WELCOME TO VIS-CAT®

Thank you for choosing Vis-CAT®

This Welcome Pack has been designed to help you get started with Vis-CAT and better understand visual processing challenges in children

Inside, you will find information about visual processing, assessment setup, frequently asked questions, and support resources.

We are delighted to have you as part of the Vis-CAT community and look forward to helping more children access the support they need to reach their full potential.

Warm regards,

Dr Christine Nearchou
Founder & CEO, Vis-CAT®

What's Inside

- ✓ Introduction to Vis-CAT
- ✓ Understanding Visual Processing
- ✓ Frequently Asked Questions
- ✓ Quick Start Guide
- ✓ Contact & Support Information

Visual Cognition Assessment Tool

Vis-CAT

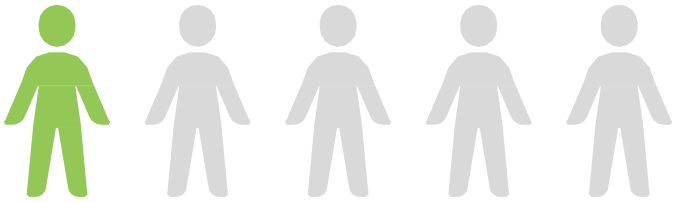
WHAT IS A VISUAL PROCESSING DISORDER

It's the brain, not the eyes.

A visual processing disorder is a reduced ability to process visual information. **It's not a problem with clarity of vision but rather how visual information is interpreted.** A child may struggle to distinguish between background, foreground, position and size despite having good eyesight. This condition is not well understood, and the symptoms are mistaken for other difficulties.

THE PROBLEM

Detecting Visual Processing Disorder (VPD) can be a difficult and frustrating journey for families. The condition is not well-known and is often mistaken for other challenges like dyslexia, leading to misdiagnoses and prolonged struggles. Accessing a specialist for an accurate diagnosis can be costly but also out of reach for many, leaving children to face years of unnecessary hardship. By the time they are finally diagnosed, their confidence and academic progress may already have been deeply impacted, making the need for earlier intervention and awareness even more urgent.



One in Five
Children Are Affected

With one in five children suffering from undetected visual processing disorder, far too many are burdened with this affliction.

OUR STORY

At Vis-CAT, we believe every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed. That's why we've created a simple, effective tool to identify visual processing challenges early, empowering parents and educators to make a real difference from the start. By recognising and addressing these unique needs in early childhood, we can help children unlock their full potential, giving them a brighter, more confident path to learning and growth.

Together, we can transform lives—one child at a time.

MEET VIS-CAT

The Visual Cognition Assessment Tool

Introducing Vis-CAT, a pioneering app designed to identify and support children with potential visual processing challenges. Vis-CAT makes early detection accessible to educators and parents, with no specialist needed. This tool doesn't replace professional care but instead enables early intervention and establishes clear pathways for further support.

Vis-CAT empowers children to independently complete the test and receive immediate feedback. If indicators of a visual processing issue are detected, referrals to specialists are seamless, while educators can adapt their teaching approaches to meet individual needs.

At the core of Vis-CAT is evidence-based innovation, led by our founder, Dr Christine Nearchou (Optometrist). Dr. Nearchou developed the Novel Dot Pattern Assessment (NDPA) a cognitive screening tool aimed at children aged 5 to 12. This simple dot pattern exercise evaluates visual sequencing and cognitive processing skills. Vis-CAT digitally transforms this approach, making the process accessible and user-friendly.

In studies conducted across schools in India in 2018 and 2019, the NDPA test demonstrated its effectiveness as an easy-to-administer alternative to traditional screenings. These findings underscore NDPA's potential to revolutionise early detection for learning-related vision issues, ensuring children receive timely support where it counts.

Vis-CAT utilises a 'game' like platform that engages children through interactive play on touchscreen devices, providing enjoyable, actionable results. With this interface, we're making validated scientific testing methods widely accessible.

To achieve our mission, we're actively building partnerships to bring Vis-CAT to more educators and parents. Our goal is to ensure early screening is available to every child, helping them avoid setbacks associated with undetected visual processing challenges. By equipping families and educators with this tool, we empower children to thrive academically and socially, opening doors to brighter, more confident futures.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early identification can change a child's learning journey. Vis-CAT was designed to help educators and families identify potential signs of visual processing difficulties earlier, creating clearer pathways to support before children begin to fall behind. Unlike traditional assessment methods, which can be costly, time-intensive, and reliant on specialist availability, Vis-CAT enables affordable large-scale screening within schools and communities. Its engaging, game-like format allows more children to be screened quickly and efficiently, helping uncover challenges that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Many visual processing difficulties are hidden. Children may have normal eyesight and appear bright and capable, yet still struggle with reading, writing, attention, or classroom participation. Without the right support, these challenges can impact both learning and confidence. With early understanding comes the opportunity for meaningful support. This may include classroom accommodations, vision therapy, occupational therapy, or activities that strengthen visual coordination and processing skills. When support is timely and targeted, children are better able to build confidence, reduce frustration, and reconnect with the joy of learning.

