

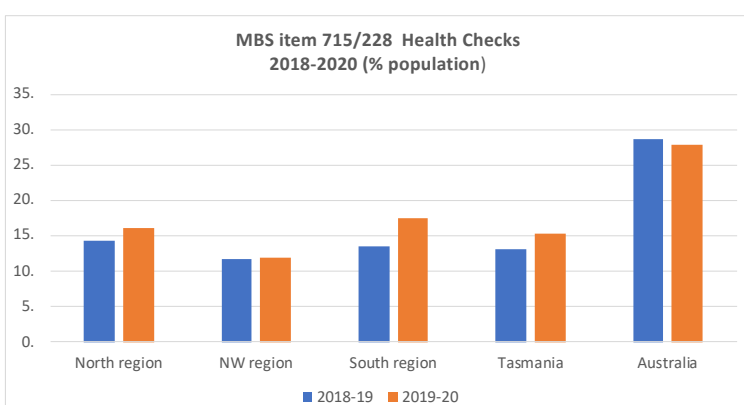
Indigenous Eye Health Measures – Jurisdictional snapshot 2021

TASMANIA

This report presents current publicly available data on key Indigenous eye health measures for Tasmania. 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 First Nations Australians. Monitoring of these measures provides an opportunity to identify gaps and improvements along the eye care pathway

1. Eye examinations in primary care – MBS items 715/228 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health checks^{1 2 6}

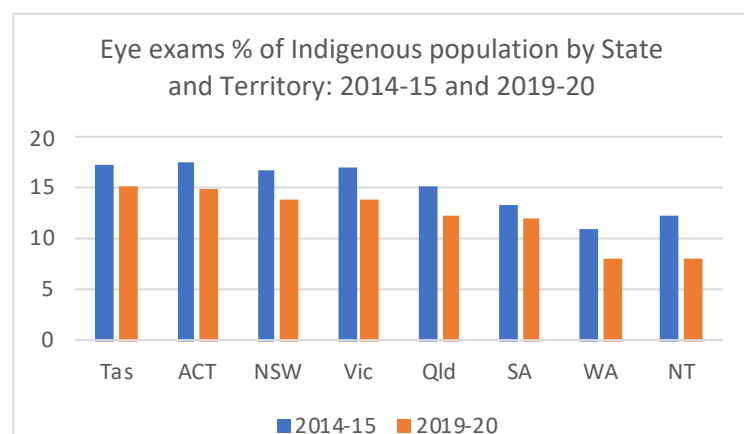


In Tasmania, **15.4%** of the Indigenous population received an MBS 715 Health Assessment in 2019-20, with little regional variation. While rates were lower than the whole of Australia, all three Tasmanian regions showed an increase in 2019-20, in contrast to a decrease in the national trend.

Increased eye health screening in primary care, as part of an MBS 715 health assessment, supports earlier identification of issues and referral if required

COVID impact: for the year March 2020–February 2021, Tasmania recorded a 2.5% reduction in MBS 715/228 rates, compared with the previous 12-month period. All other jurisdictions showed a greater decrease and nationally the rate decreased by around 14%.

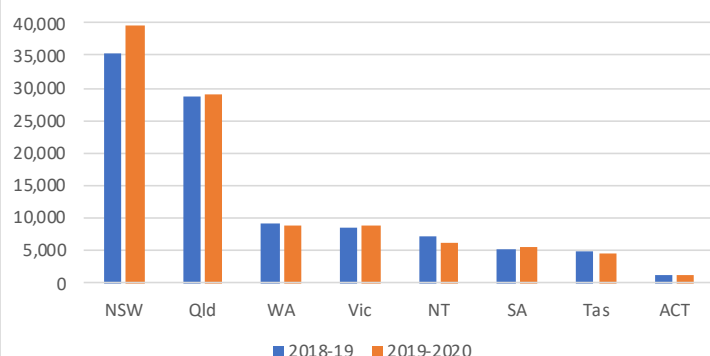
2. Eye examination rates^{1 2 3 4 5}



In 2019-20, **15.1%** of Indigenous adults in Tasmania had an eye examination with an eye-care professional. This was a **decrease** from 17.3% in 2014-15 and **below** the rate for non-Indigenous Australians (23.5%). Decreases were also seen in other jurisdictions. These rates were likely further impacted by COVID-19 in 2020.

