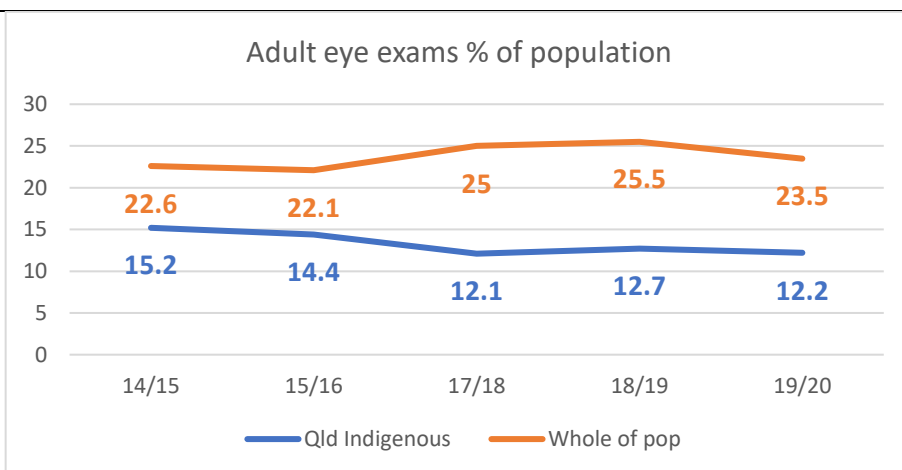


Indigenous Eye Health Measures – Queensland snapshot 2021

This report packages current publicly data on key eye health measures for Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) People in Queensland. All underlying data in this report is from publicly accessible sources.

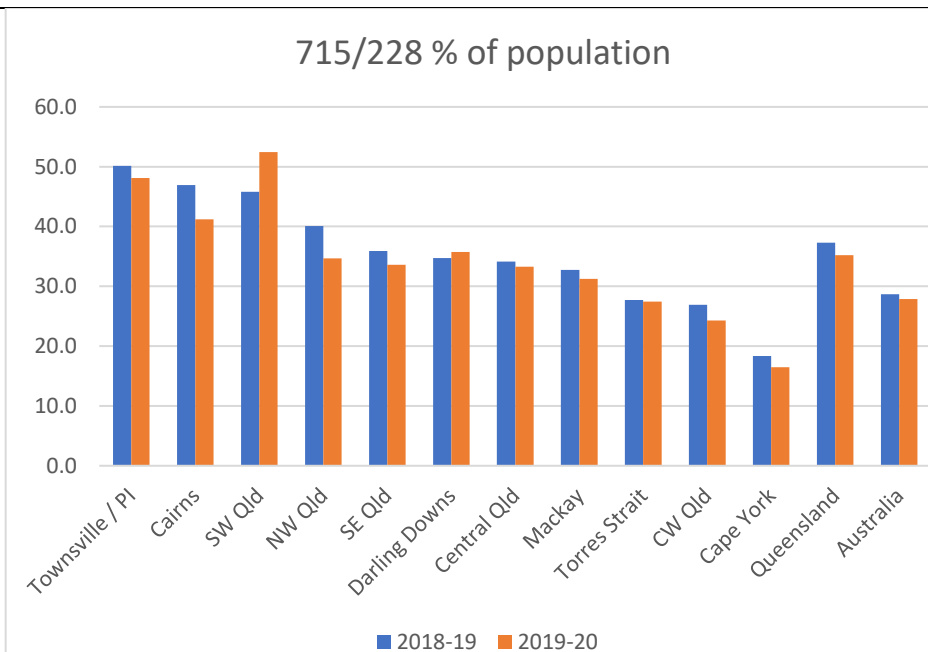
These measures cover the eye care pathway, and treatment for the conditions causing the highest rate of vision loss and blindness for First Nations Australians.

1. Eye examination rates¹²³⁴⁵



In 2019-20, **12.2%** of Indigenous adults in Queensland had an eye exam, compared to 23.5% of non-Indigenous Australians. These rates were likely further impacted by COVID in 2020.

