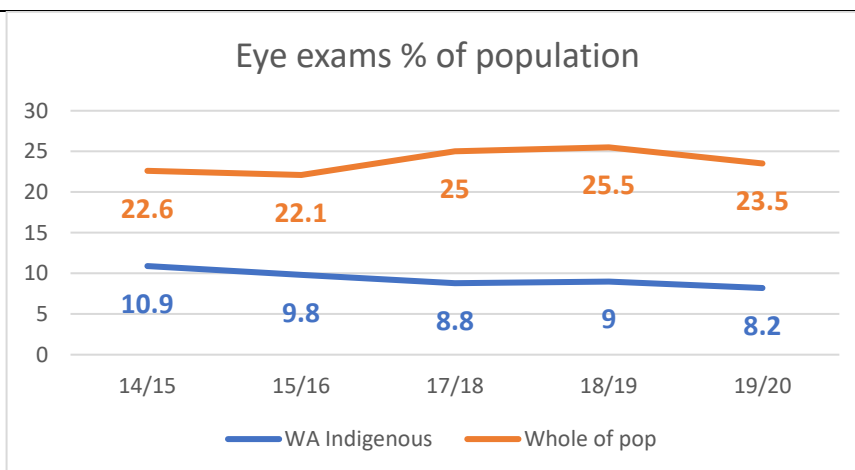


Indigenous Eye Health Measures – Western Australia snapshot 2021

This report packages data on key Indigenous eye health measures for Western Australia. All underlying data in this report is from publicly accessible sources.

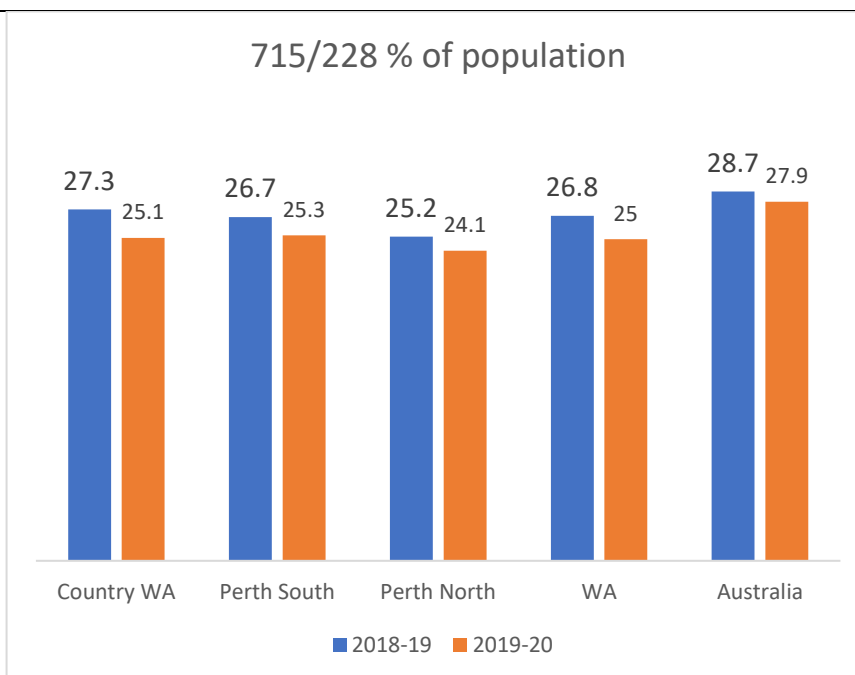
These measures cover the eye care pathway, and treatment for the conditions causing the highest rate of vision loss and blindness for Indigenous Australians (the term is respectively used in this report to refer to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander / First Nations Australian population).

1. Eye examination rates¹²³⁴⁵



In 2019-20, 8.2% of Indigenous adults in Western Australia had an eye exam, compared to 23.5% of non-Indigenous Australians. This is half the Australia-wide rates for Indigenous adults (16.7%). This represents a small an expected decrease from the previous year, due to COVID impact at the 4th quarter.

