



Artwork by respected Wiradjuri / Yorta Yorta artist, Lyn Briggs, originally commissioned for VACCHO's first eye health program in 1998

Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Regional Stakeholder Forum - Report

Supported by the Victorian Aboriginal Eye
Health Strategy (VAEHS) Committee

26 November 2020 (online)



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Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands on which we are all living and working. We offer our respect to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge all individuals and organisations working in their communities to improve Indigenous eye health.

Thank you to the Working Group members of VAEHS committee, Dr Noela Prasad from Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Colette Davis from the Australian College of Optometry, Jaquie Nethercote from East Gippsland Primary Care Partnership, Dr Tessa Saunders, Carol Wynne, Guy Gillor from Indigenous Eye Health (IEH), Ché Stockley from the Vision Initiative, and Gwyn Low from Guide Dogs Australia for their efforts in organising the Forum.

We would also like to thank the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) for hosting the event, and particularly Natasha Lieschke for her invaluable technical support and guidance.

We would also like to thank all participants and speakers for contributing to and engaging in the Forum. Many organisations and communities from across Victoria were represented by participants and we also acknowledge this interest and support.

This report, session recordings, presentations, videos, and supplementary materials from the Forum are located in the Appendices to this report. The documents can also be accessed at the University of Melbourne, Indigenous Eye Health website: www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au

Executive Summary

The Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Regional Stakeholder Forum was held online via Zoom on Thursday 26 November 2020. This was the first Forum organised by a Working Group of the Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Strategy (VAEHS) committee to support regional efforts to close the gap for vision.

The Forum provided an opportunity for regional stakeholders and others working in eye health to come together to share initiatives and progress, and highlight challenges, new ideas and opportunities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health across Victoria.

Over the two hours, more than seventy participants representing over 40 organisations, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), service providers, non-government organisations, professional bodies, academia, and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), participated in the forum. The Forum featured a mix of presentations, videos, interviews and a series of concurrent breakout sessions.

Participants were reminded of the twelve regional eye stakeholder groups in Victoria- with boundaries self-defined and needs self-determined. Participants were privileged to hear some of the initiatives and challenges from individuals and organisations working in these regions, including an insight into the coordination of optometry and ophthalmology at the eye care clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS); details of a dual model of optometry access in Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) in Mildura; learnings from MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang on how they're embedding retinal imaging into primary care; and the work of the Bunjils Mirring Nganga-djak project for eye health promotion from the Aboriginal health and wellbeing team at EACH.

Some key areas of continuous improvement were highlighted in the breakout session group discussions, including:

- barriers to identification along the eye care pathway
- embedding and sustaining diabetic retinopathy screening in primary care
- empowering ACCHOs with their own data and its usefulness
- health promotion messages on eye care and services post COVID-19, and
- access to low vision services.

The Forum provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the strong interest and the varied and tremendous work going on in eye health around Victoria and acknowledge that progress was being made through stakeholders working together, including within regional eye stakeholder groups, where self-determination was critical to sustainable systems change.

Feedback from the Forum was positive, with participants reporting they enjoyed the opportunity to learn and share with others working in a similar space, appreciated the sharing of success stories, and made some very useful connections. Participants said the Forum, and similar opportunities to come together are invaluable to provide support, guidance and shared challenges to maintain the support and advocacy to improve eye health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria.

'I'm really inspired by all the work' – Forum Participant

'I think this is the beginning of something that can really be of value' – Forum Participant

***'It's a great opportunity to hear from other regions on their success and challenges'**
– Forum Participant*

Forum Agenda

Date: Thursday 26th November 2020

Time: 10.30am to 12.30 pm

Format: Online (via Zoom)

