



Close the Gap for Vision by 2020

National Conference 2019

Strengthen & Sustain



Conference Report 2019

Thursday 14 March - Friday 15 March 2019

Alice Springs Convention Centre - Alice Springs, Northern Territory



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Indigenous Eye Health (IEH) at The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Arrernte people, the traditional owners of Mparntwe (Alice Springs), the land on which this Conference was held. 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 our co-host Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), for their guidance, support and participation during this year's conference.

We would like to thank all attendees and speakers for contributing to and participating in the Conference. Many organisations and communities from across Australia were represented by delegates and we also acknowledge this interest and support.

Thank you to our supporting partners Optometry Australia, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and Vision 2020 Australia. All these organisations, and others, have supported *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision* and this Conference and are key to our collective success.

Funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health is acknowledged and appreciated.

This report and supplementary materials can be accessed at IEH website www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au



Indigenous Eye Health - Minum Barreng



Indigenous Eye Health (IEH) at The University of Melbourne was established in 2008 and is led by Melbourne Laureate Professor Hugh R Taylor AC, the Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health.

IEH aims to Close the Gap for Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through world-leading research, policy formation, advocacy and implementation.

Research has established the state of Indigenous eye health in Australia and current service availability and explored barriers and enablers to the delivery of eye health services for Indigenous peoples. The evidence gathered guided the development of a comprehensive policy framework, *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision* (2012) that recommends whole-of-system reform and is supported by the Indigenous and mainstream health sectors and government. The Roadmap is being progressively implemented and in 2017 the sector adopted a Close the Gap for Vision target of 2020.

IEH is currently actively engaged across Australia on national, jurisdictional, regional and community levels and provides advocacy and technical support to those working to Close the Gap for Vision.

The work of IEH is generously supported by a number of private donors, philanthropic trusts, and the Australian Government Department of Health.

The Close the Gap for Vision by 2020: *Strengthen & Sustain* National Conference 2019 was held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre on 14 and 15 March 2019. It was organised by Indigenous Eye Health (IEH) at the University of Melbourne and co-hosted by Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT). This is the third National Conference held by IEH to support efforts to close the gap for vision.

The 2019 theme '*Strengthen & Sustain*' provided a framework for delegates to explore successes and opportunities to strengthen eye care, and initiatives and challenges to sustain progress towards the goal of equitable eye care by 2020. '*The theme resonates with the foundational principles of our sector including the need to build capacity and self-determination*' John Paterson, CEO, AMSANT

Over two days, in Alice Springs, the heart of Australia, more than 220 delegates came together to share stories, learnings and new ideas, and be inspired by the breadth of content, diversity and depth of presentations from over 60 speakers from local communities, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, non-government organisations, professional bodies, and government departments across Australia. The Conference featured a mixed program of keynote speakers, plenary, table top and poster presentations and a series of upskilling workshops.

Delegates were reminded by Professor Hugh Taylor, from IEH, of how far we have come as a sector. 53 of 63 regions across the country that are now working to co-ordinate eye care for Indigenous people – covering more than 80 percent of the nation's Indigenous population. He also noted 19 of 42 systemic issues identified in *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision* have been fixed and three quarters of the intermediate activities have been completed.

John Paterson, from AMSANT said '*The action against over 40 recommendations is substantial and impressive, particularly given the number of stakeholders in many sectors who have contributed to its achievements*'.

The Minister for Aboriginal Health, Ken Wyatt through a video message, Warren Snowdon, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Health, and Caroline Edwards, Deputy Secretary for Department of Health shared their insights and appreciation of the sectors achievements and outlined future challenges.

Delegates were privileged to hear from Dr Kris Rallah-Baker and Shaun Tatipata, strong Aboriginal leaders in eye health as they shared personal reflections and their vision for the future. Pantjiti Unkari McKenzie, a practising Ngangkari healer talked in language about her role in providing holistic healing services to community. This provided delegates with the opportunity to experience the importance of language in Indigenous culture, a key focus of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous languages.

In opening day 2 of the Conference, Donna Ah Chee, CEO, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, asked delegates to lift their gaze upstream to the key determinants of eye health, including trachoma, where overcrowding and poor housing maintenance have critical impact. Senior Central Australia Aboriginal leader William Tilmouth also said that we need to embrace the environmental health concerns of Aboriginal people to '*see through the mist*' and understand that the problems relating to housing are also related to law and justice and to government red tape, and these are all sources of health problems.



