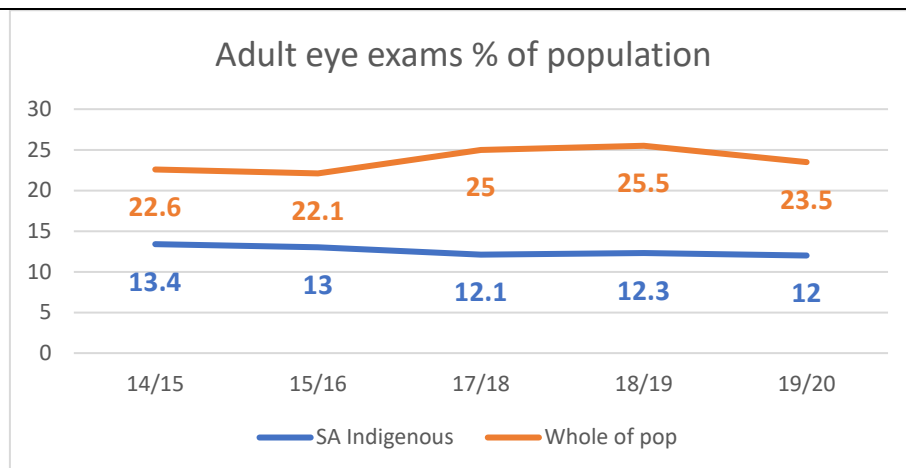


Indigenous Eye Health Measures – South Australia snapshot 2021

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

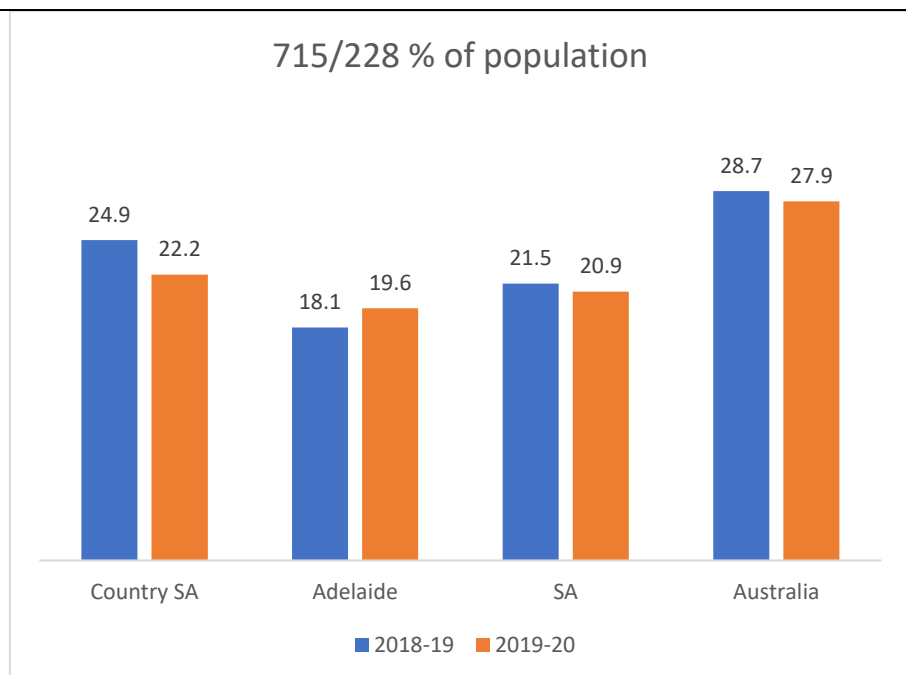
These measures cover the eye care pathway, and treatment for the conditions causing the highest rate of vision loss and blindness for First Nations Australians.

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



In 2019-20, **12%** of Indigenous adults in South Australia had an eye exam, compared to 22.5% of non-Indigenous Australians. This was a slight increase compared to the previous year, however these rates were likely further impacted by COVID.

