

Coordination of Indigenous Eye Health

Introduction

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care established the Indigenous Australians' Health Program (IAHP) to improve the eye health of First Nations People through high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary health care, and the provision of effective and efficient system level support.

Aim

Coordination of Indigenous Eye Health services covers the full spectrum of eye care. This includes improving linkages between the range of eye health services required by patients and delivery of those services through the Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP), Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF), the Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS) and the eye element of the Eye and Ear Surgical Support Program (EESS).

Priority areas of coordination

- Screening and early intervention (school screening)
- Identify gaps and needs to promote access to optimal eye care.
- Increase access to eye health services for people living in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Increasing eye health services in areas with low socioeconomic disadvantage to support health needs.
- Promote regular eye examinations for diabetic patients.
- Surgical interventions for ocular conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma treatment.

Objectives

The program objectives are:

- Improve access for First Nations people through improved coordination of culturally safe services.
- Improve seamless integration of services from initial consultation to treatment, referral and continuity of care.
- Streamlining and improving eye health care referral pathways.

Funding eligibility

The Program funds outreach services provided by Optometrists and Ophthalmologists in collaboration with other supporting eye health professionals and Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) to provide Eye Health care across Queensland.

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.