

Indigenous Eye Health Measures – Jurisdictional Snapshot 2021

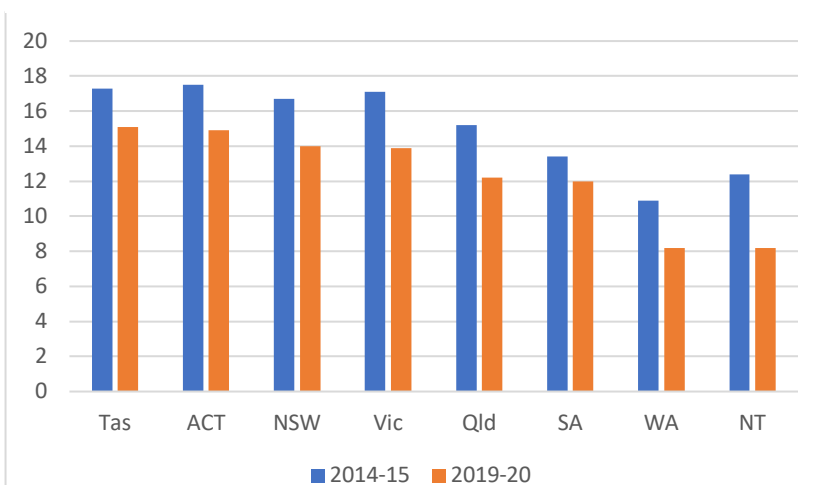
VICTORIA

This report contains a range of measures relating to Indigenous eye health at a jurisdictional and regional level. All underlying data in this report is from publicly accessible sources.

These measures cover the eye care pathway – from identification of problems to eye examinations and treatment – and provide a way to identify gaps and improvements along the pathway.

1. Eye Examination Rates ^{1 2 3 4 5}

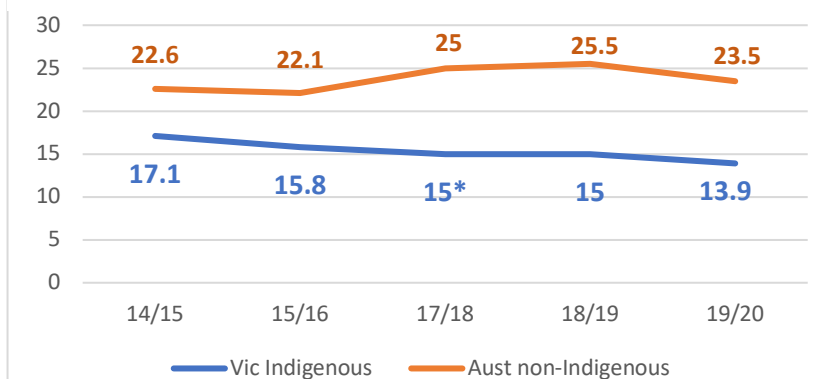
Eye exams for Indigenous adults - % of Indigenous Population



In 2019-20, **13.9%** of Indigenous adults in Victoria had an eye exam, compared to **23.5%** of non-Indigenous Australians. These rates were likely further impacted by COVID in 2020.

Access to regular eye exams should be supported to avoid blindness and vision loss

