, 'Do you have difficulty seeing at night?', 'Because of your vision, do you have difficulty going out to nighttime social events such as sporting events, the theatre, friend's homes, church, or restaurants?' You will be able to review your responses before submitting the questionnaires.

In addition, you will be asked to perform a set of everyday tasks under normal and low light levels in an indoor room. All but a walking task will be performed seated at a desk. Examples of tasks include:

- Recognising faces
- Selecting kitchen items or food packets from a group of such items
- Reading
- Identifying hazards and objects (e.g. pedestrians, road signs) in videos of real-world driving scenes displayed on a computer
- Walking an indoor course that has a step

If you agree, your performance on the everyday tasks will be video-recorded for later analysis by the researchers and five experts in functional vision assessment (low vision professionals), who are not allowed to copy or share any

videos. However, being video recorded is not a requirement of participation in the study.

In addition, a small group of participants may be invited to repeat the set of everyday tasks and have their vision measured after 2-4 weeks. This second session will take less than one hour.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw from participating in any one of specific tasks or the research project during your study participation without comment or penalty. On request, any information already obtained that can be linked to you will be destroyed. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT Optometry Clinic or other organisations involved in this research study.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

This research project will not directly benefit you. However, the information gathered in this study will contribute to our understanding of the effect of low lighting on everyday vision-related tasks. The test developed as part of the study will be useful for developing strategies to prevent injuries under low light levels and evaluating the real-world effects of treatments for various eye diseases.

The research team will provide you with either a taxi voucher or a \$25 gift card to contribute toward any out-of-pocket expenses incurred during your involvement in this research (e.g. travel costs) for each session. You can request a brief summary of the outcomes of the project by providing an email address or postal address on the consent form (attached).

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project. These include some fatigue during the testing procedures and in performing everyday tasks, a minimal risk of tripping while performing the walking task and discomfort in sharing your thoughts about challenging activities performed under low light.

To minimise the risk of fatigue during testing, you will be provided with regular breaks between the tasks and you may request additional rest breaks at any stage. The risks during the walking task performance will be reduced by having various safety precautions in place, including having a researcher accompany

you at all times, initial familiarisation of the walking task using a 'sighted guide' if required (where the person with visual impairment takes the elbow of a guide) and access to side support.

In the unlikely event that a participant becomes anxious about answering the questions, they will be offered additional support through the QUT Counselling Clinic. QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

There are two types of data that will be collected about you. Some data recorded about you e.g. demographic, vision and questionnaire data will be coded. The link connecting your data and identity will be destroyed at the completion of the study. The other type of data, video recording, will be clear enough for someone to identify you.

Video recording is not a requirement of participation. It is possible to participate in the research project without being recorded. If you agree to the video:

- The recording will be destroyed 5 years after the last publication.
- The recording will not be used for any purpose other than for comparison of your everyday task performance.
- Only the named researchers and five low vision professionals involved in the study will have access to the password protected recording.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely, as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

The video data will only be used for rating by the expert observers. Regarding

the other coded study data, every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. Please note that all data from this research project may be used as comparative data in future research projects or stored on an open access database for secondary analysis.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

Dinesh Venugopal	d2.venugopal@hdr.qut.edu.au	07 3138 2478
Sharon Bentley	sharon.bentley@qut.edu.au	07 3138 5738
Joanne Wood	j.wood@qut.edu.au	07 3138 5701
Alexander Black	aa.black@qut.edu.au	07 3138 5704
Sophie Walker	sophie.walker@connect.qut.edu.au	
Lauren Kennedy	lauren.kennedy@connect.qut.edu.au	
Theresa Xiang	theresa.xiang@connect.qut.edu.au	
Kate McLennan	kf.mclennan@connect.qut.edu.au	
Rhea Kumar	rhea.kumar@connect.qut.edu.au	
Anna Spilsted	anna.spilsted@connect.qut.edu.au	

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.