The confident young children of today are the independent adults of tomorrow.

Orientation & mobility services
For children with vision impairment, confident, purposeful movement is essential to ensure they reach their full potential.
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT provides orientation and mobility training for children as early as possible, completely free of charge. Our family-based services are available in the home, at pre-schools and schools, and within the community. Our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Instructors work with children, their parents, families, carers and other professionals to ensure that each child’s future mobility needs are met.
A child is never too young to receive orientation and mobility assistance from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.
Toddlers & pre-schoolers

• We teach children to make the most of their vision at an early age and train them to use all their other senses to learn about their surroundings.

• We encourage children to move and explore their environment with confidence – even prior to starting to walk.

• O&M Instructors teach children, from a young age, concepts such as height, distance and direction. This enables children to better understand the world in which they live and sets a platform for higher learning and knowledge both now and into the future.

• We work with children who have a variety of individual requirements, including those with more complex needs. O&M Instructors provide information, support and education to families, childcare centres, schools and other agencies.
Young children & teenagers

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT teaches children to travel independently using clues and landmarks within their environment. This could involve travelling home from school on public transport, among other things.

Learning how to cross a road, for example, can include finding a road crossing and knowing when it is safe to cross, sometimes with the assistance of a mobility aid such as a long cane.

We understand that ‘fitting in’ and feeling at ease are very important to a child. Along with structured lessons, mobility day group programs and active play are used to facilitate incidental learning and are a great way for children to meet and socialise with their peers.
A child is never too young to receive orientation and mobility assistance from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.
Anyone can refer

It's important to note that while anyone is able to refer a child, parental consent is necessary. A medical referral is not required.

Want to find out more?

For more information, contact Guide Dogs NSW/ACT:

Albury 6041 5201
Ballina 6681 1667
Blacktown 9676 5802
Deakin (ACT) 6285 2988
Chatswood 9412 9300
Coffs Harbour 6652 7424
Newcastle 4925 3066
Orange 6362 6625
Tamworth 6761 3152
Wagga Wagga 6925 3559
Wollongong 4225 9247

All Guide Dogs NSW/ACT services and equipment are provided locally and free of charge.

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is a Registered Provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.