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

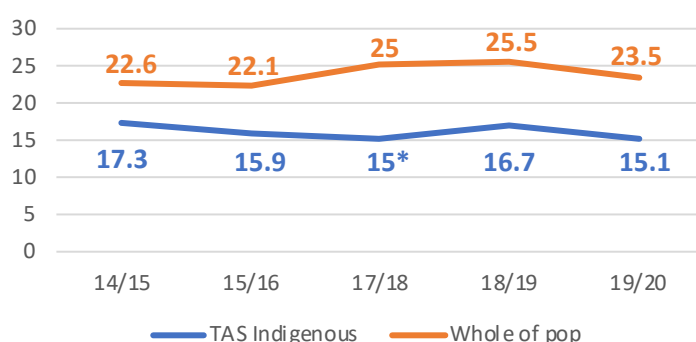
Eye exams of Indigenous population by State and Territory, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (number)



In Tasmania, the **number** of eye exams provided to Indigenous Australians **decreased** slightly - from **4,782** in 2018-19 to **4,592** in 2019-20. This may reflect impacts from COVID-19.

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

Eye exams % of population



* 2017-18 data combines VIC and TAS. 2016-17 data not available.



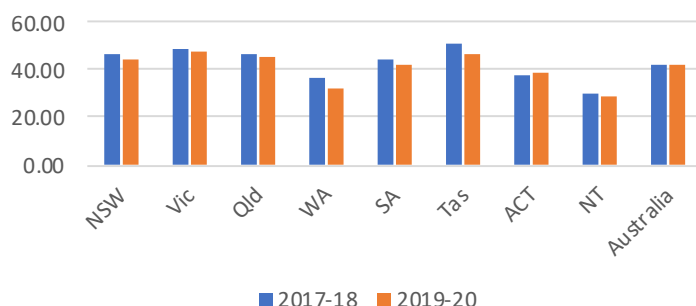
In Tasmania, there was a slight **decrease** in the **proportion (%)** of the Indigenous population receiving an eye exam over the 5-year period (from 17.3% in 2014-15 to **15.1% in 2019-20**).

The proportion of the non-Indigenous population receiving eye exams remained fairly steady over this time period.

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

3. Diabetic retinopathy screening^{2 3 4 5}

% of Indigenous patients who had a diabetes test who also had an eye exam



To assess eye examinations for Indigenous patients with diabetes, the rate of Indigenous patients who had a diabetes test (HBA1c levels) and who *also* had an eye examination has been calculated.

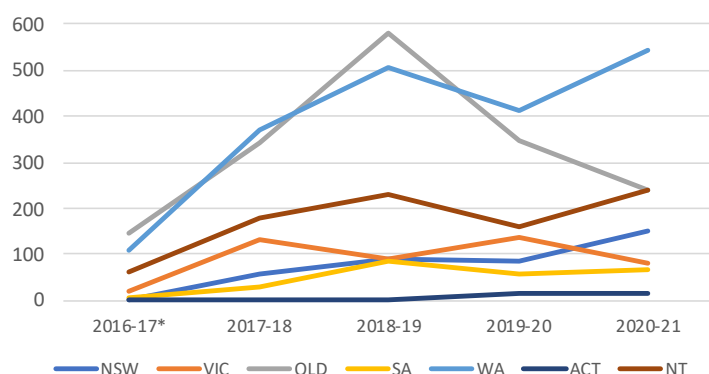


In 2019-20, **1,172** Indigenous patients received an MBS-billed diabetes (HBA1c) check in Tasmania.