The following stories reflect the positive impact early identification and support can have for both students and educators.

Anita's Story

Before Vis-CAT, my son was struggling with writing and avoiding schoolwork, even though he could explain his answers out loud. It was frustrating not knowing what was wrong. The assessment was simple and engaging, and for the first time, we understood what might be holding him back. That clarity made all the difference. With the right support after that, he's now more confident, completing his work, and enjoying school again.

I only wish we had identified this earlier.

Chantelle's Story

In my role at Gold Coast Christian College, I work with students who are already receiving a lot of support, but some still weren't making the progress we expected. It felt like we were missing something.

Vis-CAT gave us a way to look a little deeper. It helped us identify students who may be experiencing visual processing challenges, including a few we hadn't previously picked up.
What I found most valuable was having something practical we could use within the school to guide our next steps. It gave us clearer direction on what attention individual students required rather than relying on guesswork. The students engaged well with it, and it was easy to implement. For me, it's about catching these things earlier. When you can better understand what might be impacting a child, you're in a much stronger position to support them in the right way

Note: Image used for illustrative purposes to respect privacy.

THE TEAM

Dr. Christine Nearchou (Optometrist)

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Christine Nearchou (Optometrist), founder of Vis-CAT and Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne, has over 30 years in paediatric eye health. Driven by a commitment to early detection, she developed the Novel Dot Pattern (NDPA) test to help children overcome visual processing challenges. Through Vis-CAT, she seeks to empower children to thrive with confidence and opportunity.

Tony Nathan

Chief Technology Officer

With over 20 years in technology, Tony specialises in solution architecture and agile delivery, bringing expertise from top firms like IBM and Telstra. As CTO for Vis-CAT, he drives application delivery with a strategic approach, all while engaging in leadership roles outside work, including Scouts Australia.

Harry Lambrou

Director and Intellectual Property Officer

With over 30 years in engineering, Harry excels in R&D, manufacturing, and IP management, with over 70 patents and design registrations worldwide. Known for his creative problem-solving in product development, he leads and collaborates effectively, while outside of work, he enjoys building model cars, playing music, and working on his project car.

George Nearchou

Business Development Advisor

With 35 years of experience in leading tech firms like Bayer Healthcare and Orica, George is skilled in marketing, sales, and driving innovation to expand markets and enhance profitability. Known for his strategic leadership and customer-focused approach, he excels in business development, strategic planning, and aligning company mission to achieve operational excellence.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join us in making a difference for children everywhere. By supporting early identification of learning-related challenges, we empower educators, parents, and communities to provide targeted help when it matters most. Together, we can open doors for children to succeed, enabling them to reach their full potential with confidence and resilience. Let's work towards a future where every child has the support they need to thrive—in school and beyond.

viscat.com.au hello@viscat.com.au

Welcome To

Vis-CAT

Click the image to watch a quick video on how to use Vis-CAT!

What is A Visual Processing Disorder

Visual Processing Disorder (VPD) is a condition where the brain has trouble interpreting visual information. Children with VPD may struggle with activities like copying shapes or letters, recognising differences in shapes or letters, or reversing letters.

THERE ARE 8 MAIN TYPES OF VPD IMPACTING CHILDREN

- **Visual Discrimination Issues**
  - Difficulty seeing differences between similar shapes, letters, or objects.
- **Figure-Ground Discrimination Issues**
  - Trouble separating an object or letter from its background.
- **Visual Sequencing Issues**
  - Difficulty keeping shapes or letters in order; may skip or re-read lines.
- **Visual-Motor Processing Issues**
  - Struggles with using visual information to move accurately, like writing on lines or avoiding obstacles.

Visual Memory Issues

- Hard time recalling shapes, symbols, or objects, affecting reading and spelling.

- **Visual-Spatial Issues**
  - Trouble understanding object placement or orientation.
- **Visual Closure Issues**
  - Difficulty identifying objects when parts are missing.
- **Letter and Symbol Reversal Issues**
  - May switch letters/numbers, like confusing "b" with "d.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NOTICE THE SIGNS

- **Take Notes** - Keep a record of any signs you notice to discuss with teachers or specialists.
- **Speak with Your Child's Teacher** - Ask if they've observed similar difficulties and if this impacts learning or social development.
- **Request an Evaluation** - Rule out vision/eye issues with an eye exam. If vision/eyes are fine, ask for an assessment of visual processing skills.
- **Trust Your Gut** - As a parent, advocate for your child if you feel something is amiss, even if others don't see it.