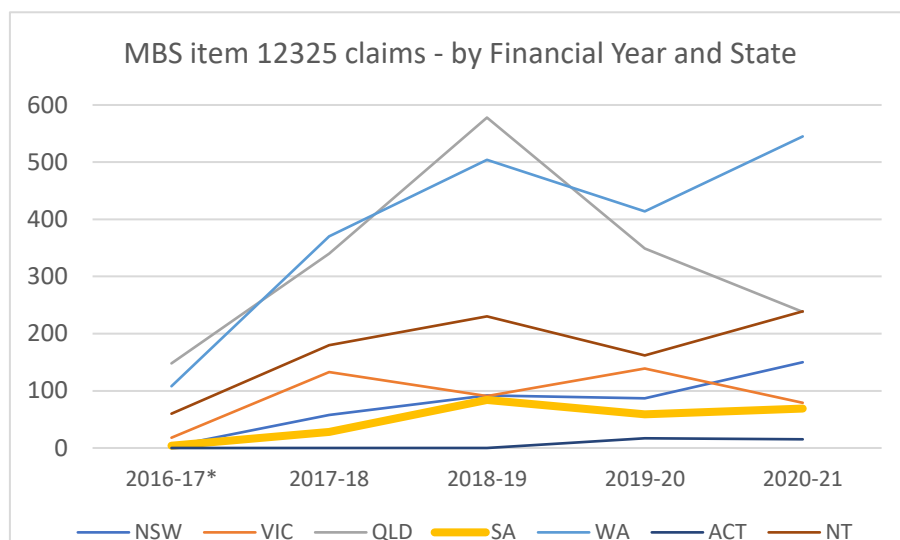
2. Eye examinations in primary care – 715/228 health checks^{1 2}



In SA, 20.9% of the Indigenous population received an MBS 715 Health Assessment in 18/19, with a higher rate in Country SA compared with Adelaide. However, both fall short of the national rate of 28.7%.

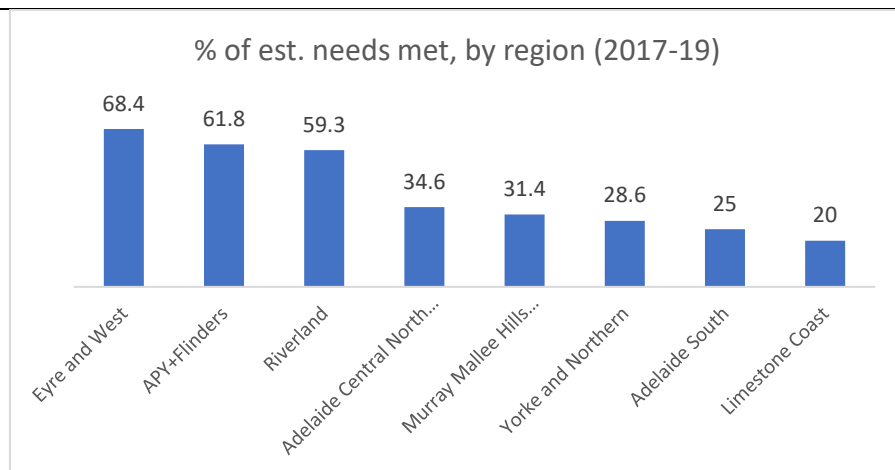
COVID impact: for the year of Mar 2020–Feb 2021, SA recorded over 10% reduction in 715 rates compared with the prev 12 months. (national reduction closer to 15%)

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



12325 claims in South Australia have steadily progressed, despite being impacted by COVID-19, however not as negatively as some other jurisdictions. After a peak of 89 claims in 18/19, there were 59 claims in 19/20, and increased to 69 in 20/21.

