



## Outreach Programs

### Introduction

CheckUP is the jurisdictional fundholder for the Australian Government Department of Health's Outreach programs in Queensland. With the support of over 130 contracted health providers, we lead a strong, effective consortium that is committed to improving access to a wide range of healthcare services for people living in urban, rural, and remote locations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Outreach programs help improve health outcomes through increasing access to medical specialist, GP, and allied health professional services.

### What is Outreach?

Outreach refers to health professionals providing a service in a location other than where they principally practice or reside. Many people who live in rural, remote, and some urban areas depend on outreach health services.

The Outreach programs facilitate these visits by reducing the financial disincentives faced by health professionals who provide Outreach services through the reimbursement of expenses such as travel, meals, accommodation, and other administrative costs.

### Our Outreach services

Initiatives under the Outreach programs that CheckUP coordinates in Queensland, include:

- **Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP):** The aim of the MOICDP is to increase access to a range of health services, including expanded primary health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the treatment and management of chronic disease.

- **Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF):** The aim of the RHOF is to improve health outcomes for people living in regional, rural, and remote locations by supporting the delivery of outreach health services.
- **Healthy Ears - Better Hearing, Better Listening:** The aim of the Healthy Ears - Better Hearing, Better Listening program is to increase access to a range of health services, including expanded primary health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth (0-21 years) for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ear and hearing health.
- **Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS):** The aim of the VOS is to deliver outreach services to people living in regional, rural, and remote locations, who do not have ready access to primary eye care services.
- **Eye and Ear Surgical Support (EESS):** The aim of the EESS program is to improve access to eye and ear surgical services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, prioritising those living in rural and remote locations.

CheckUP is focused on ensuring that everyone has the right to equitable access to health services, regardless of their economic, social, cultural, or geographical circumstances. To understand and advocate for priority health needs and priority locations within Queensland, CheckUP undertakes an annual health service planning process for the Outreach programs. In addition to utilising data, CheckUP uses our regional network to consult broadly and ensure the views and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations are an integral part of the needs assessment process.



## Outreach Programs (continued)

### Economic benefits

In 2022, BDO conducted a review of the economic benefit and contribution of CheckUP's outreach services in regional, rural, and remote Queensland. The analysis found that CheckUP's outreach services were estimated to reduce government costs between \$7.0m and \$19.9m and provided a cost saving of between \$1.32 and \$1.92 to the government for every \$1 invested.

### About CheckUP

CheckUP is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to better health for people and communities who need it most. CheckUP works with partner organisations and health providers to create healthier communities and reduce health inequities through a range of initiatives. CheckUP has an established footprint in over 200 communities across Queensland and the Northern Territory.