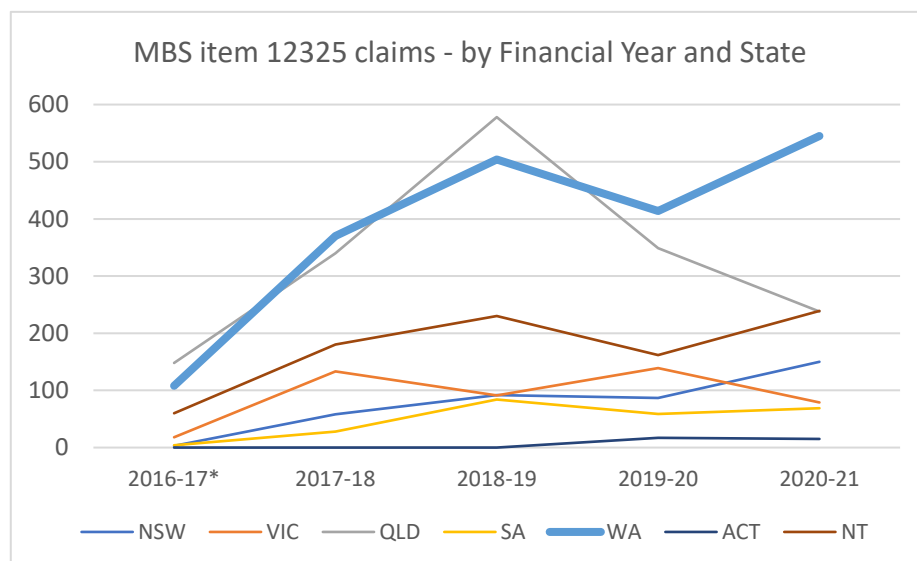
2. Eye examinations in primary care – 715/228 health checks¹⁶



Rates of general MBS health checks for Indigenous Australians in WA PHNs ranged from 24.1%-25.3% in 19/20, all slightly short of the national rate of 27.9%.

These rates are slightly lower (1-2%) than the previous year, which starts to show the impact of COVID. However, for the year of March 2020 – Feb 2021, WA recorded over 16% reduction in 715 rates compared with the previous 12 months. (Similar to the national reduction of 15%)

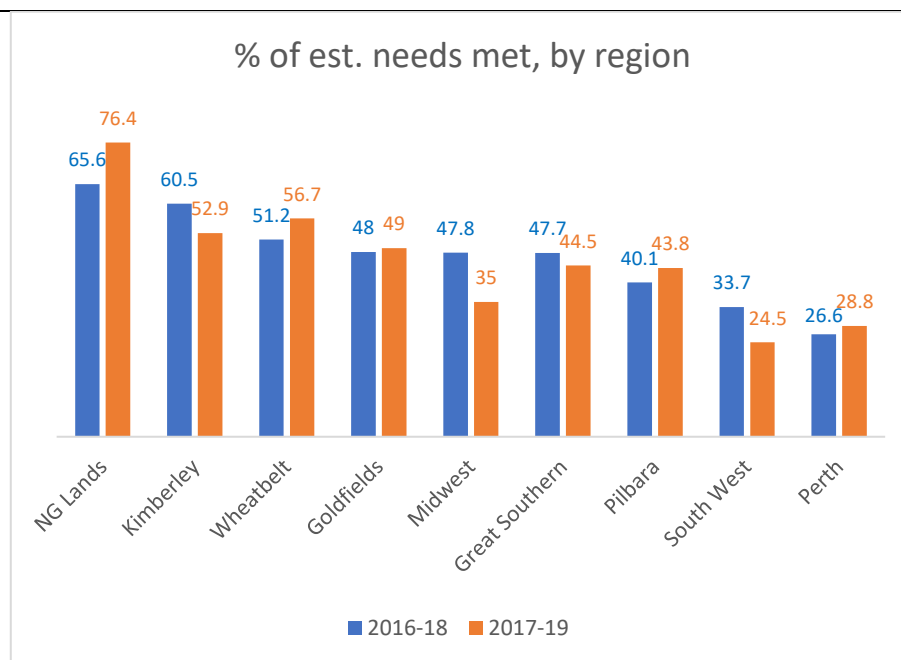
3. Annual eye examinations for patients with diabetes (MBS 12325)⁶



WA has recorded 545 claims of MBS item 12325 (annual DR screening with retinal camera in primary care for Indigenous adults) in the 2020-2021 financial year, higher than any other jurisdiction, and highest number of claims so far.

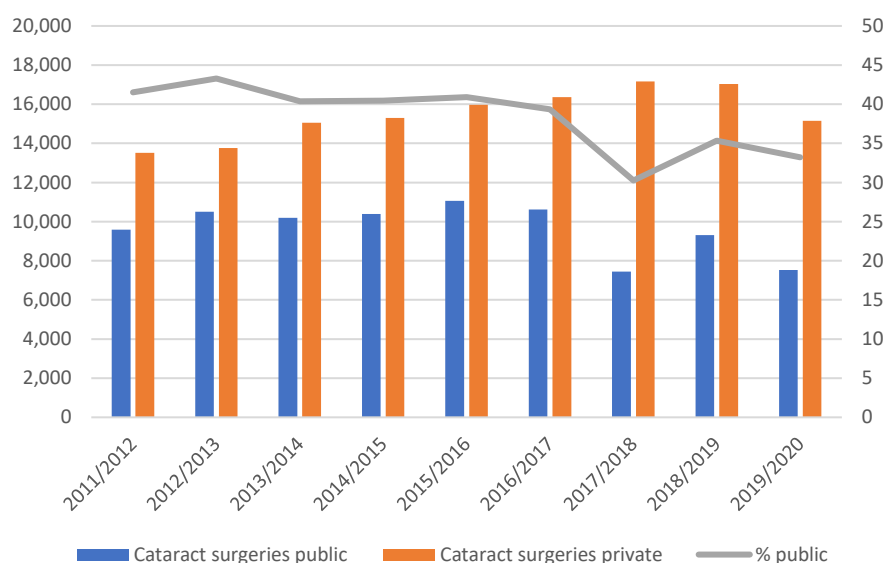
Initial COVID impact: for the year of March 2020 – Feb 2021, WA recorded over 22% reduction in 715 rates compared with the previous 12 months (lower than national reduction of 27%). Claims have since improved to higher numbers in WA than before COVID.

