

The Albinism Fellowship of Australia is Celebrating International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) on June 13th.

In 2014 the United Nations declared June 13th as IAAD and it is now celebrated around the world. We are very fortunate in Australia to not have the terrible discrimination suffered by people with albinism in Africa or other countries and while we support their efforts through the Global Albinism Alliance, the Albinism Fellowship of Australia (AFA) is centred on work in Australia.

Albinism is a rare condition with a lack of, or no melanin in the eyes skin and hair (Oculocutaneous albinism). Sometimes the lack of melanin is in the eyes only (Ocular Albinism). You may know of this as being albino, but people with albinism (PWA) generally prefer to think of themselves as a person with albinism.



The theme for IAAD this year is **'United in Making our Voice Heard'**. The AFA consider the day as an opportunity to let others know about albinism and our vision, to demonstrate how we get on with life just like everyone else. We still have issues here that need to be tackled, but publicly celebrating what we can do on a daily basis, can be helpful in overcoming many misconceptions. No - we don't have red eyes!

Our children learn to use adaptive technology and special techniques to accommodate their vision, working independently alongside peers to access the curriculum. These skills are carried into adulthood where we are able to access and work competently in most professions, careers, trades, farming and service jobs - almost anything. With the arrival of bioptics and smart vehicles many will drive cars, but perhaps a Qantas pilot is still off the list!

The main objective of the AFA is to provide support to our members, giving them opportunities to meet others, learn about their condition and the new technologies and techniques to accommodate low vision. We provide information on albinism to educators, medical workers and the general public.

**You can learn more about albinism, or help us by making a tax-deductible donation, on our website:
www.albinismaustralia.org**



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