10.30 – 10.45	Session 1: Introduction and acknowledgments
	Introduction and acknowledgement of country <i>Susan Forrester, Manager, Health Management, Public Health and Research, VACCHO</i>
10.45 – 11.40	Session 2: Sharing progress and challenges
	Victorian Aboriginal Health Services, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital & Australian College of Optometry Eye Health Services, introduced by <i>Natalie Tieri</i> Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer Mirring ba Wirring Aboriginal Health Unit, The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital Bunjils Mirring Nganga-djak Eye Health project - Eye Health Promotion <i>EACH Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Team</i> Eye Care Pathways in Optometry in Mildura with <i>James (Jock) Peterson</i> <i>Mallee District Aboriginal Service (MDAS)</i> Eye Health Services at MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang: <i>Taylah Baird, MDAS Swan Hill</i> Facilitated Q&A time with all presenters at the end of session
	Stretch break – 5 mins
11.45 - 12.15	Session 3: Concurrent Breakout Room Sessions* Smaller group sessions
	Diabetic retinopathy screening in primary care – pathways for sustainable eye care – facilitated by Colette Davis, Australian College of Optometry Roundtable discussion – local solutions, pathways, processes and sustainability
	Eye health promotion – facilitated by Carol Wynne, Indigenous Eye Health Unit - Examples of resources, tools and approaches for eye health promotion - What's missing? Identification of opportunities for further development and support
	Improving eyecare pathways – facilitated by Dr Rosie Dawkins, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and VAHS ophthalmology clinic - Examples of what's worked, challenges, ideas, including ophthalmology, optometry and primary care - Improving communication between care providers
	Eye health data – facilitated by Neville Turner, Australian College of Optometry - Using eyecare data to inform patient care, service coordination, workforce planning and resource allocation - Continuous Quality Improvement and data – VACCHO CQI Team
12.15 – 12.30	Session 4: Ideas for addressing key shared challenges
	- Facilitated by <i>Noela Prasad (VACCHO)</i> and <i>Catherine Thompson (DHHS Vic)</i> - Feedback on issues, ideas, opportunities identified in theme areas - Are there things for the VAEHS group / others to support? - Thank you and close
12.30	Close

The Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Regional Stakeholder Forum was held online via Zoom on Thursday 26 November 2020. This was the first Forum organised by a Working Group of the VAEHS committee to support regional efforts to close the gap for vision.

Purpose and Objectives

The Forum was convened to bring together stakeholders from throughout Victoria to discuss success stories and challenges, to network and to exchange ideas. The broad themes covered included retinal imaging, eye health promotion, improving eye care pathways and eye health data.

The Forum was open to members of regional Victorian Aboriginal eye health stakeholder groups and others working in Aboriginal eye health across Victoria.

Specific objectives were:

1. Share approaches and achievements across regional Aboriginal eye health stakeholders/groups in Victoria
2. Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to network across regions
3. Identify ways regional groups and stakeholders can collaborate, make connections and support each other
4. Identify ways the Victorian State group can support regional groups and stakeholders

The Forum received 88 registrations, and over the two hours, more than 70 participants joined, representing over 40 organisations, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, service providers, non- government organisations, professional bodies, academia and the DHHS (See Appendix 1 for Forum Participant List).



SAVE THE DATE

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL EYE HEALTH REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Supported by the Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Strategy (VAEHS) Committee*

**Thursday 26 November 2020
10:30am - 12:30pm
Via Zoom, see below to register**

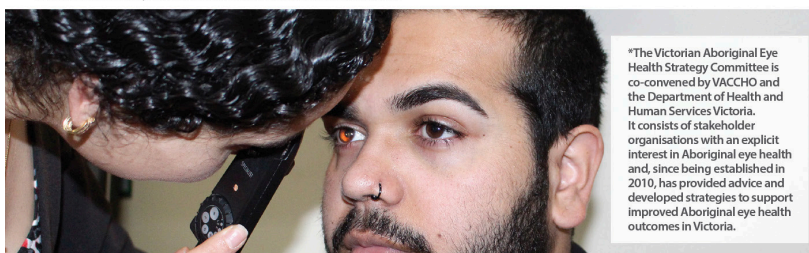
The forum will bring together stakeholders from throughout Victoria to discuss success stories and challenges, network and exchange ideas.