IF YOUR CHILD IS DIAGNOSED WITH VPD

- **Find a Specialist** - Seek an expert in visual processing to help with effective strategies. A Developmental Paediatrician, Psychologist, Developmental/Paediatric Optometrist and Paediatric Occupational Therapist can help with further assessments and support.
- **Request Classroom Accommodations** - Work with teachers to find supportive options like larger-print books, alternative whiteboard & visual materials.
- **Create an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** - Ensure the school has a plan with necessary accommodations to support your child's learning.

MYTH AND FACTS

Myth: Vision issues are the same as VPD.

Fact: VPD affects how the brain processes visual information, even when a child has perfect vision.

Myth: Kids can outgrow VPD.

Fact: VPD is a lifelong condition, but children can be supported effectively with early intervention programs.

Myth: There's only one type of VPD.

Fact: VPD includes several different types of processing difficulties.

Myth: VPD and dyslexia are the same.

Fact: Dyslexia affects letter-sound connections, while VPD impacts visual processing skills.

Myth: Smart kids don't have VPD.

Fact: Children with VPD can be very successful with the right support and strategies.

QUICK STEPS TO USE CANDIDATE (TESTING) APP

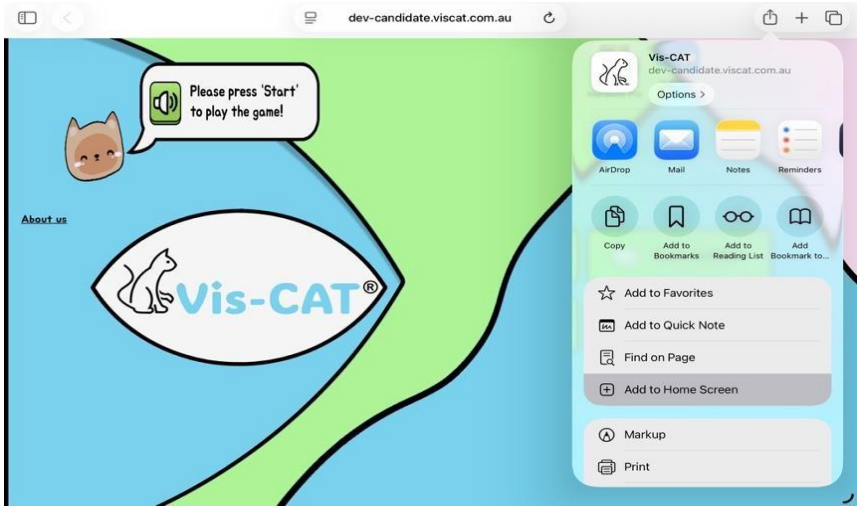
Set Up the Candidate (Testing) App on iPad

Step 1 — Open the Website

Open **Safari** on your iPad and go to the Candidate App website using the link provided to you.
https://candidate.viscat.com.au/

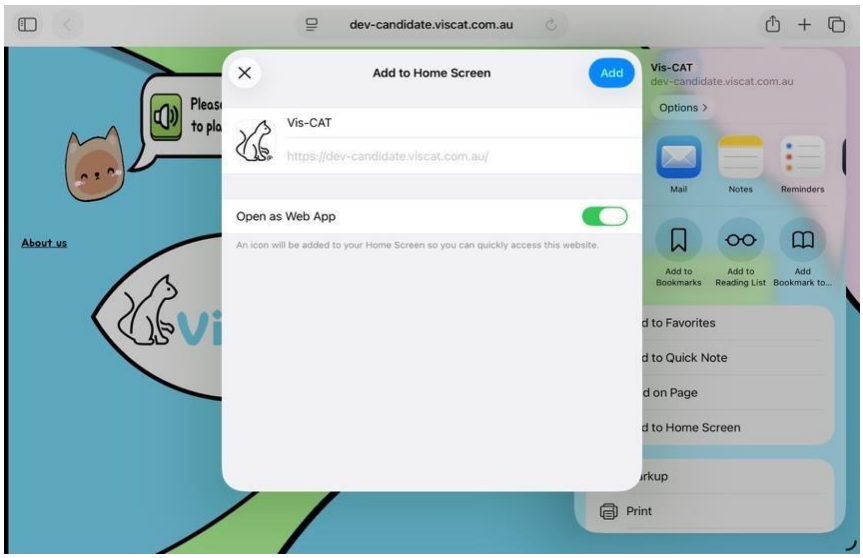
Step 2 — Add to Home Screen

Tap the **Share** button, tap the **More** button, then tap **Add to Home Screen**.



