

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET AND ASSENT FORM FOR CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS**

**Study title:** **BRIGHT (Binocular Vision, Reading and Writing Skills in Anisometric Children with a History of Amblyopia Treatment).**

**Locality:** School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Auckland, New Zealand

**Ethics committee ref.:** 2025 FULL 22231

**Lead investigator:** Dr Tina Gao

**Contact phone number:** +64 9 3737599 Ext. 82955

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### **Why am I being asked to be in the study?**

Amblyopia (Weak eye) means one eye does not see well because the brain prefers to use the other eye more. People with amblyopia can find it difficult to make their two eyes work together, which may make it harder to read or write.

In this study, we want to know if reading and writing are still hard after amblyopia is treated. Your parent/caregiver and the researcher will tell you more about being in this study. You can ask questions if you want, and you do not have to join unless you want to.

### **What will happen if I agree to take part in this study?**

- You will come to our eye clinic to do some short tests of your vision, eye health, reading and writing. You can take breaks between the tests. Your parents or family will come with you, and they can stay with you throughout the tests.
- We may need to put eye drops in your eyes to test them properly if you have not had this done in the last 6 months.
- The eye drops might sting when they go in, but the feeling will go away quickly.
- Bright lights might bother you for the rest of the day after the eye drops, but don't worry, we'll give you sunglasses to help.
- Your vision might be blurry for about one day after the eye drops, so you shouldn't ride scooters or bikes or play sports.
- If we find out you need glasses, we'll give them to you for free and ask you to wear them every day.

- You may need to come to the eye clinic up to three times. One or two visits may be enough. The researcher will tell you how many times you need to come. Each visit will take between 15 minutes to 2 hours, depending on which tests need to be done.
- Your parents or family will come with you, and they can stay with you throughout the tests.

At your visit in the eye clinic:

- The researcher will check how healthy your eyes are and how well you can see.
- You will be asked to name some letters of different sizes, look at shapes and hold still for short periods of time, read a paragraph on a computer screen, and trace/draw some shapes using a pencil.



### **Do I have to be in the study?**

You can choose if you want to be in this study or not. Also, you can change your mind at any time even if you have started taking part in the study. Even if your parents say YES, you can still say NO. All you have to do is tell your parents or the eye researcher that you don't want to be in the study anymore.

### **Will being in this study help me?**

The study will help us to tell your family about your eyes and how well you can see, read, and write. This may or may not help you directly. We hope we might learn things that will help other children who have amblyopia.

If you need new glasses, then we will give you a pair of glasses for free. You can keep the glasses after finishing the study and keep using them.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you are worried about anything to do with the study, please ask the researcher who will do their best to answer your questions

### **Who do I contact for more information or if I have concerns?**

If your parents have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, they can contact:

Lead investigator: Dr Tina Gao

Telephone number: +6493737599 Ext.822955

Email: [t.gao@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.gao@auckland.ac.nz)

Primary contact: Mr. Ketemaw Demilew

Telephone number: 0273594878

Email: [Ketemaw.demilew@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:Ketemaw.demilew@auckland.ac.nz)

If parents want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the study, they can contact an independent health and disability advocate on:

Phone: 0800 555 050

Fax: 0800 2 SUPPORT (0800 2787 7678)

Email: [advocacy@advocacy.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@advocacy.org.nz)

You can also contact the health and disability ethics committee (HDEC) that approved this study on:

Email: [hdecs@health.govt.nz](mailto:hdecs@health.govt.nz)

Phone: 0800 400 569 (Ministry of Health general enquiries)

APPROVED BY THE NORTHERN A HEALTH AND DISABILITY ETHICS COMMITTEE  
ON 03 SEPTEMBER 2025. REFERENCE NUMBER 2025 FULL 22231.

