

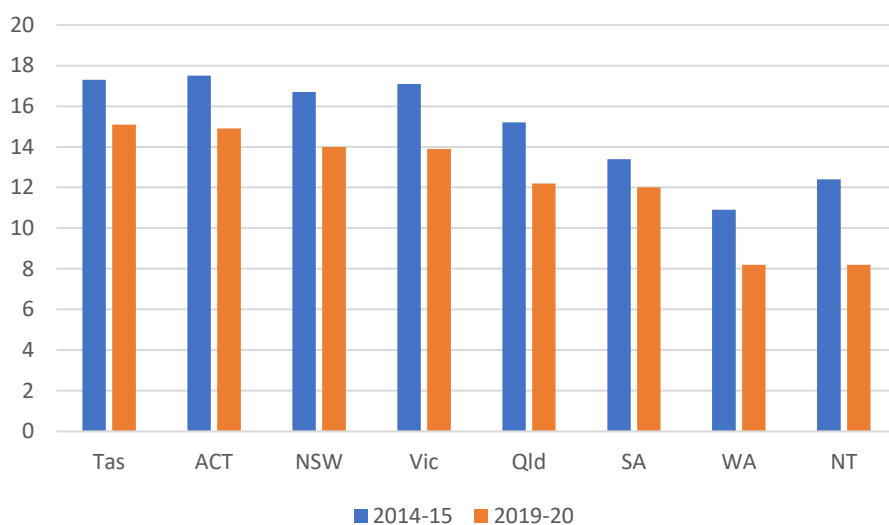
Indigenous Eye Health Measures – Northern Territory snapshot 2021

This report packages current publicly data on key eye health measures for Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) People in the NT. 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 checks in primary care – 715/228 health checks ^{1 2 6}																						
715/228 % of population <table><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>2018-19</th><th>2019-20</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Barkly</td><td>45.4</td><td>38.5</td></tr><tr><td>Central Aust (NT SA WA combined)</td><td>41</td><td>36</td></tr><tr><td>Darwin + East Arnhem</td><td>32.1</td><td>31.8</td></tr><tr><td>Katherine</td><td>26.8</td><td>28.5</td></tr><tr><td>NT</td><td>35.1</td><td>33.5</td></tr><tr><td>Australia</td><td>28.7</td><td>27.9</td></tr></tbody></table>	Region	2018-19	2019-20	Barkly	45.4	38.5	Central Aust (NT SA WA combined)	41	36	Darwin + East Arnhem	32.1	31.8	Katherine	26.8	28.5	NT	35.1	33.5	Australia	28.7	27.9	In NT, 26,184 MBS 715/228 Health Assessments were performed in 19/20, representing 33.5% of the Indigenous population, higher rate than national (28.7%). COVID impact: for the year of Mar 2020–Feb 2021, NT recorded over 15% reduction in 715 rates compared with the prev 12 months, similar to the national rate of impact.
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2. Eye examination rates ^{1 2 3 4 5}																						
Eye exams % of population <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>NT Indigenous</th><th>Aust non-Indigenous</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>14/15</td><td>12.4</td><td>22.6</td></tr><tr><td>15/16</td><td>10.9</td><td>22.1</td></tr><tr><td>17/18</td><td>8.1</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>18/19</td><td>9.3</td><td>25.5</td></tr><tr><td>19/20</td><td>8.2</td><td>23.5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	NT Indigenous	Aust non-Indigenous	14/15	12.4	22.6	15/16	10.9	22.1	17/18	8.1	25	18/19	9.3	25.5	19/20	8.2	23.5	In 2019-20, 8.2% of Indigenous People in the NT had an eye exam, representing 6,375 People. This rate is lower than any other State and Territory, and of the national non-Indigenous rate (23.5%). NT exam rates have generally			
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16/17 data missing.																						