Eye exams over time - % of Population

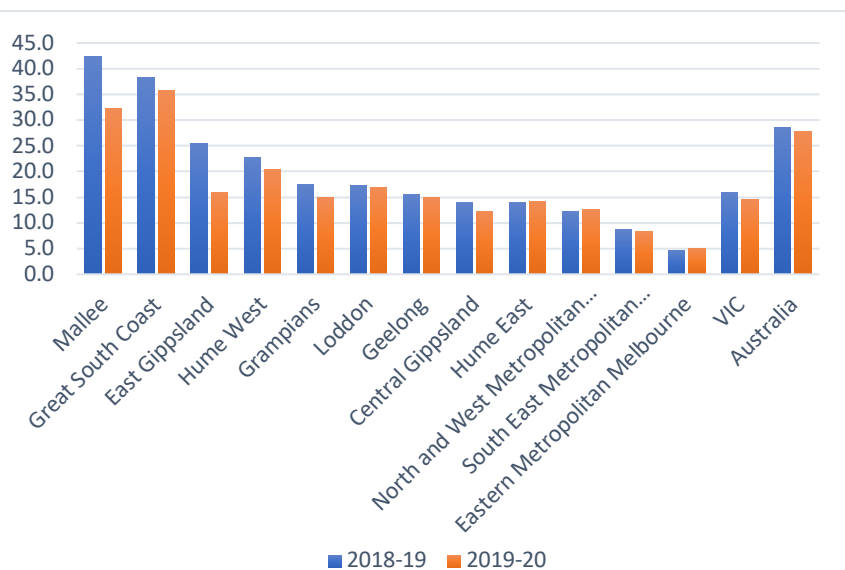


There has been a **decrease** in the % of the Indigenous population who had an eye exam in all jurisdictions including Victoria in 2019-20 compared to the previous 5 years

Regular eye exams help to identify issues early and support access to treatment if required

2017-18 data combines VIC and TAS. 2016-17 data missing.

MBS 715/228 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessments - % of population ^{1 2 6}



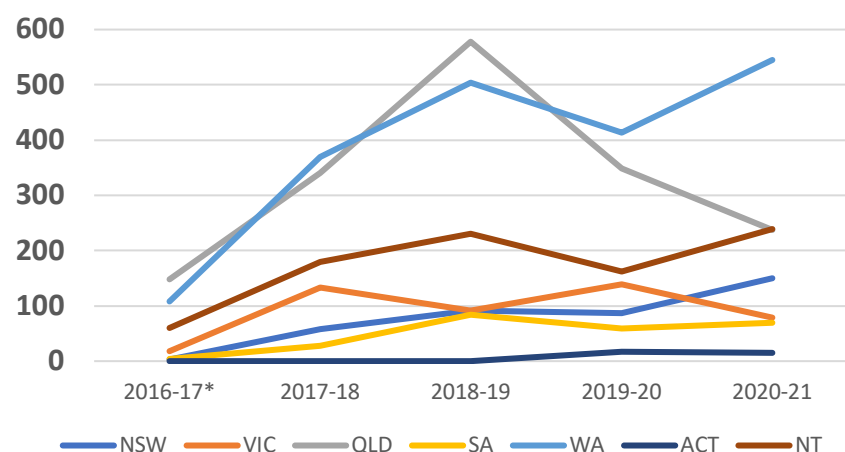
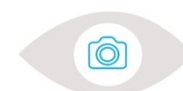
In Victoria, **14.7%** of the Indigenous population received an MBS 715 Health Assessment in 2019-20, with a higher rate in regional areas than Melbourne.

COVID impact: for the year of March 2020 - February 2021, Victoria recorded over 25% reduction in MBS 715 Health Assessment rates compared with the previous 12 months, the highest impact in Australia. (National reduction is closer to 15%)

Increased eye health screening in primary care, as part of a MBS715 health assessment, supports earlier identification of issues and referral if required

2. Diabetic Retinopathy Screening^{1 2 3 4 5}

MBS item 12325 non-mydratric retinal camera - by Financial Year and State



The total number of claims in Victoria for MBS item 12325 non-mydratric retinal camera from November 2016 to June 2021 was **460**.

