

The Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) is New Zealand's primary service provider of specialist services for 11,500 blind, vision impaired and deafblind people. Every year nearly 1300 New Zealanders either go blind or experience serious sight loss.

Becoming a member of the RNZFB

Our registration process involves the applicant completing the appropriate form (available through our 0800 number – see below), with details of their eye condition and vision entered by a registered Optometrist or Ophthalmologist. Once this form is received by the local Needs Assessor, he or she will contact the prospective member to discuss enrolment and how we can best meet their vision related needs.

Registration Criteria

1. Vision acuity 6/24 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses
2. Or field of vision, generally no greater than 20 degrees in the widest diameter.

About the RNZFB

Being a member driven and governed organisation, RNZFB believes that blind, vision-impaired and deafblind people are entitled to the same opportunities and choices as other citizens to participate fully in society. We are committed to providing quality services to its members to help achieve this vision.

The services that the RNZFB provides helps its members to:

- minimize the effects of sight loss and retain independence
- realise their highest level of participation in daily life consistent with their expectations, abilities and desires, and
- bring about social change which promotes that level of participation

Members are offered the opportunity to learn new techniques to:

- manage everyday tasks
- move confidently and safely around the community
- continue to take part in sport and leisure activities
- find and retain employment and achieve greater independence
- read via text-to-speech, magnified text and braille

The RNZFB also offers:

- counselling and family support
- books and magazines in audio, braille or large print
- specific services for Deafblind, Maori and Pacific peoples
- advocacy and blindness awareness and prevention programmes

For further information and registration forms, please call 0800 24 33 33