The following themes will be covered on the day: retinal imaging, eye health promotion, improving eye care pathways and eye health data.

Open to members of regional Victorian Aboriginal eye health stakeholder groups and others working in Aboriginal eye health across Victoria.

Please register your interest [here](#) to receive updates
An agenda will be circulated closer to the time
For further information contact:
Tessa.Saunders@unimelb.edu.au

Photos courtesy of (top) Malee District Aboriginal Health Service, Swan Hill
(below) Indigenous Eye Health and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.



*The Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Strategy Committee is co-convened by VACCHO and the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria. It consists of stakeholder organisations with an explicit interest in Aboriginal eye health and, since being established in 2010, has provided advice and developed strategies to support improved Aboriginal eye health outcomes in Victoria.

This section provides an overview summary of the Forum, capturing key messages and highlights from the Sessions.

Session 1: Introduction, Welcome

Apologies was provided by Susan Forrester from VACCHO who was unable to join the Forum, however in her absence Co-Chair of the VAEHS committee, Dr Noela Prasad from VACCHO made the opening remarks, acknowledging the lands on which participants were engaging from across Victoria and paying respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

The Forum provided a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to Genevieve Napper for her enormous contributions to the profession of optometry, and to her personal energies supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health. A Scholarship has been set up in Genevieve's honour to support eye health education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (See Appendix 2 for details of the scholarship).

Session 2: Sharing Progress and Challenges

This session provided participants with an overview of regional eye health progress providing participants with examples of successful initiatives and shared challenges.

Nick Schubert from Indigenous Eye Health, highlighted that in 2014-15, four regions in Victoria were funded to support improved access to eye care, including; the Grampians, North West Metro, Barwon Great South Coast and Loddon Mallee. Each of those regions established a project officer to support regional collaboration between stakeholders along the continuum of care. When that funding ceased a couple of years later, instead of the concept of regional collaboration stopping, it grew from the four regions then to twelve regions now in 2020.

The regional eye stakeholder groups in Victoria have developed organically – with boundaries being self-defined and needs self-determined, and also without any additional project funding being allocated to support the work.

Over the past three or four years many innovative solutions to accessible eye care have developed in these regions and there are still some challenges that the groups continue to work on.



Regional eye stakeholder groups in Victoria

Some of this exciting progress, including initiatives and challenges, was shared by individuals and organisations from some of these regions:

- A short video was introduced by Natalie Tieri, the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer from Mirring ba Wirring Aboriginal Health Unit at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (RVEEH) showcasing the eye care clinic at Victorian Aboriginal Health Services (VAHS), which was established in partnership with the RVEEH and the ACO. It is the first of its kind in Australia. The video shares insights into the coordination of optometry and ophthalmology at the eye care clinic at VAHS and the personal experience of the clinic by a community member (See Appendix 2 to view full video)

- The Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Team at EACH, including Vanessa Murdoch, Des Smith, Liz Senior, & Lynne Pharaoh-Harner shared two videos; one showcasing the wonderful work of their Bunjils Mirring Nganga-djak project for eye health promotion, including a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's eye health, and the other video provided details of their outreach optometry service provided by the ACO (See Appendix 2 for links to the eye health promotion resources and to view full video/s).
- An interview with James (Jock) Peterson, ITC coordinator (previously Regional Eye Health Coordinator) from MDAS in Mildura. Jock provided participants with details of a dual model of optometry access with VOS funded optometry at local Aboriginal health service complemented by a strong relationship with local optometrist. This success is reflected in the data of access to subsidized spectacles in Mildura. Jock supports clients getting to optometrist and makes sure results of the visit are made known to MDAS (See Appendix 2 for recording of Jock's interview).
- Taylah Baird from MDAS in Swan Hill introduced their video presentation which shared some important achievements and learnings on the eye health services at MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang with a particular focus on how they've embedded retinal imaging into primary care (See Appendix 2 for the recording and access to the presentation slides).



