Hi, I’m Gerard Menses and I’m the Chief Executive of Vision Australia.

When we move to Coorparoo we’re going to be moving to an environmentally sustainable building, in fact it’s green star rated. We’ll have room for a hundred and two staff and volunteers. We’re going to have new facilities that we weren’t able to have here, a fully functional kitchen a more detailed technology, a larger equipment solution area, a children’s facilities area that we’ve never had in Queensland. A larger and more sustainable area for our supported employment so that we can encourage people who are blind or have low vision to more actively participate in employment.

In fact, did you know that over two-thirds of people who are blind or have low vision are unemployed but actively looking for work. Now it’s time for us to move on. Why are we leaving this site after such a long period of time? Well, the number of people who are blind or have low vision is doubling. Over twenty-five people a day in Australia are losing their sight and that number is growing.

Vision Australia needs to go to new premises where we can use new technology, where we can see more people, where we can support them and help them to participate in every part of life they choose.

So you’re standing in an exhibition called ‘Steps in the right direction’. Vision Australia believes very strongly in heritage and history. A hundred and thirty years on this site needs to be marked. It’s ‘hat’s off’ to the past, but ‘coats off’ to the future.

Come with us, take some steps in the right direction, value the past but support the future ‘