Of those, 540 (**46.1%**) were **also** screened for Diabetic Retinopathy in the same year. This was **higher** than the national rate of 41.7%.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes should receive an annual retinal examination to identify, monitor or manage any changes.

MBS item 12325 claims - by Financial Year and State

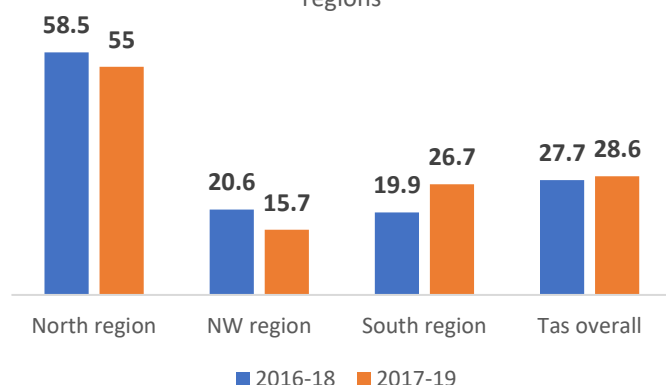


There have not yet been any claims for the MBS item for retinal screening for Indigenous patients with diabetes at a primary care clinic in Tasmania (MBS item 12325).

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

4. Access to cataract surgery^{1 2 5 6 7}

Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous Australians for cataract surgery, % of est. needs met, by Tas regions

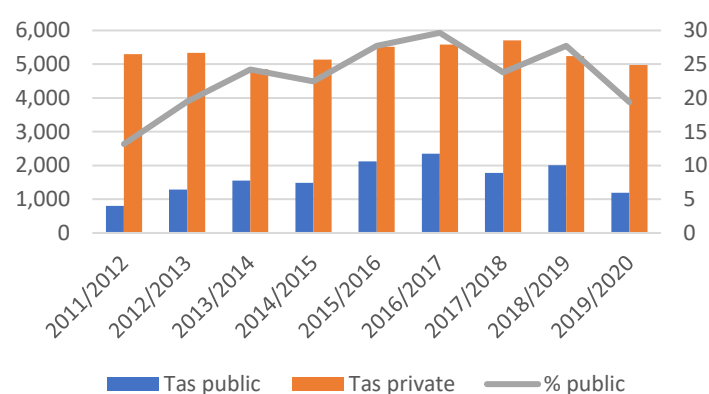


The estimated proportion of need met for cataract surgeries for Indigenous patients varied significantly across Tasmanian regions, with the North recording more than double the rate compared with the South and North West regions.

Overall, in Tasmania, **nearly 29%** of the estimated need for cataract surgery was met in the 2017-19 reporting period.

Cataracts are a leading cause of vision loss for Indigenous Australians. Increasing access to cataract surgery is an important element to end avoidable blindness.

Cataract surgery in Tas (public+private)

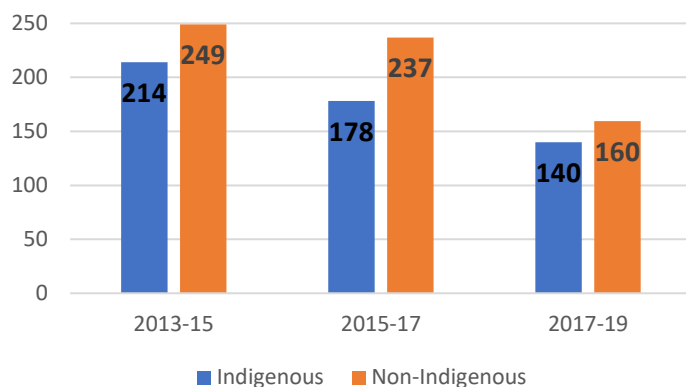


Over the past decade, the number of cataract surgeries in Tasmania (for the whole population) varied across private and public hospital settings.

