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Volunteering

If you would like to become a volunteer and help in our Sydney office, please phone the Foundation on 1800 111 709. The MD Foundation thanks all volunteers who give their time to help the Foundation service the needs of the MD community throughout Australia.

Donate to the Foundation

As a charity, the MD Foundation relies on donations, bequests and sponsorship to fund its operations. A donation slip and reply paid envelope is included with this newsletter for your convenience.

An easier and quicker option is available by calling the Foundation to make a credit card donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The MD Foundation would like to say a big thank you to all who have donated so far in 2007.

Correction...

In the MD Foundation's Winter Newsletter, an article appeared about Electronic Voting Machines. Rather than being a touch-screen navigation system, the e-voting machines are navigated by listening to instructions through a set of headphones and a telephone style keypad is used to mark preferences.

DISCLAIMER: This Newsletter is produced by the Macular Degeneration Foundation Australia. It is intended as a Newsletter and its contents do not constitute medical advice and should not be relied on as such.

AGM Alert!

The Macular Degeneration Foundation is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 10:00am on Friday 26 October 2007 at the Masonic Centre, Sydney CBD. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Foundation on 1800 111 709 by Friday 19 October 2007. We hope to see you there!

Lady Vincent Fairfax

The MD Foundation expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of Lady Vincent (Nancy) Fairfax OBE; who sadly passed away on 7 July, 2007. Lady Fairfax had Macular Degeneration and strongly supported the Foundation and the work it undertakes.

Thank you for your patience

The MD Foundation would like to thank all those who have recently made donations for their patience with the receipting process. The Foundation has been upgrading the IT system in the office to provide an improved service.

Launch of NLAP

The Navigator Library Access Project (NLAP) is being launched at Sydney's State Library on Tuesday 25 September at 9:30am during AMD Alliance International Week. If you would like to attend the launch, please RSVP to the MD Foundation by Monday 17 September on 1800 111 709.



Should Where You Live Determine What Assistance You Can Access?

In this issue of the newsletter, the Foundation has prepared and enclosed a standard letter for use by yourself, your relative, friend or carer.

The letter outlines the inequity of access and affordability for the blind and vision impaired in regards to low vision aids and adaptive technology across all States and Territories in Australia. There are gross inconsistencies between States and Territories.

Our efforts to date to ensure some progress on the matter have been met with a minimal response. It is a difficult area as it covers both State and Federal jurisdictions, and crosses several portfolios. However, the Foundation is confident that with initiative, leadership and a collaborative approach, the issue can be solved.

Lucentis listed on PBS

The Macular Degeneration Foundation strongly supported and advocated the speedy listing of Lucentis on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

It was therefore a great day for the MD community across Australia when the Federal Government announced the listing of Lucentis on the PBS from the 1 August 2007. This places Australia as one of the world leaders in accessibility and affordability of this sight-saving treatment.

The Foundation asks if you would consider sending the letter to your local Federal Member of Parliament, as well as any other person you feel may help. You can call the Australian Electoral Commission on **13 23 26** or visit the website **www.aec.gov.au** to obtain the name and address of your Federal representative. Extra copies of the letter can be obtained on the MD Foundation website or by phoning 1800 111 709. It would be appreciated if a copy of any response you receive could be sent to the MD Foundation. Thank you as always for your support of our mission to reduce the incidence and impact of MD in Australia.



Julie Heraghty
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you to all who helped make this a reality, especially Dr. Paul Beaumont and the Foundation's Medical Committee for their leadership, drive and determination.

Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, and Dr. Paul Beaumont at the announcement at Sydney Eye Hospital

