**Microgrants Programme:
2023**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**Aim: To meet its objective of ‘***supporting families and carers of children with cataracts’*,**Cataract Kids Australia continues to offer its ‘Microgrants Programme’. The aim of the Programme is to financially support the families and carers of children affected by cataract and related eye conditions.**

**Description:**

**Microgrants of up to $150 per child in 2023 will be available for families and carers as reimbursement for expenses that were incurred for the treatment and care of the child’s cataract or closely-related eye condition. Grants are only available where the expense cannot reasonably be reimbursed by another source. The Programme is currently limited to 40 applicants in 2023, with the provision of additional Microgrants not guaranteed.**

**Eligibility criteria**

The scheme provides reimbursement of expenses directly related to the treatment and care of a child that is necessary for their clinically-diagnosed cataract or closely related eye condition (eg. persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous, ectopia lentis).

The child need not have had surgical treatment for their eye condition. For example, a child diagnosed with cataract who is required to patch (occlusion therapy) whilst the cataract is being monitored is eligible for support under this Microgrants Programme.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years.

The child must have resided in Australia at the time the expense was incurred. Payment will only be made to an Australian bank account.

The expense must have been already incurred in 2023 and paid by the child’s family/caregiver.

The expense must not be able to be paid by or reimbursed from any other source; eg. Medicare, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Private health insurance (if relevant), public hospital, state or federal government funding schemes.

However a grant may be requested for a partial or ‘gap’ amount. For example contact lenses may be partially paid by a public hospital and private health insurance; the remaining ‘out of pocket’ amount may be requested as a Microgrant. Similarly if the child is a private patient of an ophthalmologist there will be an ‘out of pocket’ amount, which can be claimed as a Microgrant.

Expenses covered by the Microgrants Programme include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Eye patches (cloth or adhesive) for occlusion therapy
* Contact lenses
* Spectacles
* Out of pocket costs to attend a private ophthalmologist or other healthcare specialist.
* Medication relating to eye condition (eg. oral medication for glaucoma, eye drops)
* Contact lens extras (eg. cases, plungers, cleaning and disinfecting solution)
* Arm immobilisers
* Rewetting drops (eg. Blink)
* Parking charges incurred while attending medical appointments
* Expenses relating to transport to and from medical appointments (eg. hospital, ophthalmologist, optometrist) that are not eligible for a state government patient transport scheme. A Microgrant can be sought for public transport costs (evidence could include ticket or Myki account), or vehicle costs at the rate of 78 cents per kilometre (2022-23 rate).

Cataract Kids Australia will consider, on a case-by-case basis, claims for reimbursement of other expenses that were directly related to the treatment and care of a child necessary for their cataract or related eye condition.

**How the Microgrants programme will operate**

There is no ‘per family’ limit. If a family has more than one child affected by cataract, up to $150 may be claimed for each child in each year. The expense must have been incurred in 2023.

Multiple claims may be made relating to the same child, as long as there are no duplicate requests and the total of the claims does not exceed $150 in 2023.

Evidence is required of:

* Paid expense (eg. receipt, ticket etc showing date, amount and expense type)
* Child’s diagnosis of cataract or related condition (eg. note from registered healthcare provider, photocopy of hospital record, visit notes, etc).

Payment of the grant will be made directly to requested bank account usually within 7 days.

Cataract Kids Australia retains absolute discretion to decline a grant request that does not meet the Programme’s aims or requirements.

This is a limited scheme. The amount of $6000 has been allocated and grants cannot be guaranteed for 2023 after the allocation has been exhausted. Cataract Kids Australia reserves the right to discontinue the Microgrants Programme at any time at its absolute discretion.

**How to claim**

Either:

1. Complete the application form **online**, or
2. Complete the form on the next page and return it via **email** (info@cataractkids.org.au) or **post** (4 Crellin Cres, Watsonia VIC 3087).

Attach evidence of:

* The child’s diagnosis of cataract or a related condition
* The expenses you incurred (in 2023).

If your application for a Microgrant is approved, payment will normally be to your bank account within 7 days.

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Cataract Kids Australia Microgrants**

 **2023**

**Child’s first and last names** Enter child’s first and last names.

**Child’s date of birth** Date of birth

**Name of grant applicant** Applicant’s first and last names

**Phone number**  Enter phone number here.

**Email address of applicant** Email address

 *Notification of grant approval and payment information will be sent to this address.*

**Postal address** Postal address

**Brief description of child’s eye condition including year diagnosed**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Total amount requested**

Enter total amount of this claim, up to $150 $

**Expenses claimed** *(For types of expenses that can be claimed, see the* [*webpage*](https://www.cataractkids.org.au/microgrants.html)*).*

1. Date of receipt Click or tap to enter a date.

Expense reason\* Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount claimed Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Date of receipt Click or tap to enter a date.

Expense reason\* Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount claimed Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Date of receipt Click or tap to enter a date.

Expense reason\* Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount claimed Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Date of receipt Click or tap to enter a date.

Expense reason\* Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount claimed Click or tap here to enter text.

5. Date of receipt Click or tap to enter a date.

Expense reason\* Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount claimed Click or tap here to enter text.

*\*For vehicle costs specify date of travel and kilometres travelled between home and medical appointment. Reimbursement is available at the ATO rate of 78 cents per kilometre.*

*If you are only claiming for a ‘gap’ or out of pocket amount (so you are not claiming the full amount shown on a receipt), please explain this below.*

If you want to give more information to explain particular items please do so here:

Click or tap here to enter text.

**What to attach**

You must attach the following:

[ ]  Evidence of child’s eye condition (eg. letter from healthcare provider, copy of hospital record).

[ ]  Evidence of all expenses you are claiming.

*If you are submitting this form via email please scan and attach the above items.*

*If you are submitting this form via post please include copies of the above. Originals are not required.*

**Bank account details for payment of grant**

Account name Click or tap here to enter text.

BSB (6 digits) Click or tap here to enter text.

Account number Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  I certify that the information in this form is true and correct,

[ ]  I confirm that the total amount claimed for this child in 2023 will not exceed $150.

[ ]  I agree that Cataract Kids Australia may contact me by telephone or email if further information is needed in relation to this claim.

**Applicant’s name** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Date of request** Click or tap to enter a date.

***Privacy notice***

*The information we collect from you for the purposes of administering the Microgrants Programme will be stored securely by Cataract Kids Australia and used only by us. It will be retained for a period of up to 7 years, primarily to enable Cataract Kids Australia to maintain appropriate financial records suitable for external audit if necessary. De-identified information may be extracted so that Cataract Kids Australia can report publicly on the overall amount of Microgrants awarded in a given period and the general categories of expenses for which claims are being made. Apart from making our financial records available for audit if legally required to do so, we will not disclose identifiable information about individual claims to a third party for any purpose without consent. If more information is required to validate your claim for a Microgrant, we may request your consent for us to contact a third party to verify information contained in your application.*

 *The Cataract Kids Australia’s Privacy Policy is available online at* [*https://bit.ly/3tDe2uo*](https://bit.ly/3tDe2uo) *or by emailing* *info@cataractkids.org.au*