In 2019-20, the proportion of cataract surgeries performed in public hospitals was **19.4%**, a **decrease** from 27.7% the previous year.

A reduction in the proportion of cataract surgeries performed in public hospitals may disproportionately impact Indigenous patients, who have a greater reliance on public elective surgery (70.4% for Indigenous patients in 2018-19, compared with 33.5% for other Australians).

Median waiting time for Cataract surgery in public hospitals (days)

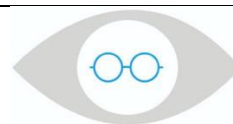
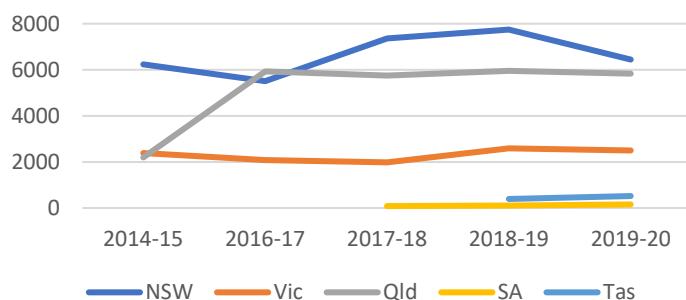


In public hospitals, Indigenous patients recorded **shorter wait times** than non-Indigenous patients in Tasmania, though the difference **decreased** from 59 days in 2015-17 to **20 days** in 2017-19.

Note that this data only includes public hospitals, and only records wait time from ophthalmology consultation to surgery. No data is available on the wait time from referral to ophthalmology consult. *Waiting times for surgery are an indication of equity of access. Despite higher rates of blinding cataract, Indigenous Australians often wait longer to access surgery.*

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

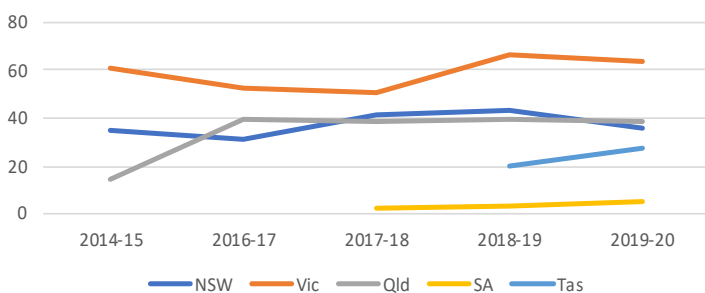
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme



The **number** of spectacles dispensed to Indigenous Australians under the state program in Tasmania **increased** from 390 in 2018-19 to **518** in 2019-20.

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

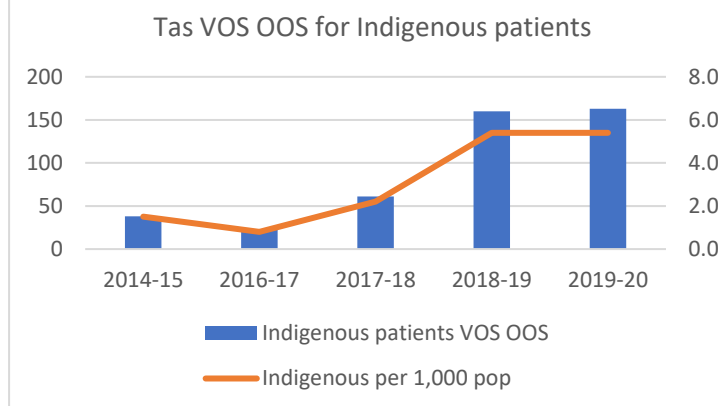
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme, as % of estimated need



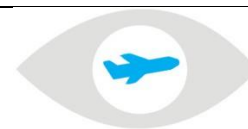
The % of **population-based need** being met through the subsidised spectacles program in Tasmania was **27%** in 2019-20, an **increase** from 20% the previous year.

