



Ophthalmic Program



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THE HOSPITALLER

Professor Nitin Verma is a renowned ophthalmic surgeon both within Australia and overseas. He has a special interest in retinal diseases and has published and presented more than 100 associated papers. His experience includes providing voluntary eye health services to disadvantaged communities in the Northern Territory, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa.

He was responsible for establishing the eye health program in Timor Leste. He routinely travels to Timor Leste to provide voluntary service to members of the community that are suffering from eye related disease or injury. He was awarded membership in the Order of Timor Leste because of his outstanding contribution to that small struggling country. He played a significant role in getting St John in Australia involved in supporting the Oecussi component of the eye health program in Timor Leste. As a result, St John has assisted in the delivery of that program for ten years.

For more than 10 years, Associate Professor Verma contributed to encouraging engagement in Ophthalmic activities within St John in Tasmania and was a proactive contributor to the Tasmanian Council from 2007 until it was abolished in 2011. He made an outstanding presentation on eye health at the last member convention held in Hobart which contributed to increasing the understanding of the importance of eye health within St John.

Three years ago, he was appointed Hospitaller for the Order of St John in Australia. As such, he is responsible for the Priory's Ophthalmic program, which includes support for the Jerusalem eye hospital, the eye health project in Oecussi (Timor Leste) and Moree (NSW). In that role, he has revitalised the Hospitaller's role and ensured an increased commitment by St John in Australia to Ophthalmic activities.