

NextSense Institute

Visual perception impairments after brain injury: what are they and how to assess them?

Session 1: 5-6:30pm AEST 5 August **Full registration:** \$150
Session 2: 5-6pm AEST 6 August All sessions online using Zoom

Visual perception issues like difficulties with recognising faces, navigating, or reading are not uncommon after a brain injury. National stroke guidelines recommending that all stroke survivors should be screened for perceptual deficits using validated and reliable screening tools (Australian and New Zealand Living Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management, 2023). However, health care professionals report low confidence in assessing visual perceptual difficulties after brain injury and find existing standardized assessments too time-consuming (Colwell et al., 2021; Vancleef et al., 2022).

In the first session (5-6pm Tuesday 5 August 2025), we will discuss how knowledge of the hierarchical visual system can help to understand the main visual perception impairments. We will go over some options to assesses such impairments and summarise the evidence on assessment methods for visual perceptual impairments.

In the second session 5-6:30 Wednesday 6 August 2025), we will share research findings from a novel assessment, the Oxford Visual Perception Screen that meet the standards requested by clinical guidelines but that is more time efficient. Participants will have the opportunity to try out the new 15-minute evidence-based screening tool for visual perception difficulties after brain injury. We will also discuss options for rehabilitation with a focus on compensatory strategies to support people with a brain injury. Through polling questions, participants self-assess their pre-session knowledge and post-session learning outcomes to support their professional development. Following the session, participants will be given the registration link for the new screening tool for use in their own practice and to access additional online training materials.

Learning objectives:

- Increased awareness and understanding of visual perceptual impairments after brain injury
- Increased understanding and critical discussion of assessment methods for visual perceptual impairment after brain injury
- Knowledge of strategies to support people with visual perception difficulties following a brain injury

This event will contribute 2.5 PD hours towards COMS re-certification with ACVREP as it addresses the Core Domains of the OMAA O&M Framework.

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