

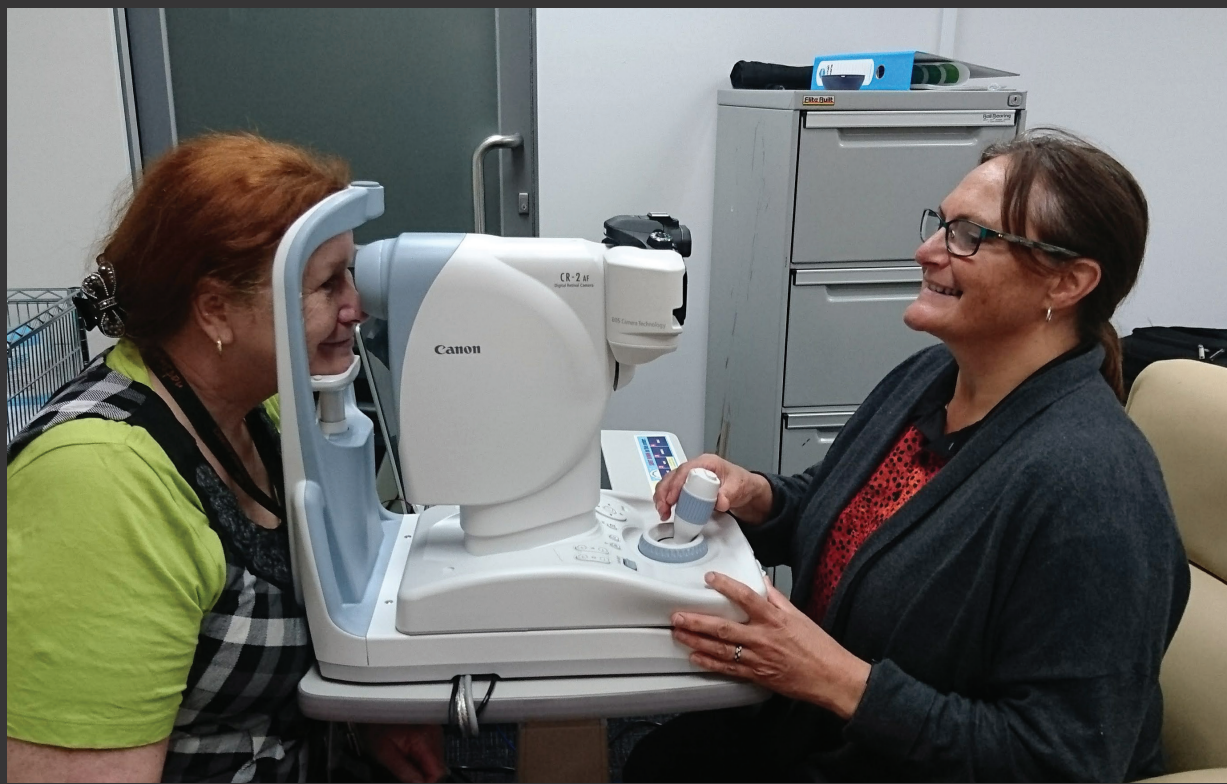
COMMUNITY DRIVEN EYECARE: PATHWAYS AND PARTNERSHIPS

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The Australian College of Optometry has been working in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services for over 20 years. The following three service delivery models demonstrates the importance of partnerships, flexibility and community driven eye care.

	Victorian Aboriginal Community Health Service (VAHS) - Fitzroy	Billabong BBQ - Fitzroy	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)
ACO Partnership Commenced	1998	2008	2014
Current service	Two days per week	One day every two months	One day a month
Health Service Aim	'The aim of the VAHS clinical unit is to provide health care, assessments, understanding and education to the Aboriginal Community' (VAHS 2020).	Access to allied health and social services in a supported environment, for the Aboriginal community in Collingwood and Fitzroy.	'BADAC was established by members of the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Community in 1979. BADAC delivers health, social, welfare and community development programs to local Aboriginal people' (BADAC 2020).
ACO Service Delivery Model	Co-location (Funded by DHHS, Vic) Co-located service delivery in conjunction with the VAHS medical team, to ensure that comprehensive eye care in a culturally safe space is available to the community. A strength of this service is the evolution over 22 years of partnership to ensure the service meets the needs of the community.	Outreach (Funded by DHHS, Vic) Community based eye health service, responding to needs of people who may not access mainstream services	Outreach (Funded by Department of Health, Australian Government) A model of community eye care co-designed with the health service, to meet the needs of the community.
What we do	• Provide twice weekly eye clinics in partnership with multidisciplinary team • Flexible approach; responsive to health service and community need in relation to service delivery and referral pathways • Continuity of ACO staff working with VAHS to build relationships and trust with community • Integrated service with VAHS, ACO and Eye and Ear Hospital, facilitating referral pathways for Aboriginal patients requiring surgery • Work in a co-designed holistic model of service delivery that enables better health outcomes for the Aboriginal community.	• Work with a multidisciplinary team to provide comprehensive primary health care in a community setting • Community eye examinations using portable equipment • Provision of subsidised glasses through VASSS • Building trust and relationships with community members to promote access. • The pathway to tertiary care typically involves the case and support workers who attend the BBQ from the host organisation, to assist in the referral process and support the patient.	• Provision of comprehensive eye examinations, recall visits and referral pathways for Aboriginal patients • Access to comprehensive optometry services in a culturally-safe location, with culturally competent staff • Build relationships with the health service staff and patients by regular visits by the same team of optometrists • Facilitate and support pathways for local referrals with optometrists and ophthalmologists where required.
Impact	• Contributing to the reduction in preventable blindness by provision of a high level, regular, flexible model of outreach eyecare – co-designed with the health service • Strengthening of referral pathways to ensure timely service delivery for patients • Improved access to comprehensive eye care for regional Aboriginal patients in a culturally safe location.	• Increased access for community members unable to navigate service systems • Improved eye care for marginalised communities • Improved eye health literacy, enabling increased autonomy and self-determination in the community • Contributing to the reduction in preventable blindness in marginalised communities • Contributing to health equity for marginalised communities • Strengthening pathways for community members into mainstream service systems.	• Strengthening referral pathways to ensure timely service delivery for patients living in regional areas • Improved access to comprehensive eye care for regional Aboriginal patients in a culturally safe location • Contributing to the reduction in preventable blindness by provision of a high level, regular, flexible model of outreach eyecare – co-designed with the health service.



The Australian College of Optometry respectfully acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to their Elders – past, present and emerging. The Australian College of Optometry is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.



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