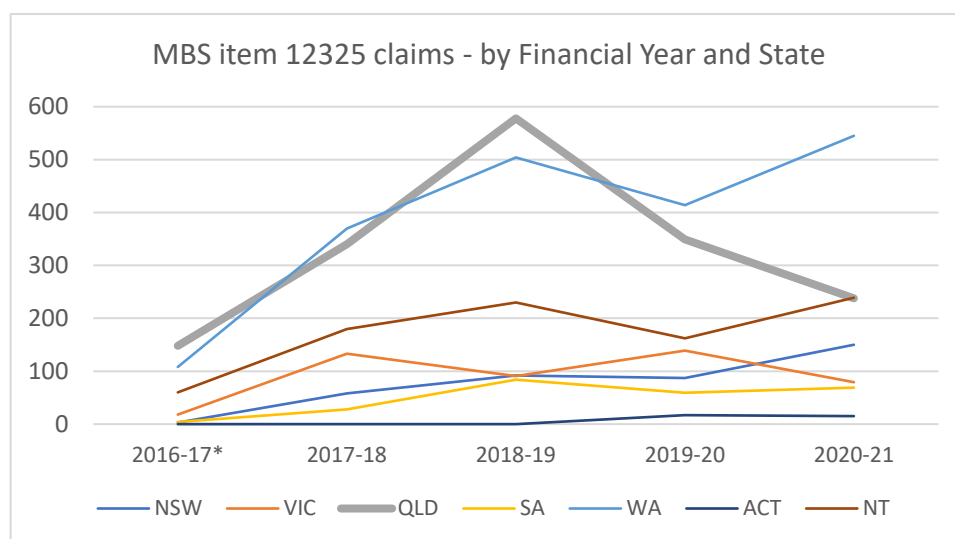
2. Eye examinations in primary care – 715/228 health checks¹²⁶



In Qld, 35.2% of the Indigenous population received an MBS 715 Health Assessment in 19/20, with a higher rate registered in South-West Qld (52.4%), Townsville/ Palm Island (48.1%), and Cairns (41.2%) regions.

COVID impact: for the year of Mar 2020–Feb 2021, Qld recorded about 14% reduction in 715 rates compared with the prev 12 months, similar to the national rate (15%).

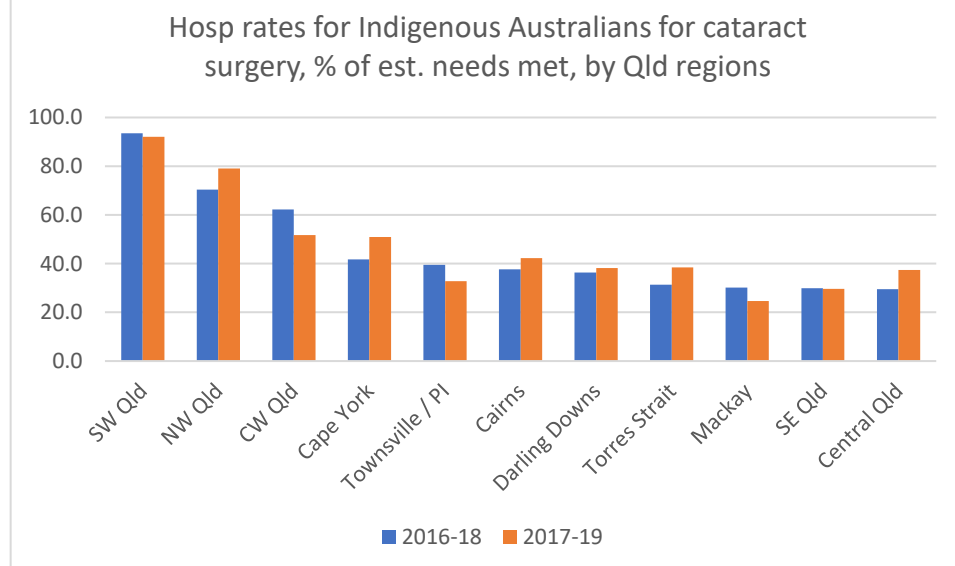
3. Annual eye examinations for patients with diabetes (MBS 12325)⁶



MBS 12325 (annual retinal screening for DR in primary care for Indigenous patients) claims in QLD peaked at 578 in 18/19, then dropped significantly to

COVID impact: for the year of March 2020 – Feb 2021, Qld recorded over 31% reduction in 715 rates compared with the previous 12 months. (slightly higher than the national reduction rate of 27%)

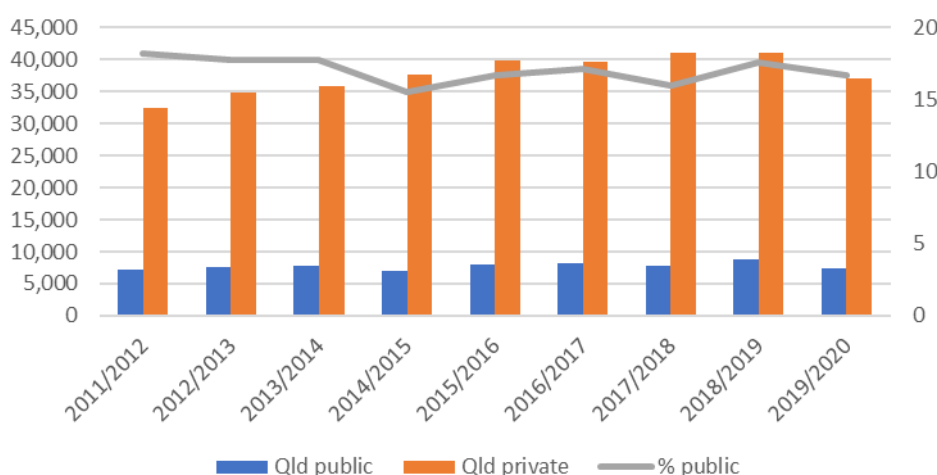
4. Access to cataract surgery^{12 6 7}



For the period of 2017-19, estimated rates of needs met for cataract surgeries for Indigenous patients varied significantly across Qld regions.