Eye exams % of Indigenous population by State and Territory: 2014-15 and 2019-20



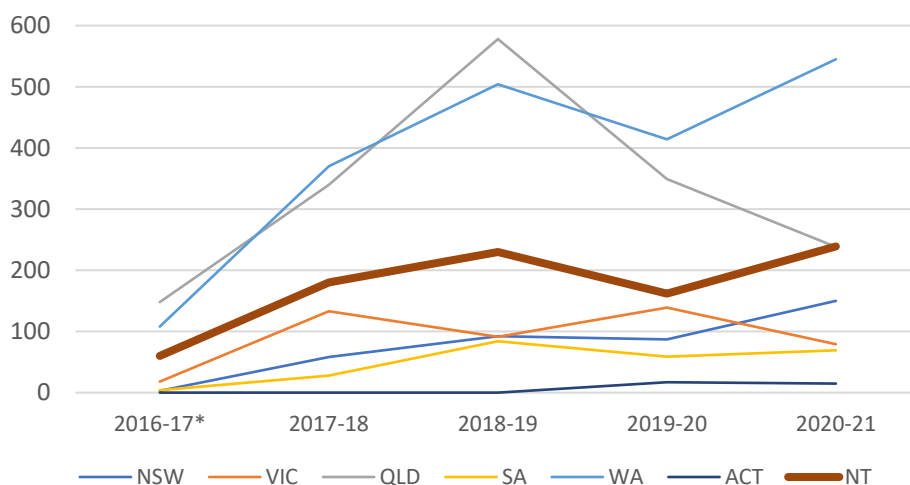
declined over several years, and were likely further impacted by COVID in 2020.

Compared with 5 years prior, all jurisdictions except for one has seen a reduction in the Indigenous population rate for eye exams. While the actual number of Indigenous People receiving eye exams across Australia increased (83,688 in 14/15 to 104,228 in 19/20), the rate of increase is lower than the population growth.

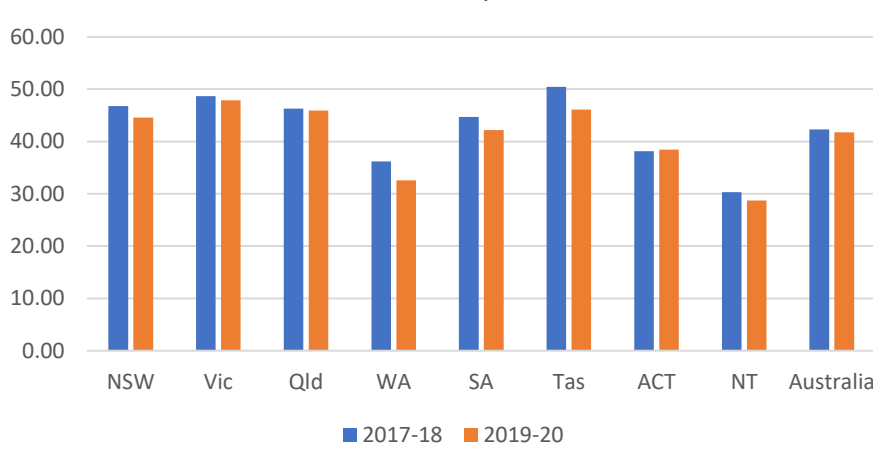
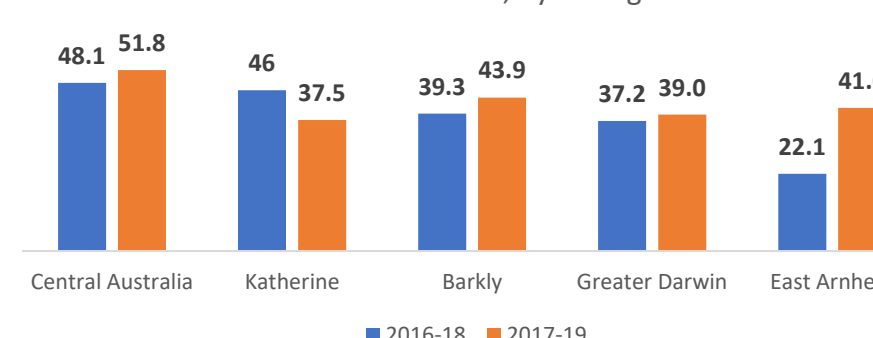
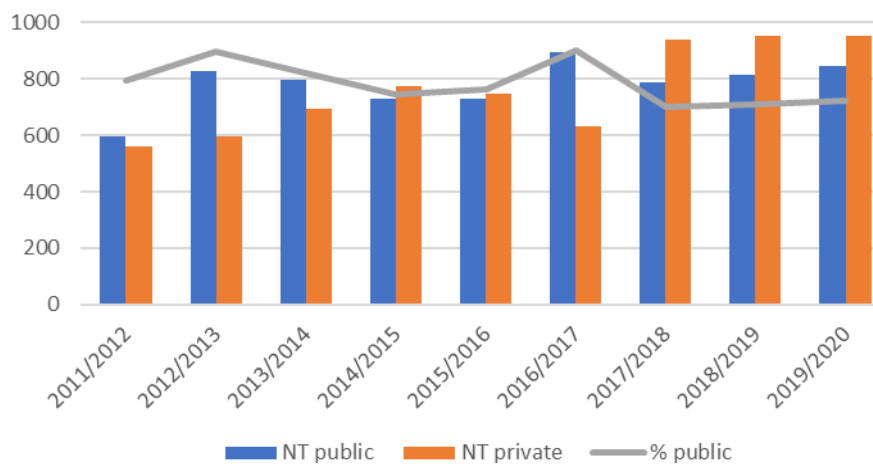
The 6,375 eye exams recorded for Indigenous people in the NT represent 6.1% of eye exams performed for Indigenous patients in Australia for 19/20, despite the NT Indigenous population represents 9% of the Australian Indigenous population.