Staff using retinal camera at MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang



Bunjils Mirring Nganga-djak project – health promotion resources

Session 3: Concurrent Breakout Sessions

The concurrent breakout sessions allowed participants to discuss in smaller groups four identified themes, including; *diabetic retinopathy screening in primary care, eye health promotion, improving eye care pathways; eye health data and to share some of the key 'challenges and opportunities' in Session 4 for further consideration.*

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in Primary Care – Pathways for Sustainable Eye Care

Facilitator: Colette Davis, ACO

The objective of the session:

To work up recommendations on local solutions, pathways, processes and sustainability beyond the life of the project – June 2021

Key presentation and discussion insights:

- As part of the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training (PEHET) project, the ACO is providing training on the use of the retinal camera to primary health care workers and general practitioners (See Appendix 2)
- Aim to support increased primary-level access to retinal photography for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes

What works:

- Designated person for eye health
- Onsite practical staff training
- Ongoing use and practice
- Embed in existing pathways e.g. MBS715, diabetes clinic
- Internal review of images e.g. by GP or Primary Health Care Worker (PHCW)
- Organisational support to ensure time to practice

The Challenges:

- Staff turnover and loss of trained staff
- Limited time in the day to use camera
- Reviewing the image
- Not a designated person to manage the camera
- Medicare Billing
- No ophthalmologist that will bulk bill

Sustainability and next steps:

1. Review of photos
 - i. Vic Grading Service
 - ii. VOS providers offer this service (if frequent enough clinics)
 - iii. GP triage/PHCW triage – RACGP to be involved in this communication to members
2. Training
 - i. VOS program to provide ongoing upskill
 - ii. Train the trainer – designated trainer at each site
 - iii. VACCHO – embedded in local eye health modules for AHW or RNs
 - iv. Allocation of a designated health worker that upskills with VOS, provides trail the trainer
3. Medicare Billing:
 - i. Increase in GP review of images
 - ii. Billing against the report from Centre for Eye Health
 - iii. PHCW complete the triage course – review images with GP sign off
 - iv. Bill another way e.g. 10987

Refresher training: Due to COVID-19 a number of health services may need refresher training – training available to June 2021, so please get in touch with the ACO to book a session.

Promotional Resources – Banners and flyers can be developed for your health service free of charge to support the project. For further details contact the ACO.

Eye Health Promotion

Facilitator: Carol Wynne, IEH

The objectives of the session:

- Highlight key eye health promotion resources and tools
- Explore current health promotion approaches and strategies
- Identify gaps, further development and support for eye health promotion

Key presentation and discussion insights:

- As we think about health promotion, it is much broader than just education. It's a process of enabling people to increase control of the determinants of their health and thereby improve their health or eye health. It's about asking what do people know and what's of value to them?
- It's an opportunity for empowerment at multiple levels—individual, organisational and community—strengthening the capacity for collective action
- Regional eye stakeholder groups are working to collectively identify barriers to access and priority areas for improvement that can be addressed regionally- health promotion awareness is an important part of this consideration so that local community driven needs are met and can bounce back after COVID
- One of the challenges now is to re-engage and support community so that their health, including eye care is where it needs to be
- There are limited eye health promotion resources for eye care awareness, including not enough information for young people (See Appendix 2 for links to available health promotion resources for eye health).
- There is a need to improve and strengthen capacity to deliver health promotion

Improving Eye Care Pathways

Facilitator: Dr Rosie Dawkins, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (RVEEH) and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) ophthalmology clinic

The objectives of the session:

- Discuss the elements of the eye care pathway including relationships to local services and the impact of both the bushfires and COVID-19

Key presentation and discussion insights:

Participatory discussion focused on four elements of the eye care pathway:

