

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.

An allocation of at least 40% of total funding must be dedicated to support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

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
- travel time allowance.

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.