Providing equitable access to affordable and appropriate glasses can help to address access barriers relating to cost.

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



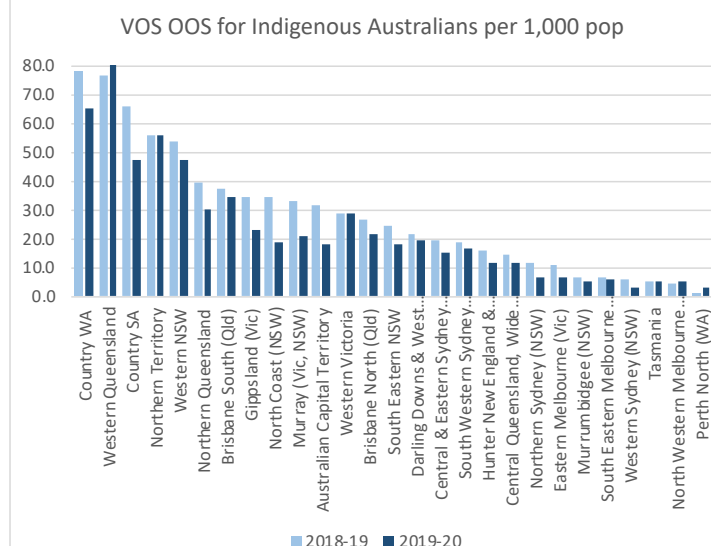
2015-16 data missing.



There has been a sharp **increase** in the number of occasions of service (OOS) provided under the Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS) in Tasmania since 2014-15.

In 2019-20, Tasmania recorded **163 VOS OOS** for Indigenous Australians, or **5.4 per 1,000** population. This was an increase from 38 OOS (or 1.5 per 1,000) in 2014-15.

Increasing VOS access for Indigenous clients can address issues of equity



Across **Australia** in 2019-20, rates of VOS OOS ranged from a high of 82.4 per 1,000 population in Western Queensland PHN region, to 2.9 per 1,000 in the Perth North PHN region.

The rate in Tasmania was the 5th lowest by PHN in 2019-20 (5.4 per 1,000 population).

Indigenous eye health calculator output for Tasmania^{7 8 9}

Delivery and coordination of eye care services report 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			Latest data
Region: Tasmania (2021 ABS population estimate) Population: 30401 (2021 ABS population estimate)			
OPTOMETRY CONSULTATIONS	Number of patients		
Comprehensive eye examinations required each year	5168	4,592 (88%)	
People over 40 requiring glasses each year	1944	518 (27%)	
People over 40 with diabetes requiring annual retinal examination	2925	1,172 (40%)	
OPHTHALMOLOGY CONSULTATIONS			
People requiring cataract referral consultations	289		
People requiring diabetic retinopathy referral consultations	339		
Total people requiring ophthalmology consultations	739		
HOSPITAL SURGERY			161 (2 years) ⁹ 81 (1 year) (28%)
People requiring cataract surgery	289		
People requiring trichiasis lid surgery	111		
Total people requiring hospital surgery	400		
WORKFORCE			
	Workforce requirements		
Optometry days required	646		
Optometry workforce required (EFT)	3.1		
Ophthalmology days required (consultation and surgery)	224		
Ophthalmology workforce required (EFT)	1.1		
Coordination workforce required total (EFT)	25.2		

Sources of data:

1. Australian Institute 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>
2. Australian Institute 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>
3. Australian Institute 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>
4. Australian Institute 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>
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6. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
7. Indigenous Eye Health. Calculator for the delivery and coordination of eye care services. Available from: <https://dr-grading.iehu.unimelb.edu.au/ecwc/>
8. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2019. 3238.0 Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031. 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#data-download>
9. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021, Indigenous Eye Health Measures 2020, data for measure 3.4. Available from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/indigenous-eye-health-measures-2021/data>