- **Access to optometry:** VOS services impacted, but strength of relationships with local ACCHOs has helped things bounce back e.g. MDAS' relationship with Mildura eye clinic. Identification and referral an ongoing challenge with providers
- **Access to ophthalmology consultation and chronic care/DR treatment/MD treatment:** Improving access means providing culturally safe services. Discussion on linking Primary Health Networks to various ophthalmologists as touchpoints for local ACCHOs. Also diabetic retinopathy treatment costs where there is cost certainty- a low cost model with the gap determined minus scheduled fee and benefit
- **Different elements along the treatment pathway:** the 'glue that connects the pathway together': Barriers to '100% attendance' with transport outlined as having an impact on care, in particular cataract surgery
- **Access to surgery:** Mentioned in the North West, Eastern Metro, South East ophthalmology has 'changed things' including the fast tracking of cataract patients
- **Access to low vision services:** It was highlighted that there are barriers in accessing the low vision pathway and recognised this was the least developed part of pathway. Partnerships through identified barriers on education and knowledge on what services are available will be important
- Ongoing meetings and regular communication between stakeholders, services providers and regional meetings will be important to strengthen the pathway

Eye Health Data

Facilitator/s: Neville Turner, ACO and Dr Noela Prasad, VACCHO

The objectives of the session:

- AIHW Indigenous Eye-health Measures: Wins, Challenges and Opportunities
 - a. What do we know?
 - b. What do we need to improve?
- What eye-health data can be used to inform patient care, service coordination, workforce planning and resource allocation?
 - c. How might the data cycle operate as an efficient and effective system (collection, collation, analysis, dissemination/reporting and use)
 - d. Data touchpoints on the patient journey – linkages and communication for a smooth care pathway.

Key presentation and discussion insights:

- Background documents (See Appendix 2) were provided to all registered participants of this session prior to the Forum
- Neville chairs the Vic State data working group and there are a range of data sources that provide information on eye-health data in Victoria, however there are some ongoing challenges with collating complete information from the various sources. Currently there is some data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare at State, PHN and regional level and DHHS Vic, the ACO and RWAV data. Some regional groups also collect their own data.
- Ultimately the Vic State Group want to know what would be useful on the ground – what can we collect for community to make services appropriate and targeted? Importantly, this needs to be driven by local needs
- VACCHO presenters Ken Wong and Amanda Jackson shared a video (See Appendix 2) about the ‘Data Journey’ between ACCHOs and VACCHO. This included how VACCHO collates data, performs analysis and feeds back information to ACCHOs for use in improving planning, workforce, resourcing and delivery of general (not eye-specific) clinical services
- An exercise was started with participants on mapping data availability and usefulness of indicators across the range of clinicians and levels of service providers along the care pathway.
- A key question is: What eye-health data might inform patient care, service coordination and workforce planning?
- Getting consistent data is the main challenge and collaboration to get data for ACCHOs may be needed. It is important to hear bottom up from ACCHOs what they want



Session 4: Ideas for Addressing Key Shared Challenges

The objective of this session was to provide valuable feedback on key issues, ideas and opportunities identified in theme areas (Session 3: concurrent breakout session) for further consideration:

Facilitator/s: Dr Noela Prasad , VACCHO and Catherine Thompson, DHHS

Improving Eye Care Pathways

- Barriers to identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander starting from optometry through to referral at hospitals is an area for improvement
- Regions where providers across pathway have been attending regional stakeholder meetings continue to make a big impact
- Low vision providers are at the stage of early engagement with community controlled health organisations, which is something to support going forward towards improvement and maintenance of the pathway

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening - creating sustainable eye care

- The group discussed the next 6 months of the PEHET project and local solutions needed thereafter
- What is the review going to look like? Training, Medicare billing?
- A key component is the relationship with VOS and local providers, there is also a need for review of photos, sustainability and to encourage GPs to finish the DR grading course
- The groups discussed the option for a Vic grading service option that would be free of charge to use before the centre for eye health stops grading.
- There is a need to determine if VOS providers are attending frequently enough.
- Train the trainer is also key and opportunity to look at using MBS Items 10997

Eye Health Promotion

- COVID has impacted programs and eye care services – there is an opportunity to re-engage and start promoting to get community back into services
- Regional eye stakeholder groups provide a good opportunity to strengthen capacity for health promotion
- There are opportunities to share existing resources and an opportunity to develop further resources and communication in community on all eye conditions (including for young people)

Eye Health Data

- There is currently some eye data available from a range of sources including nationally, from DHHS Vic, the ACO and RWAV and some regional groups collect their own data
- There are challenges with data collection and a working group of the VAEHS committee are wanting to hear from the ground up about what data is most useful, especially from ACCHOs.