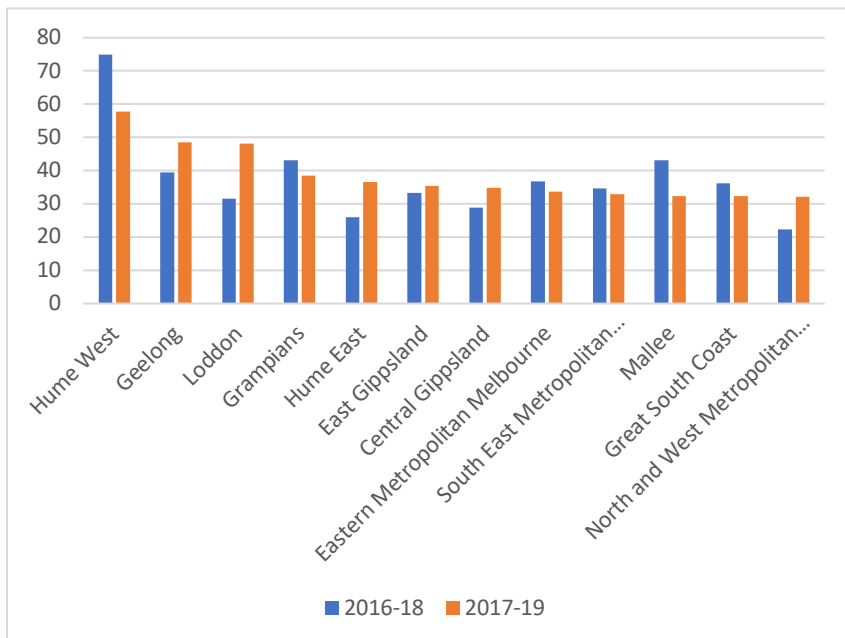
Between April and June 2021, there were a total number of **13 claims** made for MBS item 12325 in Victoria.

COVID impact: for the year of March 2020 – Feb 2021, Victoria recorded over **50% reduction** in MBS 12325 compared with the previous 12 months, the highest impact in Australia. (double the National reduction of 27%)

Use of retinal cameras in ACCHOs can support annual screening for Indigenous people with diabetes

3. Access to Cataract Surgery ^{2 6 7}

Estimated Population Needs Met for Cataract Surgery - % by region

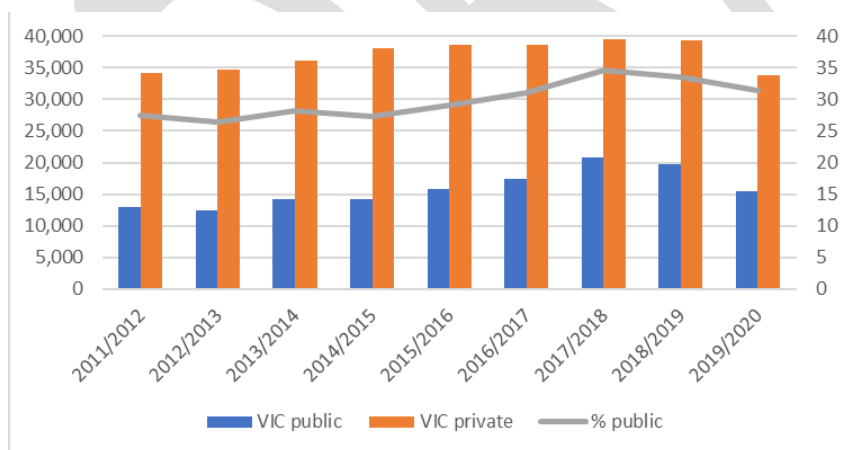


The estimated % needs met for cataract surgery varies for Indigenous people vary significantly across regions in Victoria.

The number of cataract surgeries provided to Indigenous people in Victoria met **37.4%** of the population based need in 2017-19

Increased access to cataract surgery is required to address the gap

Access to Cataract Surgery in Victoria (Public & Private)