3. Diabetic retinopathy screening¹²³⁴⁵

MBS item 12325 claims - by Financial Year and State

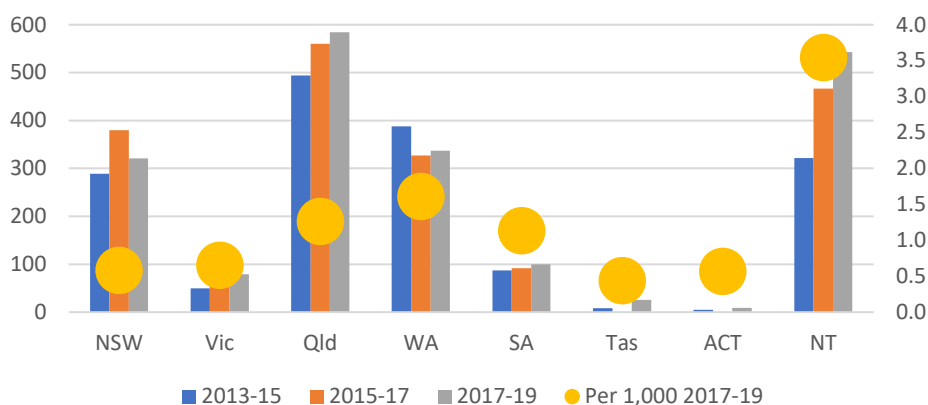


NT recorded steady rates of MBS 12325 claims over the past several years, with 239 claims in 2020-21.