Conclusion

The Forum provided a great opportunity to share some insights into regional eye stakeholder activities and to identify a number of barriers and opportunities for further consideration by the VAEHS committee, member organisations, the Working Group, and within regional eye stakeholder groups, in 2021.

It also highlighted the importance of strengthening and maintaining ongoing communication and partnerships between providers and stakeholders along the eye care pathway for continuous improvement and sustainable outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Forum Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Organisation
Mitchell	Anjou	Senior Research Fellow	Indigenous Eye Health, University of Melbourne
Natalie	Arambasic	Health Promotion Officer	Diabetes Victoria
Caroline	Atkinson	ITC Regional Coordinator	DDACL
Colette	Bacash	Senior Program Advisor	DHHS
Taylah	Baird	Allied Health Trainee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Kirsty	Barnes	Program Coordinator: Access and Integration	Central Hume Primary Care Partnership
Jackie	Barry	Vision Initiative Program Manager	Vision 2020 Australia
Lauren	Blatchford	Clinic Manager	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service
Fiona	Bradbury	Chronic Care Coordinator	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service
Piers	Carozzi	Head of Outreach & Community Eyecare Services	Australian College of Optometry
Tim	Carter	Customer Service Manager	Guide Dogs Victoria
J Ben	Clark	Ophthalmologist	Barwon Health
Kylie	Clarke	Program Leader	Weenthunga Health Network
Sally	Coates	Quality Improvement Coordinator	Murray PHN
Anthea	Cochrane	Associate Professor and Clinical Coordinator	Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences- The University of Melbourne
Nicole	Davis	Aboriginal Health Practitioner	Murray Valley Aboriginal Services
Colette	Davis	Senior Project Officer	Australian College of Optometry
Rosie	Dawkins	Ophthalmologist	RVEEH / VAHS
Kerry	Deverell	Aboriginal Access Worker	IPC Health
Georgia	Dickinson	Program Coordinator Outreach & Regional Services	Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
Matt	Dixon	Director Special Projects	Western Victoria Primary Health Network
Amanda	Edgar	Optometrist	Robinson Family Optometrist
Chris	Edmonds	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access Project Officer	Southern Melbourne Primary Care Partnership
Allison	Ferreira	Regional Services Officer/Indigenous Health Project Officer	Gippsland Primary Health Network
Susan	Forrester	Executive mgr Public Health and Sector Development	VACCHO
Jodie	Frassenei	Aboriginal Care Coordinator	Star Health
Rosamond	Gilden	Research Assistant	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Selena	Gillham	Executive Officer	East Gippsland PCP
Guy	Gillor	Senior Research Fellow	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Jenny	Gladwin	Manager Aboriginal Health Team	Easternhealth
Yvette	Gollmer	Regional Manager	Vision Australia
Kirsten	Hausknecht	Program Coordinator Outreach and Regional Services	Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
Ellie	Hudson	Occupational Therapist	Vision Australia
Nilmini	John	Manager of Aboriginal Services (Optometry)	Australian College of Optometry
Ami	Johnston	Clinical coordinator	MDAS
Laurie	Kelly	Referral Partnerships Manager	Guide Dogs Victoria
Dee	Kelly	Chronic Health Nurse	Budja Budja Aboriginal cooperative Pty Ltd
Libby	Lesock	Aboriginal Health Policy and Projects	Barwon Health
Natasha	Lieschke	Executive Assistant	Australian College of Optometry
Gwyn	Low	Project Manager	Guide Dogs Victoria
Candace	Marsden	Program Coordinator- Outreach and Regional Services	RWAV
Simon	McDonald-Kerr	Regional Team Leader (Geelong)	Guide Dogs Victoria
Fabian	McLindin	Registered Nurse- Health Team Leader	Kirrae Health Service
Colin	Mitchell	Aboriginal Liaison Officer	Diabetes Victoria
Karen	Moodie	Director of Primary Care	Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative

