



PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Information for Prospective Participants

Driving into the future: strategies to enhance independence for drivers with Macular Degeneration.

Research team contacts

Principal Researcher:	Professor Joanne Wood, Centre for Vision and Eye Research, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology
Associate Researchers:	Associate Professor Alex Black ¹ Professor Sharon Bentley ¹ Associate Professor Anthony Kwan ^{2,3} Professor Kaarin Anstey ⁴
Research Optometrist:	Ms Emily Henry ¹
Research Assistant:	Dr Laura Bentley ^{1,3} Centre for Vision and Eye Research, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)¹ Queensland Eye Institute, Brisbane² University of Queensland, Brisbane³ University of New South Wales⁴

What is the purpose of the research?

The purpose of this research is to discuss strategies that may assist in enhancing independence for drivers with MD.

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team is inviting people with a diagnosis of Macular degeneration (MD) who drive, or have recently ceased driving, to participate in a focus group discussion.

What will you ask me to do?

Your participation will involve a focus group discussion with up to 5 other participants, taking approximately 1½ hours. The focus groups will be held either in-person at the QUT Kelvin Grove campus or online (via zoom) if you are unable to attend in person. During the focus group, you will be asked to share your experiences regarding driving with MD, and any difficulties that have arisen. You may be asked about your MD treatments, and how these have affected your driving, your experiences with using advanced driver assistance (ADAS) technologies as a driver and your experiences discussing licencing or conditional licensing with health practitioners. Prior to the focus group discussion, you will be asked to complete a 10-minute online questionnaire, which asks questions relating to your demographics (age, gender, etc.), driving characteristics, health and vision.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

The research team has identified the following possible risks in relation to participating in this study. In the questionnaire, you will be asked questions about your health. If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Further, the focus group prompts may prompt recall of recent crash or near-miss events. If you have experienced a crash or near-miss, and you believe that it will be traumatic to recall this incident, the researchers would advise you to carefully consider your participation in the project.

The purpose of the focus group is not to elicit information about occasions where you have not complied with road rules. We ask that you do not talk about any illegal driving behaviour that you or someone else that you know may have engaged in. Your responses will be kept confidential, and all names and other personal details will be removed once the focus groups have been transcribed. You may choose not to answer any question if you feel uncomfortable.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of the research, however, may lead to strategies that can assist in enhancing independence for people with MD, by understanding the impacts of vision loss from MD on driving activities, and informing educational and support materials for both drivers with MD and eyecare/health practitioners on driving safety for people with MD.

Will I be compensated for my time?

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate, the research team is offering \$50 Coles Myer gift card on the completion of your participation in the study, in recognition of your time and any reasonable travel expenses incurred.

Who is funding this research?

The research project is funded by the Macula Disease Foundation Australia; however they will not have access to personally identifying information about you that may be obtained during the research project.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact:

Ms Emily Henry

ek.henry@qut.edu.au

3138 5818

You will be provided with further information to ensure your decision and consent to participate is fully informed

Thank You!

**QUT Ethics Approval Number:
10314**