Brain Tumours and the Effects on Vision

The effect of a brain tumour will vary depending on the size and location of the tumour.

A brain tumour may cause you to have one or more of the following visual problems:
- No symptoms
- Double vision
- Loss of peripheral vision
- Decreased vision
- Total loss of vision

**No Symptoms**
Depending on the size and location of the tumour there may be no visual symptoms.

**Double Vision**
This will occur if the tumour affects the nerves controlling the muscles that move the eye. This may be mild or severe and may only effect you when looking in certain directions. If the double vision causes you problems this can be overcome by placing a patch on either eye. **YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE WITH DOUBLE VISION.**

**Loss of Peripheral Vision**
This will occur if the tumour affects the pathway controlling vision in the brain. The extent of this is dependent on the size and location of the tumour. This may involve the loss of vision on the right hand side or left hand side. **IF THIS OCCURS YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE UNTIL CLEARED BY AN ON ROAD DRIVING ASSESSMENT AND YOUR OPHTHALMOLOGIST**

**Decreased Vision**
You may experience decreased vision if the brain tumour affects the optic nerve. Unfortunately glasses will not help improve the vision if this is the case.

**Total Loss of Vision**
This will occur if the brain tumour totally involves the optic nerve, or if the pressure in the brain is so high that it pushes on the nerve and it dies. If total loss of vision occurs a referral to **Vision Australia** could be made.