% of Indigenous patients who had a diabetes test who also had an eye exam  <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>2017-18 (%)</th><th>2019-20 (%)</th></tr><tr><td>NSW</td><td>47.0</td><td>45.0</td></tr><tr><td>Vic</td><td>49.0</td><td>48.0</td></tr><tr><td>Qld</td><td>47.0</td><td>46.0</td></tr><tr><td>WA</td><td>36.0</td><td>33.0</td></tr><tr><td>SA</td><td>45.0</td><td>42.0</td></tr><tr><td>Tas</td><td>50.0</td><td>46.0</td></tr><tr><td>ACT</td><td>38.0</td><td>38.0</td></tr><tr><td>NT</td><td>30.0</td><td>28.7</td></tr><tr><td>Australia</td><td>42.0</td><td>41.0</td></tr></table>	Region	2017-18 (%)	2019-20 (%)	NSW	47.0	45.0	Vic	49.0	48.0	Qld	47.0	46.0	WA	36.0	33.0	SA	45.0	42.0	Tas	50.0	46.0	ACT	38.0	38.0	NT	30.0	28.7	Australia	42.0	41.0	To assess eye examinations for Indigenous patients with diabetes, the rate of Indigenous patients who had a diabetes test and also an eye exam has been calculated. The NT rate (28.7) is lower than any other State and Territory.										
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4. Access to cataract surgery¹²⁶⁷																																									
Hosp rates for Indigenous Australians for cataract surgery, % of est. needs met, by NT regions  <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>2016-18 (%)</th><th>2017-19 (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Central Australia</td><td>48.1</td><td>51.8</td></tr><tr><td>Katherine</td><td>46.0</td><td>37.5</td></tr><tr><td>Barkly</td><td>39.3</td><td>43.9</td></tr><tr><td>Greater Darwin</td><td>37.2</td><td>39.0</td></tr><tr><td>East Arnhem</td><td>22.1</td><td>41.0</td></tr></table>	Region	2016-18 (%)	2017-19 (%)	Central Australia	48.1	51.8	Katherine	46.0	37.5	Barkly	39.3	43.9	Greater Darwin	37.2	39.0	East Arnhem	22.1	41.0	 For the period of 2017-19, est rates of needs met for cataract surgeries for Indigenous patients varied across NT regions. Over the past decade, Cat surgeries in NT have increased in both public and private. The public share (whole of pop) was 47% in 19/20, similar to recent years, but down from 58.7% in 16/17. A 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.																						
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Cataract surgery in NT (public+private)  <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>NT public</th><th>NT private</th><th>% public</th></tr><tr><td>2011/2012</td><td>600</td><td>550</td><td>52.0</td></tr><tr><td>2012/2013</td><td>820</td><td>600</td><td>57.7</td></tr><tr><td>2013/2014</td><td>800</td><td>700</td><td>53.3</td></tr><tr><td>2014/2015</td><td>750</td><td>780</td><td>48.8</td></tr><tr><td>2015/2016</td><td>750</td><td>750</td><td>50.0</td></tr><tr><td>2016/2017</td><td>880</td><td>630</td><td>58.3</td></tr><tr><td>2017/2018</td><td>800</td><td>950</td><td>45.5</td></tr><tr><td>2018/2019</td><td>820</td><td>950</td><td>46.3</td></tr><tr><td>2019/2020</td><td>850</td><td>950</td><td>47.4</td></tr></table>		Year	NT public	NT private	% public	2011/2012	600	550	52.0	2012/2013	820	600	57.7	2013/2014	800	700	53.3	2014/2015	750	780	48.8	2015/2016	750	750	50.0	2016/2017	880	630	58.3	2017/2018	800	950	45.5	2018/2019	820	950	46.3	2019/2020	850	950	47.4
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5. Injuries of the Eye¹³⁵

Injuries of the eye for Indigenous People, by jurisdiction, number and rate of population

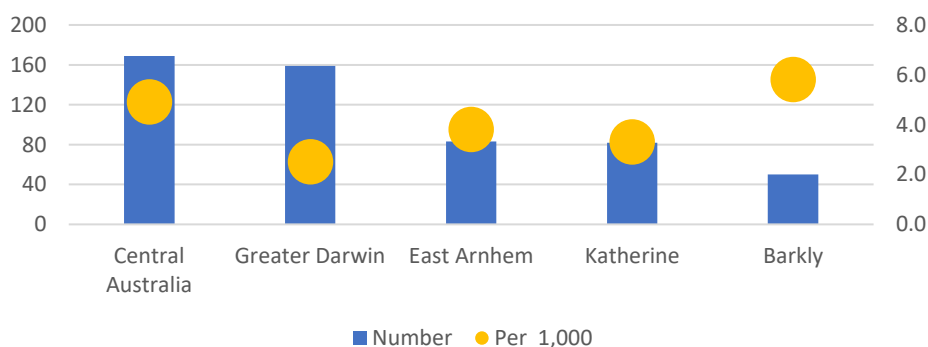


For the period of 2017-19, the NT recorded a hospitalisation rate for eye injuries for Indigenous People of 3.5/1,000 population.

