

Coordination of Indigenous Eye Health



Introduction

The Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing established the Indigenous Australians' Health Program (IAHP) to improve the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary health care, and the provision of effective and efficient system level support.

Aim

This funding supports the employment of a coordinator whose main objective is to improve the cultural safety of eye health pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients by coordinating the delivery of services funded by First Nations Health Outreach Service, Rural Health Outreach Fund, Visiting Optometry Scheme and the eye element of the Eye and Ear Surgical Support Program.

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities in need, especially those in rural, regional, and remote areas. We are committed to advancing equity in healthcare by strategically collaborating at both regional and local levels, ensuring that health and community services are more accessible and responsive to people who need them most.

Since our foundation in 1998, CheckUP has built a broad service footprint across more than 170 communities in Queensland, delivering innovative health programs and community-focused initiatives to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

This program is made possible through funding from The Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.