Forum Participant List (continued)

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Organisation
Adam	Muir	Aboriginal Health Project Officer	Aboriginal Health Unit, Barwon Health
Vanessa	Murdoch	Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer	EACH
Margaret	Murray	Aboriginal Health Promotion & Chronic Care Support Worker	Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
Jaquie	Nethercote	Partnership Facilitator	East Gippsland Primary Care Partnership
Maureen	O'Keefe	CEO	Australian College of Optometry
Ian	Peters	Practice Manager	Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Services inc
James	Peterson	Indigenous Health Project Officer- ITC	MDAS Mildura
Lynne	Pharoah-Hamer	Diabetes Educator & Aboriginal Care Coordinator	EACH
Jodi	Phillips	Lecturer Indigenous health	Deakin University
Noela	Prasad	Statewide eye-health Coordinator	VACCHO
Dian	Rahardjo	Education Officer/Community Optometrist	Brien Holden Foundation
Angela	Reynolds	Orientation & Mobility Specialist	Guide Dogs Victoria
Kylie	Robinson	Orthoptist	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Alexsandra (Alex)	Rojas	Care Coordinator Aboriginal Health	IPC Health
Abe	Ropitini	Project Manager	Guide Dogs Victoria
Tessa	Saunders	Academic Specialist	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Nicholas	Schubert	Research Fellow	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Elizabeth	Senior	Senior Health Promotion Officer	EACH
Roman	Serebrianik	Senior Policy Advisor	V2020 Australia
Rupa	Sharma	Manager specialist rooms	Bairnsdale regional health
Davis	Shipson	Executive Manager	Rumbalara Elders Facility
Des	Smith	Aboriginal Health Facilitator and Advisor	EACH
Josephine	Stevens	Executive Director	Colac Area Health
Che	Stockley	Policy and Project Advisor	Vision 2020 Australia
Georgina	Taylor	Aboriginal Health Practitioner	Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperation
Melissa	Tchea	Orthoptist	RVEEH
Gillian	Thatcher	Community Health Nurse	Djerriwarrh Health Services
Catherine	Thompson	Manager Wellbeing and Community Support	DHHS
Natalie	Tieri	Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Jane	Trevaskis	Director of Education, Membership and Marketing	Australian College of Optometry
Tony	Triado	Manager Population Health & Community Wellbeing	DHHS
Neville	Turner	Director of Clinical Services	Australian College of Optometry
Cher	Twe	Team Leader- Victorian Rural Outreach Services	RWAV
Toni	Webster	Health Promotion	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Rebecca	Welsh	Aboriginal Program Officer	Lower Hume PCP- Aboriginal Health & Wellbeing Program
Antony	Wightman	Ophthalmology Registrar	Barwon Health
Mandy	Williamson	Diabetes Ed	Victorian Aboriginal Health service
Nick	Wilson	Marketing and Communications Officer	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Ken	Wong	Data Analyst	VACCHO
Carol	Wynne	Translation Research Scholar	Indigenous Eye Health, the University of Melbourne
Emma	Young	Occupational Therapist	Guide Dogs Victoria
Zafar Iqbal	Zafar	Principal Medical Officer	Latrobe Medical Centre
Roman	Zwolak	Clinic Services Coordinator	Budja Budja Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd

Appendix 2: Links to Session Recordings, Presentations, Videos and Supplementary Materials

View VAEHS Forum Recording [here](#)