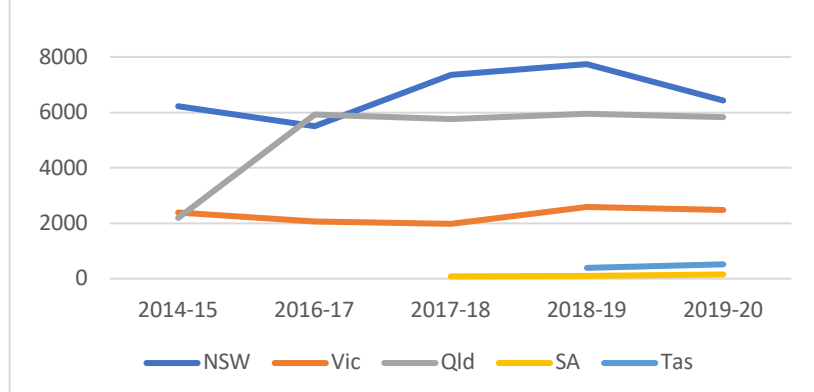


Over the past decade, the rate of cataract surgeries in Victoria performed in public hospitals has slightly increased from 2011-2018 and has reduced since then.

A reduction in the rate of cataract surgeries performed in public is likely to impact Indigenous patients disproportionately.

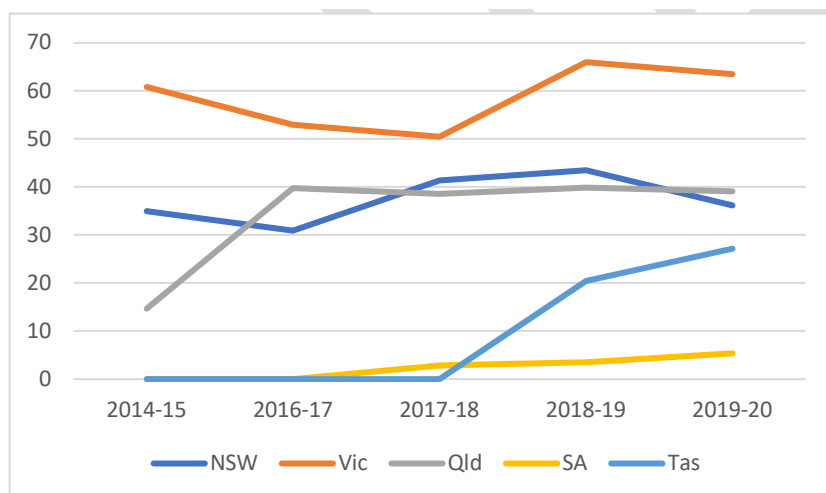
4. Subsidised Spectacle Schemes ^{1 2 3 4 5}

Indigenous clients receiving glasses under state subsidised spectacle scheme (number)



The **number of glasses** dispensed to Indigenous people under the state scheme for subsidised spectacles has slightly increased.

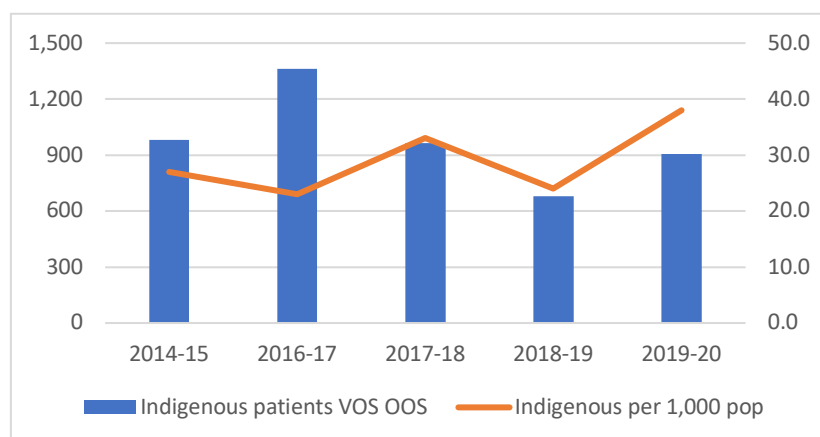
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under state subsidised spectacle scheme, as % of estimated need



Victoria has the **largest estimated rate of needs met** for the subsidised spectacle scheme compared with other jurisdictions, but there may still be unmet need.

