This Month At

Vis-CAT

Official Newsletter of Visual Cognition Assessment tool

Date : 16th Oct 2025

Updates

Dear Vis-CAT Community,

Vis-CAT continues to make strong progress in supporting children's learning through its digital visual-processing screening tool, now being used by schools to identify and assist students with visual cognition challenges.

Undetected visual processing disorder affects one in five children, leading to preventable struggles in school. Traditional assessments are often inaccessible due to their high costs, specialised expertise, and lack of awareness. This leads to many late diagnoses, impacting the child's ability to learn with confidence. Vis-CAT was created as an online tool to eliminate these barriers, providing an easy-to-use, accessible digital application that makes early screening widely available.

Vis-CAT completed a successful trial at Christway College, Wyndham Campus, where educators identified students who had not previously been recognised as at-risk learners. Head of Campus Kerrie Neophytou reflected on the impact of the tool, noting, "Imagine if he could focus properly — how much that would impact his learning." The trial results demonstrate Vis-CAT's potential to make a meaningful difference in early learning support.

Developed by Dr Christine Nearchou, optometrist and senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne, Vis-CAT is grounded in research published in Vision Development & Rehabilitation. The study introduced the Novel Dot Pattern Assessment (NDPA) — a test that minimises reliance on fine-motor skills and focuses on visual sequencing and visualisation. This innovation improves accessibility and ensures fair, early identification of visual-cognition challenges for all students before learning gaps are embedded.

As Vis-CAT continues to expand, our goal remains clear: to help teachers identify learning barriers early — and to help every child see, understand, and reach their full potential.