

Title	Describe the visual system and vision impairment and support services that are specific to people with vision impairment		
Level	3	Credits	5

Purpose	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to, in a health or wellbeing setting, describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the visual system; • refraction and its effects on vision; • the effects of vision impairment on a person; • regional agencies or support services and roles of professionals that are specific to people with vision impairment.
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Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Sensory Support
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

1 Assessment notes

Evidence generated for assessment against this standard must be in accordance with national screening protocols and organisational policies and procedures.

2 Definitions

Blindness refers to when a person cannot see at six metres what someone with normal vision can see at 60 metres. A person is legally blind if their field of vision is less than 20 degrees in diameter. There are varying degrees of blindness and most people who are legally blind have some form of vision.

Health or wellbeing setting includes but is not limited to: the aged care, acute care, community support, disability, mental health, rehabilitation, social services and youth development sectors.

National screening protocols are the protocols detailed in the *National Vision and Hearing Screening Protocols*, and *The B4 School Check – A handbook for practitioners*.

Organisational policies and procedures are the policies, procedures, and methodologies used in an organisation. They include legislative and regulatory requirements which may apply across an organisation, a specific site, or a workplace. Requirements are documented in organisational health and safety plans, contract work programmes, quality assurance programmes, policies, and procedural documents such as job descriptors and employment contracts.

Person is the individual accessing services. Other terms used for the person may include client, consumer, customer, patient, individual, resident, or service user.

Vision impairment refers to a wide range of visual difficulties that can be placed on a continuum that ranges from mild interferences in the visual system to total blindness.

3 Resources

Ministry of Health. *The B4 School Check – A handbook for practitioners*. Wellington (2008).

Ministry of Health. *National Vision and Hearing Screening Protocols* (2014 revision). Wellington (2014).

Ministry of Health. *Well Child/Tamariki Ora Programme Practitioner Handbook: Supporting families and whānau to promote their child's health and development* (2014 revision). Wellington: (2014).

All of the above resources are available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/>.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the visual system.

Performance criteria

1.1 The visual system is described in terms of its basic structure and functions.

Range structure includes but is not limited to – cornea, aqueous, iris, pupil, lens, vitreous, retina, macula, optic nerve, visual cortex, fovea, sclera.

1.2 The end-to-end process of seeing an object is described from object to visual cortex.

1.3 Changes to the visual system are described in terms of an individual's life stage.

Range life stage includes but is not limited to – infancy, childhood, adolescence, adult, older adult.

Outcome 2

Describe refraction and its effects on vision.

Performance criteria

2.1 Refraction is described in terms of the change in light path at the junction of two optical media.

2.2 Errors in refraction are described in terms of their effect on vision.

Range myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism.

2.3 Prescription lenses to correct errors in refraction are described in terms of their effect on a person's vision.

Outcome 3

Describe the effects of vision impairment on a person.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Common vision impairments are described in terms of their effect on vision.
- Range vision impairments must include but are not limited to – hyperopia, myopia, astigmatism, colour sensitivity, amblyopia.
- 3.2 The difference between blindness and vision impairment is described in terms of the impact on a person.
- 3.3 Effects of vision impairment are described in terms of their potential impact on a person's lifestyle.
- Range effects include but are not limited to – psychological, social, educational, recreational, vocational.
- 3.4 Common misconceptions about vision impairment are described.
- Range three common misconceptions.

Outcome 4

Describe regional agencies or support services and roles of professionals that are specific to people with vision impairment.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Regional agencies or support services are described in terms of the services offered and the types of people with vision impairments they are able to assist.
- Range three regional agencies or support services.
- 4.2 The specialisations of professionals who are part of vision referral pathways are described.
- Range roles must include but are not limited to – ophthalmologist, optometrist, orthoptist, optician.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 March 2009	31 December 2017
Review	2	16 April 2015	31 December 2023
Rollover and Revision	3	24 October 2019	31 December 2023
Review	4	26 August 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.