

This report will help Services Australia in determining if you can be paid Age Pension or Disability Support Pension on the basis of permanent blindness. It asks you to give us a report about your visual impairment from your specialist.

**1 Contact your specialist and make an appointment to have the report completed.**

Make sure the specialist and their receptionist know that you will need the report completed. The time taken to complete the report may be claimed by your specialist under a Medicare item when included as part of a consultation. If your specialist does not bulk bill, your consultation fee may be more than usual because of the extra time taken to complete the report.

**2 Attend the appointment with your specialist.**

Give the report (pages 1 to 4) to your specialist to complete.

**3 Return the report within 14 days for new claims, or 13 weeks for a Service Update.**

Your specialist may return the report to us or give it to you to return. If you cannot return the report within this time, contact us for extra time.

If you have any other medical reports, bring them in or post them to us as soon as possible.

**Keep these Notes (pages 1 to 3) for your information.**

### **Why do I need to get a report from my ophthalmologist/optometrist?**

Before we can work out whether we can pay you Age Pension or Disability Support Pension on the basis of blindness, we need some information about your visual impairment. An optometrist can complete the report but it must be supported by an ophthalmologist. If you prefer, your local blind society may be able to give you a report signed by an ophthalmologist that measures your visual acuity under the Snellen Scale.

### **Will I need to have a Job Capacity Assessment?**

The report from your specialist may give us all the information that we need. If you need to have a Job Capacity Assessment we will write to you about it. Age Pension customers are not required to have a Job Capacity Assessment.

### **What happens if I do not give Centrelink a report from my ophthalmologist/optometrist?**

If you are claiming or receiving Age Pension or Disability Support Pension on the basis of blindness and you do not give us a report from your specialist, your claim may be rejected or your payment may be stopped.



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## Information for the specialist

We are seeking your co-operation in completing this report on your patient's visual impairment.

To be paid Age Pension or Disability Support Pension on the grounds of permanent blindness, a person must provide evidence of permanent blindness according to the criteria set out in the Guide to the Administration of the social security law. A person is considered to be permanently blind for the purposes of the *Social Security Act 1991* if any of the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) visual acuity on the Snellen Scale after correction by suitable lenses is less than 6/60 in both eyes
- (b) field of vision is constricted to 10 degrees or less of arc around central fixation in the better eye irrespective of corrected visual acuity (equivalent to 1/100 white test object), or
- (c) a combination of visual defects results in the same degree of vision impairment as that occurring in (a) or (b) above.

### Completing this report

Your report will help us decide whether your patient can be paid Age Pension or Disability Support Pension on the basis of blindness.

We may be able to do this on the basis of your report alone or we may need to have your patient assessed by a Job Capacity Assessor. The information in your report will help us to decide your patient's eligibility.

The type of information that would help us is set out in this report. If there is not enough space for your answers, provide a separate sheet of paper.

Supply any specialist's reports, results or other relevant documents you have which would be of assistance in reaching a decision or incorporate the results in your report.

### Returning this report

You can give this report and any supporting documents to your patient or return this report directly to:

**Services Australia  
Disability Services  
PO Box 7806  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610**

### Reimbursement for Services

We have asked your patient to let you (and your receptionist) know at the time of making their appointment that they require you to complete this report. This is to ensure that you have sufficient time for the examination and completion of the report. The time taken to complete this report counts towards the length of the consultation. You can claim it as a long consultation.

### Confidentiality of information

Personal information provided to you must be kept confidential under section 202 of the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* and is not to be disclosed to anyone else unless authorised by the person to whom the information relates. The information provided to you must not be used for any other purpose.

### Disclosure of information

The *Freedom of information Act 1982* allows for the disclosure of medical or psychiatric information directly to the individual concerned. If there is any information in this report which, if released to your patient, may harm their physical or mental well being, identify it and briefly state why you believe it should not be released directly to the patient. Similarly, specify any other special circumstances which should be taken into account when deciding on the release of your report.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

# Request for Ophthalmologist/Optomtrist Report (SA013)

Age Pension or Disability Support Pension – on the basis of blindness

## Patient's details—completed by the specialist

### 1 Customer's details

Centrelink Reference Number (CRN) (if known)  -  -  -

Full name

Address   
Postcode

Date of birth

### 2 Diagnosis

	Date of onset
<input type="text"/>	/ /
<input type="text"/>	/ /
<input type="text"/>	/ /
<input type="text"/>	/ /

### 3 Prognosis

Including potential for improvement with treatment.

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

### 4 What is the best corrected visual acuity using the Snellen Scale?

Specify acuity for:  Right eye  Left eye

Is the corrected visual acuity less than 6/60 in each eye? No  Yes

### 5 Field of vision

Details

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Degree of constriction of field of vision (degrees in arc or around central fixation):  Right eye  Left eye

Is the field of vision constricted to 10 degrees or less of arc around central fixation in the better eye irrespective of corrected visual acuity (equivalent to 1/100 white test object)? No  Yes



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# Patient's details—completed by the specialist

## 6 Visual defects

Details


If there are any other visual defects, does their combined effect result in the same degree of vision impairment as that of:

No

Yes

- visual acuity of less than 6/60 in both eyes on the Snellen Scale, after correction by suitable lenses, or
- constriction of field of vision to 10 degrees or less of arc around central fixation in the better eye irrespective of corrected visual acuity (equivalent to 1/100 white test object)?

Are there any other visual defects?

No

Yes

Other comments


7 Was this form completed by an:

Ophthalmologist  Go to **Question 9**

Optometrist  Go to **Question 8**

8 Is this opinion supported by a report from an ophthalmologist?

**Details of ophthalmologist involved:**

A report from an optometrist cannot be accepted by us unless there has been prior involvement of an ophthalmologist.

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone number

Year of most recent referral

# Patient's details—completed by the specialist

## 9 You need to read this

### Privacy and your personal information

The privacy and security of your personal information is important to us, and is protected by law. We collect this information to provide payments and services. We only share your information with other parties where you have agreed, or where the law allows or requires it. For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/privacy](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/privacy)

## 10 Details of ophthalmologist/optometrist completing this report: Print in BLOCK LETTERS or use a stamp.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Qualifications	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>
Phone number	<input type="text"/>
Signature	<input type="text" value="✍"/>
Date	<input type="text" value="/ /"/>