This is a higher rate than any other State or Territory in Australia. In the NT, non-Indigenous population eye injury rate is 0.7/1,000 population, one-fifth of the Indigenous rate.

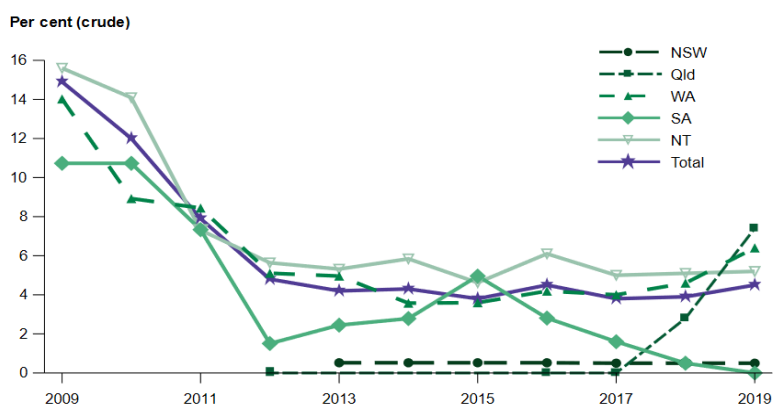
Barkly and Central Australia regions recorded the highest rate of eye injuries for Indigenous People in the NT.

Injuries of the eye for Indigenous People in the NT by region, 2017-19



6. 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.

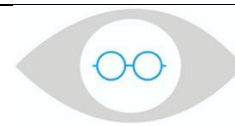
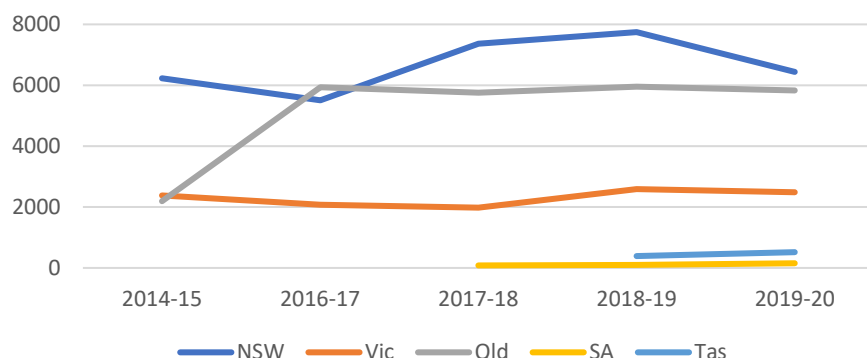
Source: Australian Trachoma Surveillance Reports (Kirby Institute 2013-2019, forthcoming 2020).



Trachoma prevalence among Indigenous children aged 5-9 in NT was 5.2 in 2019, similar to previous years, and down from 15.6 a decade prior (2009).

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

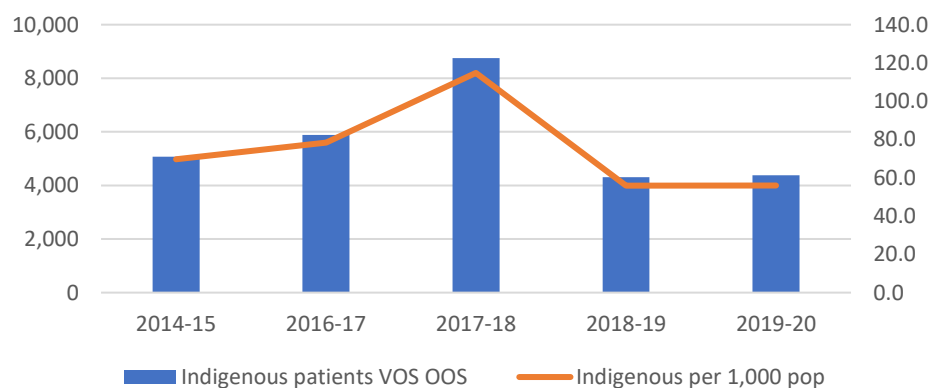
Indigenous clients receiving glasses under State scheme



The NT doesn't currently have a Territory subsidised spectacle scheme, and so NT data is not included in AIHW reports.