Providing data on access to affordable glasses gives an indication of how well equity issues are being addressed for refractive error, which is a major cause of vision loss

Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS) Occasions of Service (OOS) - % for Indigenous people*



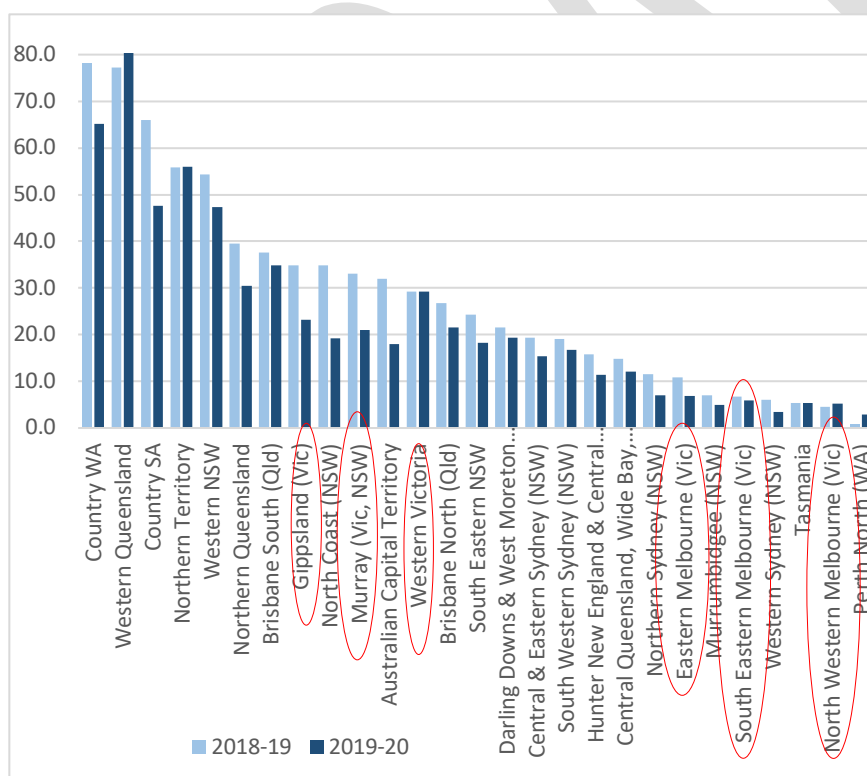
* this does not include optometry services provided outside of VOS



30% of VOS Occasions of Service (OOS) were provided to Indigenous people in Victoria in 2019-20, an **increase** from **23%** the previous year.

Increasing VOS access for Indigenous people can address issues of inequity

Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS) Occasions of Service (OOS) for Indigenous People (per 1000)



In 2019-20, the number of VOS Occasions of service (OOS) delivered to Indigenous clients in Victoria ranged from **5.2 services per 1000 population** in North Western Melbourne to **29.2 services per 1000 population** in Western Victoria.

The previous year (2018-19) Gippsland recorded a higher rate of services (**34.8**) but was impacted by fires before COVID-19.

Delivering VOS in ACCHOs can increase access and address equity issues

Indigenous eye health calculator output for Victoria ⁸

Delivery and coordination of eye care services report		Latest data
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: Victoria (2021 est)		
Population: 63807		
OPTOMETRY CONSULTATIONS	Number of patients	
Comprehensive eye examinations required each year	10847	
People over 40 requiring glasses each year	4081	
People over 40 with diabetes requiring annual retinal examination	6138	
OPHTHALMOLOGY CONSULTATIONS		
People requiring cataract referral consultations	606	
People requiring trichiasis referral consultations	232	
People requiring diabetic retinopathy referral consultations	712	
Total people requiring ophthalmology consultations	1550	
HOSPITAL SURGERY		
People requiring cataract surgery	606	
People requiring trichiasis lid surgery	232	
Total people requiring hospital surgery	838	
WORKFORCE	Workforce requirements	
Optometry days required	1356	
Optometry workforce required (EFT)	6.4	
Ophthalmology days required (consultation and surgery)	470	
Ophthalmology workforce required (EFT)	2.2	
Coordination workforce required total (EFT)	53	

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>
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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>