



Visiting Optometrist Scheme

Introduction

The aim of the Visiting Optometrist Scheme (VOS) is to increase optometry services for people living in regional, rural, and remote locations (MM2 – MM7 locations are eligible).

In recognition of the need for culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, VOS funded outreach services may be provided in major cities (MM1), provided that the service is delivered in an Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation or other culturally safe/appropriate host organisation.

The VOS is made up of an Indigenous and non-Indigenous component with the Indigenous component making up 40 per cent of the total annual funding allocation in each jurisdiction.

VOS is managed by CheckUP as the jurisdictional fundholder of the Outreach programs in Queensland.

CheckUP works with our Outreach service providers and local communities to coordinate and integrate optometry and other eye health services to best meet the needs of the patient.

Aims

The program's objective is to improve the eye health of people in regional, rural, and remote locations by:

- increasing optometry services in areas of identified need
- improving the coordination and integration of those eye health services and the quality of ongoing patient care
- enhancing communication between visiting optometrists, local health providers and other visiting health professionals.

Funding eligibility

The program supports outreach services provided by optometrists.

Reimbursement

Through the program, reimbursement may be available for:

- coordination and administration support
- travel expenses
- cultural awareness and safety training for participating service providers
- upskilling local health professionals
- professional support associated with outreach services.

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 170 communities across Queensland.