Step 3 — Enable Web App Mode

Turn on **Open as Web App**, then tap **Add**.

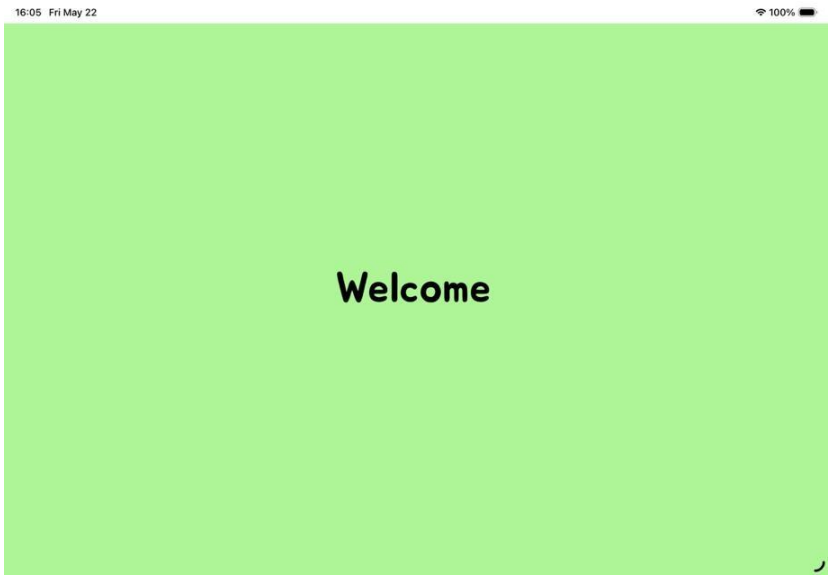


Start the Candidate (Testing) App

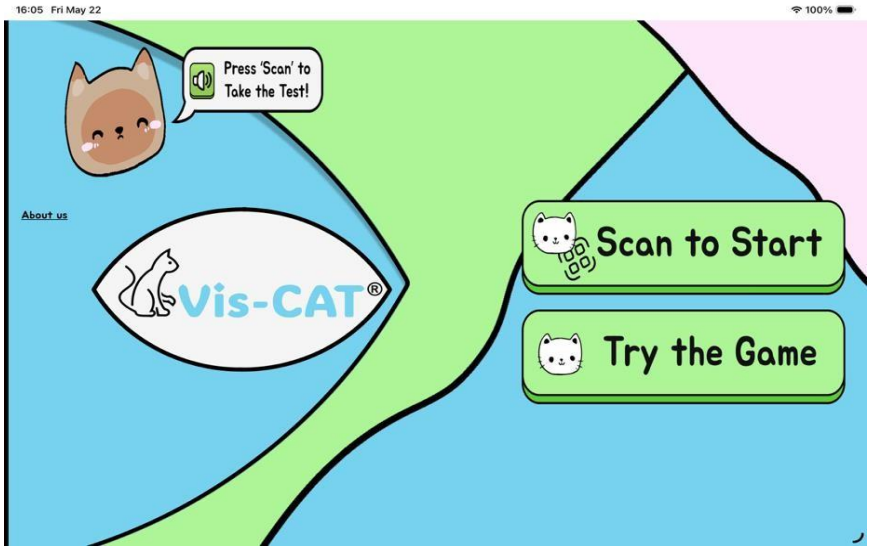
Step 1 — Open the App

Return to your iPad Home Screen and tap the new **Vis-CAT** app* icon.

Step 2 - Tap Welcome to continue



Step 3 - Choose a Mode



Official Test

Tap **Scan to Start** and scan the QR code to begin the assessment.

If you have been given a **hard-copy QR code**, you can also use the iPad camera, and the test will run automatically.

Demo Mode

Tap **Try the Game** to experience the app without submitting results.

*DEVICE COMPATIBILITY

To run Vis-CAT®, you need an internet-connected touchscreen device like an iPad (248 x 179mm) or a larger touch-screen laptop or desktop. Smaller devices like mobile phones are not recommended because the small screen size can negatively affect the screening experience.

Candidate (Testing) App:

Browser	Recommended
iPad / iOS Safari	15.4
Safari (macOS)	15.4
Chrome	108
Edge	108

Admin App

Browser	Recommended
Chrome	111
Edge	111
Firefox	114
Safari (macOS)	16.4
iPad / iOS Safari	16.4

CONTACT INFORMATION
Website: viscat.com.au
Email: hello@viscat.com.au

**

Version : V1 (22/05/2026)