



Myopia matters

Myopia, or 'short-sightedness', is a common eye condition that causes blurred distance vision. Myopia usually starts during childhood and typically progresses until a child stops growing.

Teachers play a very important role in identifying a student with vision difficulties, before they start to have a significant impact on their learning.

2050 PROJECTIONS

Nearly **5 billion = 50%** people will be affected by myopia¹ of the projected global population¹

In Australia and New Zealand, this would represent

55% of the AU/NZ population, with **36%** of the current population already affected²

LOOK OUT FOR THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF MYOPIA

Remember the 3 S's

- 1** **Sitting** closer to the front of class
- 2** **Squinting** to see further away
- 3** **Schoolwork** performance is declining

or you notice unexplained changes in behaviour at school

If you suspect a student has vision difficulties, discuss with the parent/carer and recommend their child has an eye examination with an optometrist. It's important for a child to see an optometrist, not only to get clear vision, but also as increasing myopia can lead to serious eye health problems in the future.

Visit childmyopia.com for more

¹ The Impact of Myopia and High Myopia: Report of the Joint World Health Organization – Brien Holden Vision Institute Global Scientific Meeting on Myopia. University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. 16–18 March 2015
² Holden B; Fricke T; Wilson D et al. Global Prevalence of Myopia and High Myopia and Temporal Trends from 2000 to 2050. Ophthalmology. 2016;123:1036–42