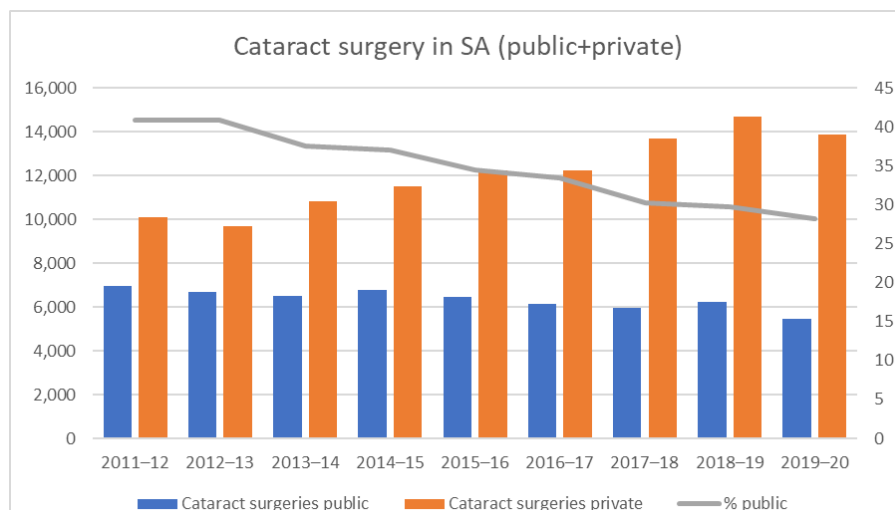
4. Access to cataract surgery^{16 7}



For the period of 2017-19, est rates of needs met for cataract surgery for Indigenous patients varied significantly across SA.

Over the past decade, cataract surgeries in SA have increased in private and decrease public, meaning the portion of public surgeries decreases over time.

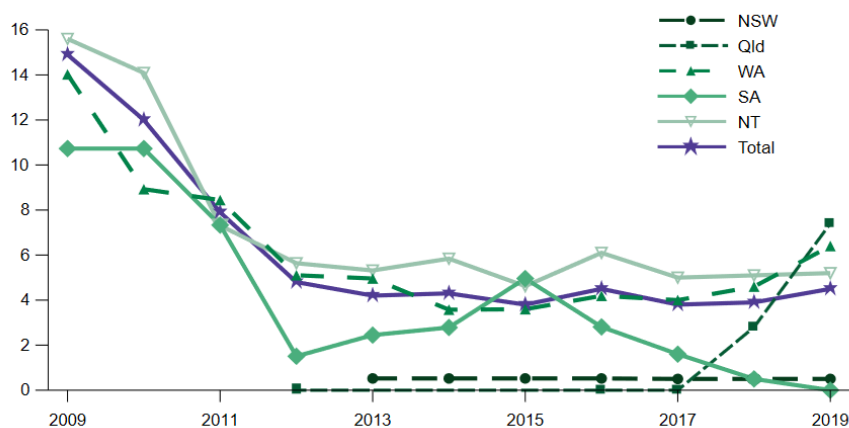
Reduction in the rate of cataract surgeries performed in public is likely to disproportionately impact Indigenous patients, given 70.4% reliance in public for elective surgery in 18/19, compared with 33.5% for other Australians.



5. Trachoma rates¹

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

Per cent (crude)



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

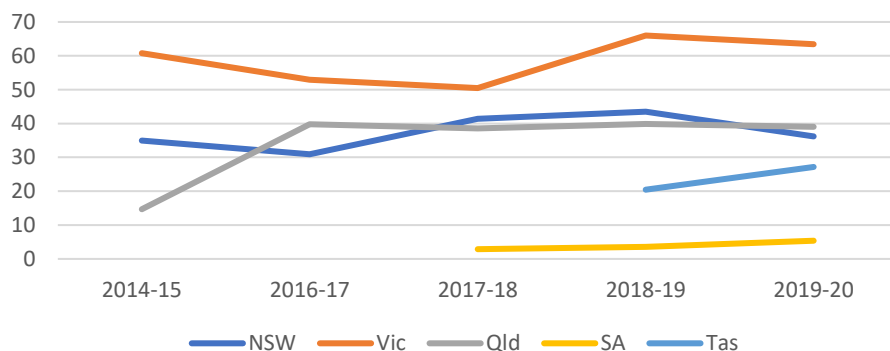
Source: Australian Trachoma Surveillance Reports (Kirby Institute 2013–2019, forthcoming 2020).



Trachoma prevalence among Indigenous children aged 5-9 in South Australia reduced to 0 in 2019. This is an excellent achievement, especially given the starting point in SA of 10.7% recorded in 2009 and 2010.