Time	Session Recording	Presentations/Videos/Supplementary Materials
00:00:00	Session 1: Introduction & Welcome to Country	
00:04:00	Remembering Genevieve Napper	Scholarship
00:08:06	Session 2: Introduction	
00:14:24	Presentation: VAHS / RVEEH / ACO Eye care clinic	Video: VAHS Eye Clinic
00:26:57	Presentation: EACH Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Team – Eye Health Promotion	Video 1: Bunjils Mirring Nganga-djak project Video 2: EACH Optometry Clinic Health Promotion Resources
00:42:08	Interview with Jock Paterson: MDAS Optometry & ACCHO	
00:51:59	Presentation: Eye Health Services at MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang	Presentation: Eye Health Services at MDAS Swan Hill/Kerang (PDF)
00:56:18	Session 2: Q & A	
Session 3: Break Out Sessions are not included in the recording		
Breakout: Retinal Imaging		The provision of eye health equipment and training (PEHET) program - Refresher training available to June 2021, contact the ACO to book a session - Promotional Resources – Banners and flyers can be developed for your health service free of charge to support the project - further details
Breakout: Improving Eye Care Pathways		
Breakout: Eye Health Promotion		Health promotion resources: -Indigenous Eye Health- Check Today, See Tomorrow diabetes eye care resources -Diabetes Victoria – Feltman with eyes -VACCHO/Vision Initiative – brochures/poster on eye conditions and \$10 spectacle scheme
Breakout: Eye Health Data		Video (from VACCHO): Data Journey Background documents: - AHCSA Deadly Sights: Communicare and MBS Guide - AIHW Indigenous Eye Health Measures 2020
01:00:42	Session 4: Introduction	
01:03:07	Breakout Summary: Retinal imaging	
01:06:53	Breakout Summary: Improving eye care pathways	
01:08:46	Breakout Summary: Eye health promotion	
01:10:15	Breakout Summary: Eye health data	
01:11:31	Closing Remarks	

Appendix 3: Forum Feedback

Forum participants provided feedback through a short post-Forum survey. A 30% response rate was received from participants.

Overall, participants expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the VAEHG Forum:

- Nearly all respondents (91%) felt overall the information discussed at the Forum was of value and interest to their work
- The majority of respondents (96%) felt the Forum met their expectations
- 99% expressed high satisfaction with Breakout Session content
- 91% participants felt satisfied with the overall Forum content, while 74% indicated satisfaction with the content in the breakout sessions
- 87% were satisfied with the length of forum
- 79% were satisfied with how the forum was run

Networking, hearing what other regions and organisations have achieved, and group discussions were highlights for most respondents. A number of respondents suggested more time allocation for breakout sessions and small group discussions.

Some of comments, reflections and suggestions from participants are captured in the quotes below:

- *'Seeing the interest from various organisations across the state'*
- *'Presentations about the various initiatives'*
- *'Meeting others involved in Aboriginal eye health services'*
- *'Hearing other experiences and barriers'*
- *'Breakout sessions needed to be a fraction longer'*
- *'More content on how to engage services/optometrists in rural/remote areas'*
- *'Great opportunity to hear from each region on key successes and key challenges'*
- *'it was a great Forum, well done!'*
- *'I'm really inspired by the work of all involved'*
- *'It was great to see such a high attendance at the form – should consider running this again virtually'*
- *'I think this is the beginning of something that can really be of value'*
- *'Enjoyed hearing the guest speakers and groups discussion in health promotion breakout session'*
- *'It's an important event to connect partners and stakeholders'*
- *'Difficult to hear videos at times, but technical hitches were dealt with quickly and expediently'*
- *'I am interested in 'take away' ideas – things that others are doing that I can use with my community'*

A number of topics or areas of interest were identified and suggested for future Forums, including:

- Patients journey – looking at eye health from a patient/client perspective
- Review of each of the regional groups, their achievements and challenges
- Community engagement – sector wide discussion on meaningful community engagement More about improving eye care pathways
- Ophthalmology: Barrier of bulk-billing ophthalmology in Victoria – a shared experience in many regions
- Workforce development of First Nations People- improving pathways of First Nations People into eye profession
- Diabetic eye care/Retinal camera imaging challenges
- Health promotion/creative workshops/toolkits to support education on all eye conditions
- More success stories
- Guest/Expert speakers (including interstate speakers)
- Funding/Traineeships for community to work in eye health