In 2019-20, 16.7% of Cataract surgeries in Qld (whole of population) were performed in public, lower rate than any other State. Over the past decade, this rate has slightly decreased, from 18.2% in 2011-12.

Cataract surgery in Qld (public+private)



Reduction in the rate of cataract surgeries performed in public is likely to impact Indigenous patients disproportionately, given 70.4% reliance on 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



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

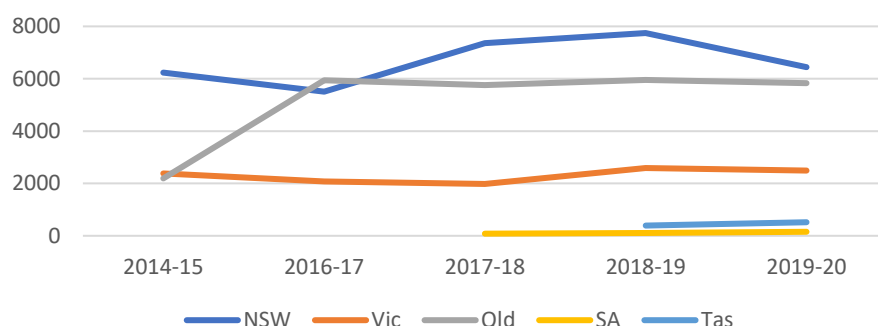
Source: Australian Trachoma Surveillance Reports (Kirby Institute 2013–2019, forthcoming 2020).



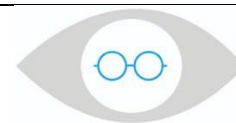
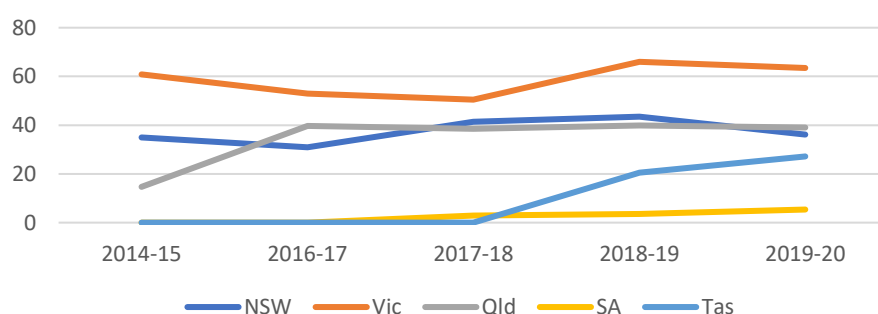
Trachoma prevalence among Indigenous children aged 5–9 in Qld has increased in 2018 and 2019, after several years with no detection.

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

Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme



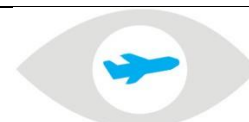
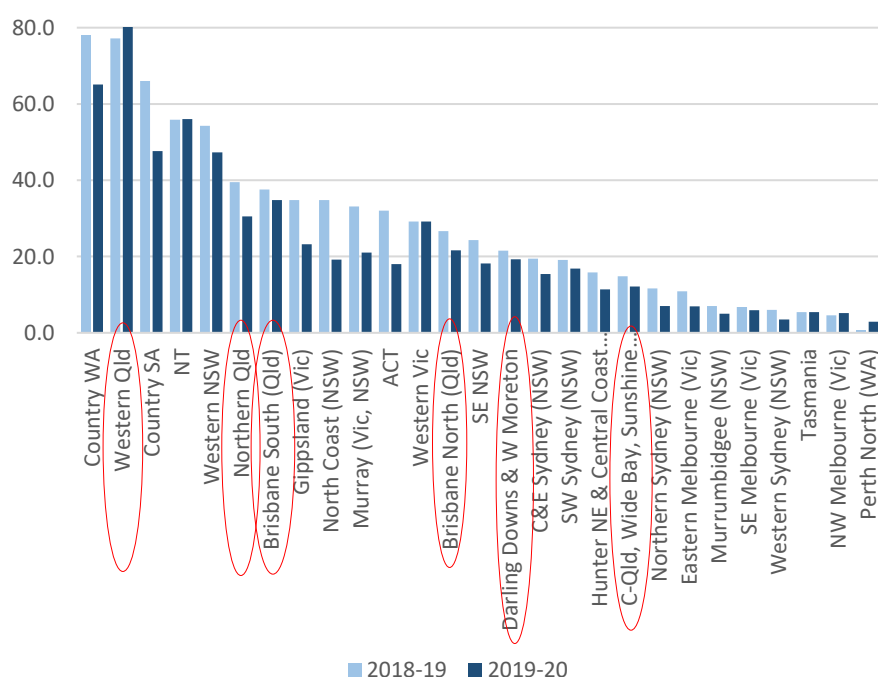
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme, as % of estimated need



The number of spectacles dispensed to Indigenous People under the state program was 5,832 for 2019/20, which represents 29% of estimated need.