6. Subsidised spectacles¹

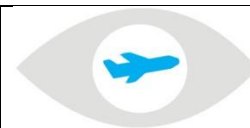
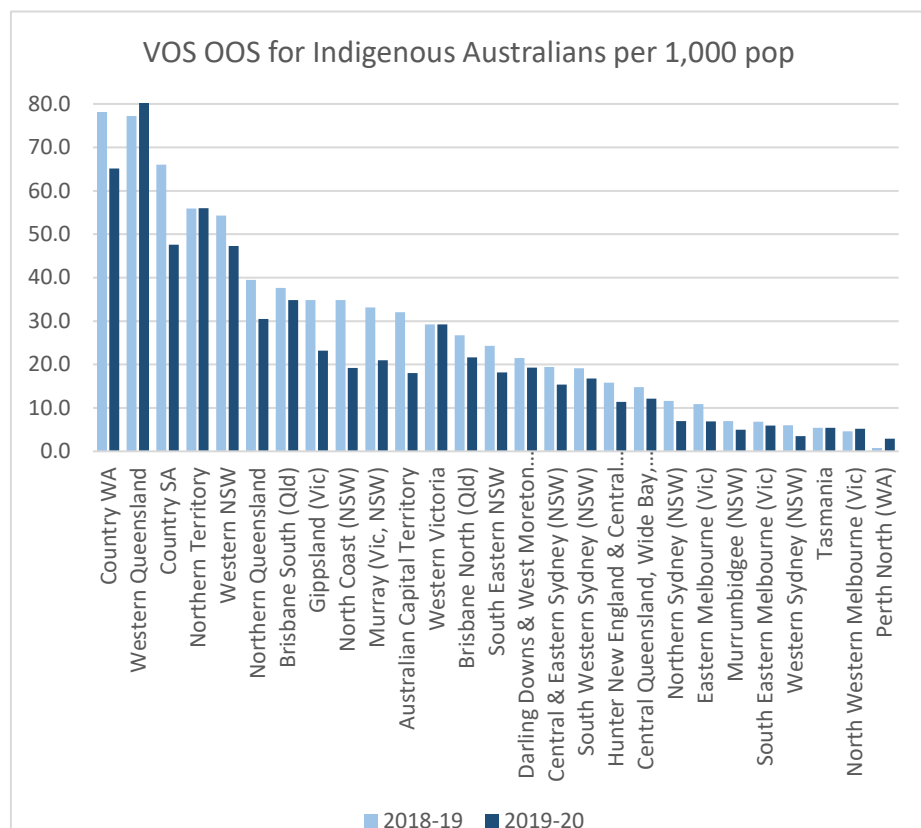
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme, as % of estimated need



The number of spectacles dispensed to Indigenous People under the state program was 153 for 2018/19.

This data doesn't reflect new subsidised specs arrangements in place.

7. Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS)¹



In 19-20, Country SA PHN VOS provision for Indigenous Australians is estimated to have served 48 out of 1,000 Indigenous population, a reduction from 66 per 1,000 recorded in 18-19. Country SA ranked 4th highest out of 27 PHNs where VOS is provided.

Prepared by Indigenous Eye Health, University of Melbourne, November 2021

Indigenous Eye Health Calculator output for South Australia⁷

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: South Australia

Population: 42265

OPTOMETRY CONSULTATIONS	Number of patients
Comprehensive eye examinations required each year	7185
People over 40 requiring glasses each year	2703
People over 40 with diabetes requiring annual retinal examination	4066
OPHTHALMOLOGY CONSULTATIONS	
People requiring cataract referral consultations	402
People requiring trichiasis referral consultations	154
People requiring diabetic retinopathy referral consultations	472
Total people requiring ophthalmology consultations	1028
HOSPITAL SURGERY	
People requiring cataract surgery	402
People requiring trichiasis lid surgery	154
Total people requiring hospital surgery	556
WORKFORCE	Workforce requirements
Optometry days required	898
Optometry workforce required (EFT)	4.3
Ophthalmology days required (consultation and surgery)	311
Ophthalmology workforce required (EFT)	1.5
Coordination workforce required total (EFT)	35.1

Sources of data:

1. 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>
2. 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>
3. 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>

4. 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>
5. Services Australia. Medicare Statistics portal. Available from: http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/mbs_item.jsp
6. Australian Indigenous 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/>