4. Access to cataract surgery¹²⁶⁷



Estimated cataract surgical needs per region is presented. NG Lands had the highest estimated needs met for the periods 2017-19 (76.4%), a rise of over 10% from 2016-18. Perth and South West regions had the lowest estimated rates of needs met in 2017-19, with 28.8% and 24.5% respectively. SW's rate is a significant drop from 2016-18 (33.7%).

Cataract surgery in WA (public+private) - whole of population



Cataract surgeries in WA have increased in private, and generally decreased in public, meaning the portion of public surgeries decreases over time.

Reduction in the rate of cataract surgeries performed in public is likely to disproportionately impact Indigenous patients, given 70.4% reliance in public for elective surgery in 18/19, compared with 33.5% for other Australians.

5. Trachoma and trichiasis rates^{1 2 3 4 5}

Figure 5.1: Trends in trachoma prevalence among Indigenous children aged 5–9, by state and territory, 2009 to 2019



Note: Data for this figure are available in the supplementary tables.

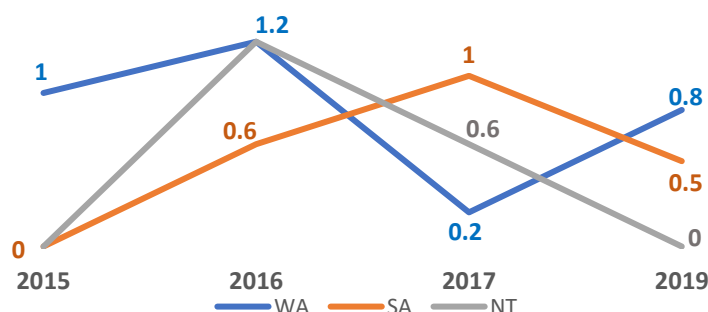
Source: Australian Trachoma Surveillance Reports (Kirby Institute 2013–2019, forthcoming 2020).



Trachoma prevalence among Indigenous children aged 5–9 in Western Australia was 6.4% in 2019. This was an increase on previous years, and the highest rate since 2011.

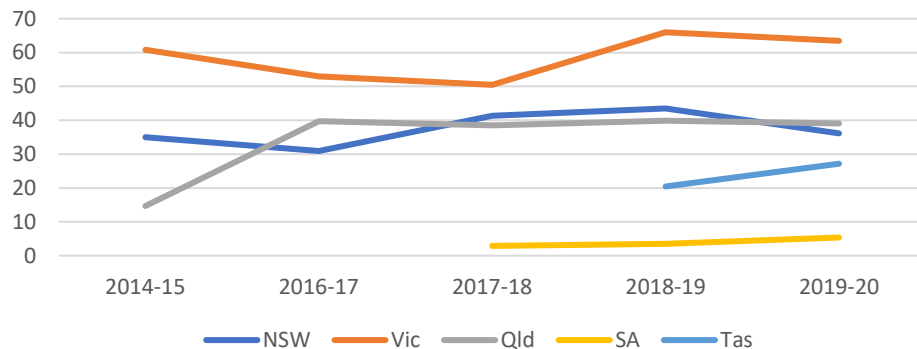
Trichiasis rates for adults aged 40 and over in at-risk Indigenous communities in WA was 0.8% in 2019, representing 4 individuals identified.