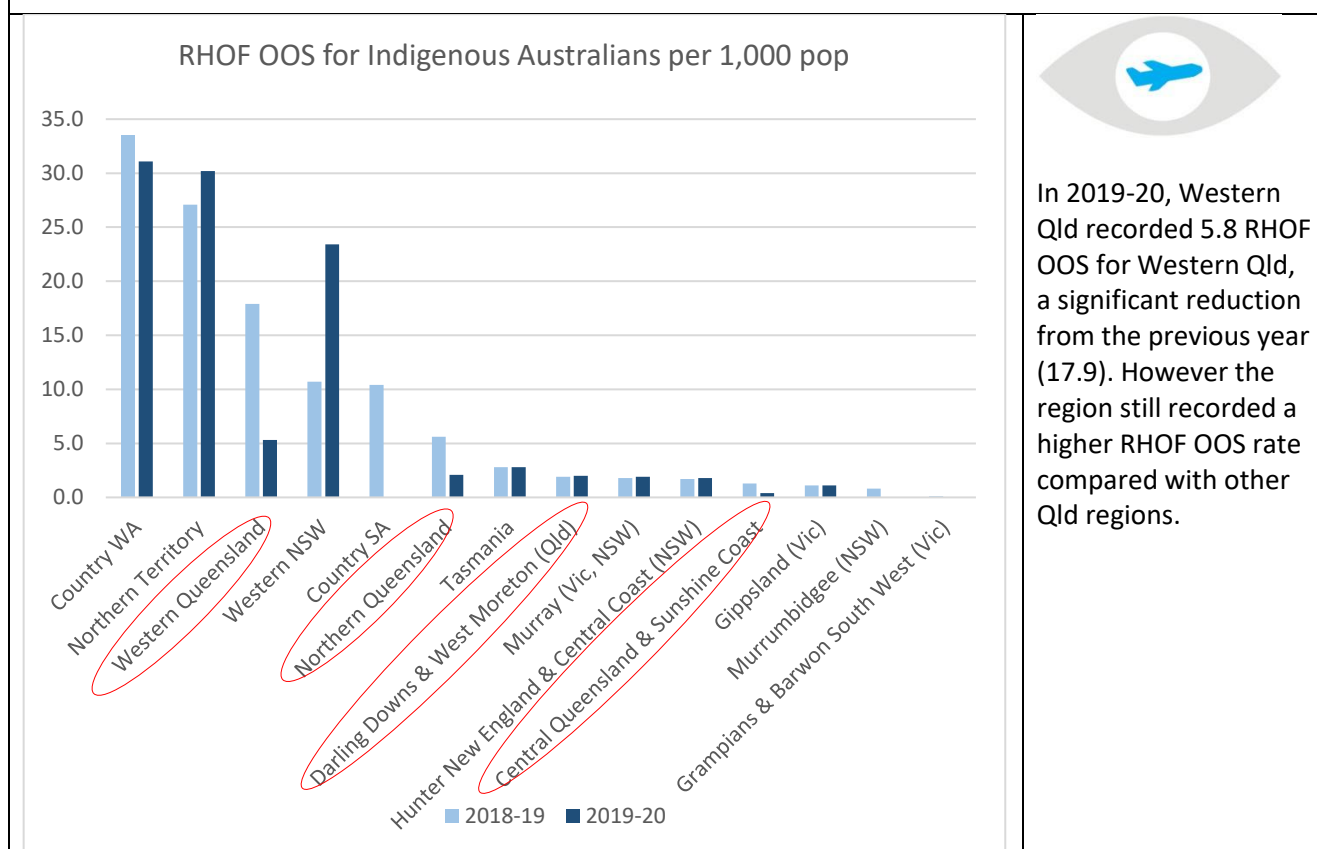
7. Visiting Optometry Scheme (VOS)^{1 2}

VOS OOS for Indigenous Australians per 1,000 pop



In 19-20, Western Qld VOS provision for Indigenous Australians is estimated at 82.4 occasions of service (OOS) for every 1,000 Indigenous population, the highest in Australia.

8. Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOFF)¹²



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

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>
3. 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>
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>