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

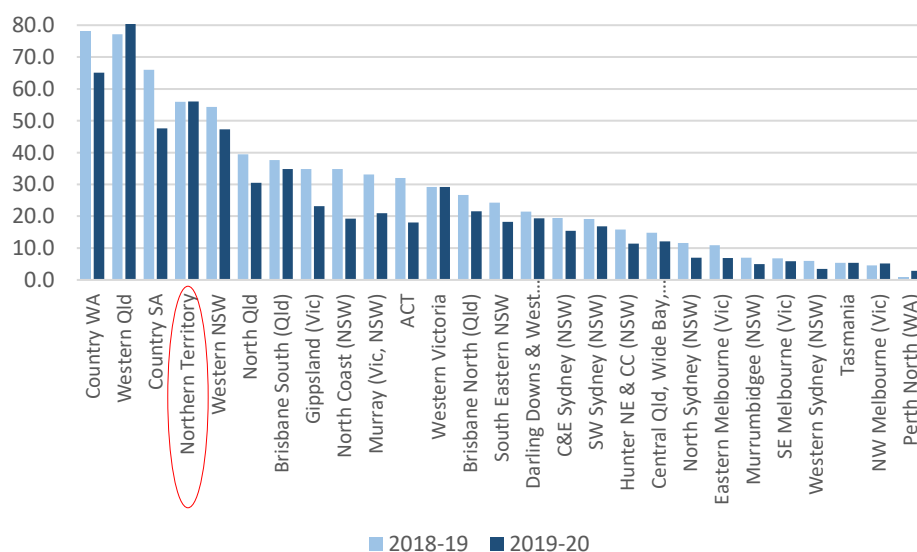
NT VOS OOS for Indigenous patients



In 19-20, NT VOS occasions of service (OOS) for Indigenous patients is estimated to have served 56 out of 1,000 Indigenous population, 4th highest out of PHNs where VOS was provided.

2015-16 data missing.

VOS OOS for Indigenous Australians per 1,000 pop



The NT per population rates for VOS have been declining in recent years, nearly halved the peak rate of 114 OOS per 1,000 Indigenous population recorded in 2017-18.

Indigenous eye health calculator output for Northern Territory^{7 8}

Delivery and coordination of eye care services report			Latest data
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: NT (2021 population projection)			
Population: 77666			
OPTOMETRY CONSULTATIONS	Number of patients		
Comprehensive eye examinations required each year	13203	3675 (2019-20)	
People over 40 requiring glasses each year	4968		
People over 40 with diabetes requiring annual retinal examination	7471	1048 (2019-20)	
OPHTHALMOLOGY CONSULTATIONS			
People requiring cataract referral consultations	738	307 (2019)	
People requiring trichiasis referral consultations	283		
People requiring diabetic retinopathy referral consultations	867		
Total people requiring ophthalmology consultations	1888		
HOSPITAL SURGERY			
People requiring cataract surgery	738	307 (2019)	
People requiring trichiasis lid surgery	283		
Total people requiring hospital surgery	1021		
WORKFORCE	Workforce requirements		
Optometry days required	1650		
Optometry workforce required (EFT)	7.8		
Ophthalmology days required (consultation and surgery)	572		
Ophthalmology workforce required (EFT)	2.7		
Coordination workforce required total (EFT)	64.5		

Prepared by Indigenous Eye Health, University of Melbourne, May 2021. (Updated November 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>
8. Indigenous Eye Health. Calculator for the delivery and coordination of eye care services. Available from: <https://dr-grading.iehu.unimelb.edu.au/ecwc/>
9. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2019. Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. 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>