Prevalence of trichiasis in at-risk Indigenous communities, adults aged 40 and over, by jurisdiction (%)



6. Subsidised spectacles^{1 2 3 4 5}

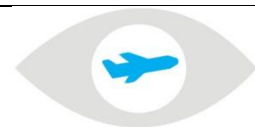
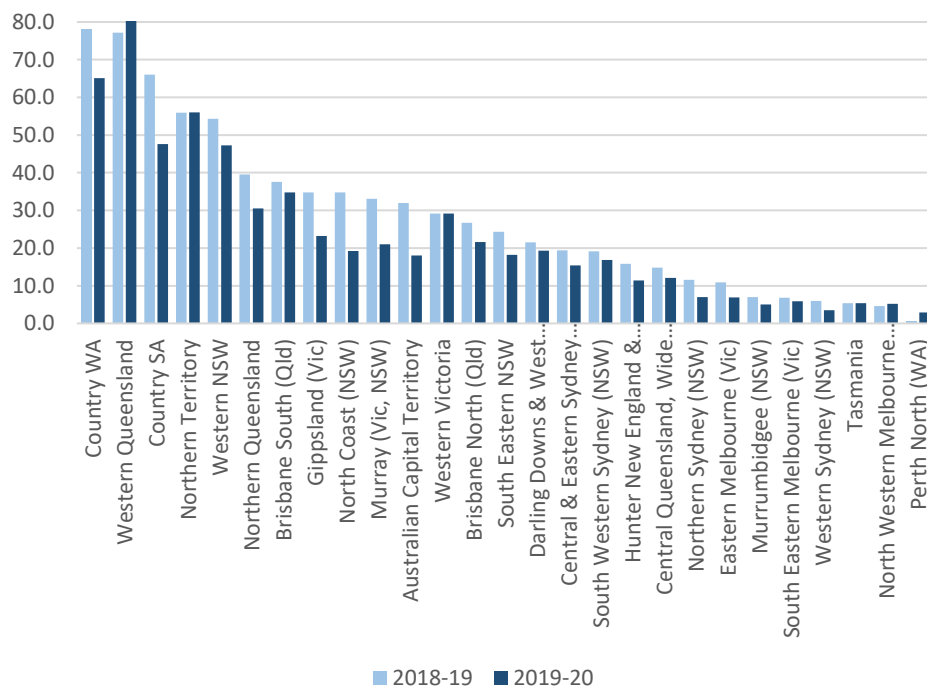
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme, as % of estimated need



Work currently underway to establish WA-wide spectacle scheme.

7. Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS)^{1 2}

VOS OOS for Indigenous Australians per 1,000 pop



In 19-20, Country WA PHN VOS provision for Indigenous Australians was the highest of all PHNs in Australia, with 78 out of 1,000 Indigenous population served (representing 4,736 OOS overall). Perth North ranked last out of the 27 PHNs where VOS is provided, with 0.7 out of 1,000 (representing 15 OOS overall). Perth South did not report any VOS provision.

Indigenous Eye Health Calculator output for Western Australia (based on 2021 ABS population projection)^{8 9}

This report estimates for a given population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the annual requirements for delivery and coordination of eye care services. The calculations are first order estimates based on condition prevalence rates from the National Indigenous Eye Health Survey (2009) and models of service delivery developed in The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision (2012). See <http://www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au>

Region: Western Australia (2021)
Population: 69061

OPTOMETRY CONSULTATIONS

Number of patients

Comprehensive eye examinations required each year	11740
People over 40 requiring glasses each year	4417
People over 40 with diabetes requiring annual retinal examination	6644

OPHTHALMOLOGY CONSULTATIONS

People requiring cataract referral consultations	656
People requiring trichiasis referral consultations	251
People requiring diabetic retinopathy referral consultations	771
Total people requiring ophthalmology consultations	1678

HOSPITAL SURGERY

People requiring cataract surgery	656
People requiring trichiasis lid surgery	251
Total people requiring hospital surgery	907

WORKFORCE

Workforce requirements

Optometry days required	1468
Optometry workforce required (EFT)	7
Ophthalmology days required (consultation and surgery)	508
Ophthalmology workforce required (EFT)	2.4
Coordination workforce required total (EFT)	57.3

Sources of data:

1. Australian Indigenous of Health and Welfare. 2021. Indigenous eye health measures 2021. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2021/contents/prevalence/main-causes-of-vision-impairment-and-blindness>
2. Australian Indigenous of Health and Welfare. 2020. Indigenous eye health measures 2020. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2020/summary>
3. Australian Indigenous of Health and Welfare. 2019. Indigenous eye health measures 2018. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2018/contents/summary>
4. Australian Indigenous of Health and Welfare. 2018. Indigenous eye health measures 2017. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2017/contents/summary>
5. Australian Indigenous of Health and Welfare. 2017. Indigenous eye health measures 2016. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2016/contents/table-of-contents>
6. Services Australia. Medicare Statistics portal. Available from: http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/mbs_item.jsp
7. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Elective surgery waiting times. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/elective-surgery>
8. Indigenous Eye Health. Calculator for the delivery and coordination of eye care services. Available from: <https://dr-grading.iehu.unimelb.edu.au/ecwc/>
9. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2019. Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/estimates-and-projections-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/latest-release>