



OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES

Media information

ALBERT MATSON'S STORY

Fifty-year-old Campbelltown truck driver, Albert Matson, is living with the consequences of severe eye damage when a Octopus Strap he was using to hold down a tarpaulin cover snapped and sent the hook flying into his left eye.

The projectile knocked his sunglasses off his head and cut his eye so severely he needed 17 micro-stitches. Albert is 40 percent blind in his left eye, requires dark prescription glasses to see outdoors and to prevent ultraviolet damage, and can only swim with tinted eye goggles.

Albert's eye injury occurred in mid-2000 and took him about 12 months of treatment to get over the pain inflicted by the Octopus Strap. He still has problems with light sensitivity and vision adjustment when driving his truck for longer periods, and has given up playing competitive squash.

Albert is a supervisor at his workplace, and has barred other truck drivers from using Octopus Straps to tie down their loads. His view is that these straps are just too dangerous to use, but advocates that people at least wear safety glasses if they choose to ignore his advice.