Donna Murray, CEO of Indigenous Allied Health Australia facilitated a panel discussion around workforce issues that challenged Conference delegates to think about culture as an enabler for growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, and how individuals and communities, can grow and be empowered by Aboriginal community control.

The Conference provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the varied and tremendous work going on around the country, acknowledge that progress was being made through collectives/stakeholder groups working together, including within regional groups, that self-determination was critical to sustainable systems change, workforce was an area for additional activity and that eye care needed to be developed within the community controlled model of holistic, integrated care and with a view to the broader determinants of health and well-being.

John Paterson suggested *'the eye care gap will not sustainably close – along with the rest of the health gap – unless we have the political commitment to self-determination and a commitment to fixing the social determinants of health, equitably, based on need and Aboriginal-led'*.

Conference discussions resulted in the Alice Springs Declaration 2019 where delegates spontaneously and unanimously supported a demand that both levels of government (Australian and Northern Territory) urgently work to ensure that Aboriginal housing investment can be made available to address the critical housing needs in the NT and contribute to improving the health and well-being of Aboriginal Territorians.

The 2019 annual Leaky Pipe Awards were presented at the Conference dinner after the second day. The awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups in progressing activities to close the gap for vision. Congratulations to Heather Wilson from Central Australia Aboriginal Congress, NT, for the service delivery award; Tony Coburn from CheckUp, QLD, for the unsung hero award; Western NSW eye care partnership and project officer Jane Hager, NSW, for the regional engagement award; and Shaun Tatipata from The Fred Hollows Foundation, NT, for the community leadership award.

Feedback from the Conference was overwhelmingly positive, with delegates reporting they had opportunity to learn and share within the unique beauty and cultural significance of Alice Springs, appreciated extent of content, and range of speakers, especially the strong Aboriginal voices, and made some very useful connections. Delegates confirmed that opportunities like the Conference were invaluable in order to maintain the momentum, support and advocacy as collective efforts focus towards close the gap for vision by 2020.

'I walked away filled with the assurance of community voices finally being heard to assist the coalface strategies being implemented across our country. #CTGV19' - Conference delegate tweet

The 2020 Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 National Conference is planned for March 2020.



The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision (2012) is a sector-endorsed, evidence-based, whole-of-system policy framework with 42 recommendations to reduce the eye health inequity between Indigenous and mainstream Australians. To November 2018, 19 of the 42 Roadmap recommendations are fully implemented and good progress is being made on all of the remaining 23 recommendations.

Across Australia, more than 50 regions are engaged in Roadmap activity, which encompasses some 80% of the Indigenous population. Jurisdictional Indigenous eye health committees are operating to cover 7 of 8 jurisdictions.

Regional and jurisdictional activity consistent with the Roadmap has contributed to reducing the inequity gap for vision. The National Eye Health Survey in 2015 reported that the gap of blindness between Indigenous and mainstream Australians has halved from six times to three times, and another survey in 2020 will be important to continue monitoring the outcomes of this work.

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) cameras and training of operators in more than 150 Aboriginal health clinics is occurring across Australia and DR screening rates are expected to continue to improve (20% 2008 NEHS; 53% 2015 NEHS). Over a third of Indigenous adults have diabetes and are at risk of blindness through diabetic retinopathy. Up to 98 per cent of diabetes-related blindness can be prevented through annual eye exams and timely treatment in the disease's early stages.

Trachoma rates in endemic areas fell from 21% (2008) to less than 4% in 2017. Still more needs to be done to create safe and functional bathrooms through remote housing initiatives in NT, SA and WA, prompt repair and maintenance of washing facilities is key to helping children wash faces, while more timely data-reporting would allow targeted intervention in trachoma hot spots.

AIHW Indigenous Eye Health Measures reports were released in 2017 and 2018. A further update is planned to be released in 2019 and it is expected that this reporting will continue in subsequent years. These reports allow progress to be monitored for over 20 eye health measures for both jurisdictions and Primary Health Network regions.

The Australian Government announced funding in February 2019 for a new Indigenous Health Research Fund as part of the MRFF with \$160 million allocated to support Indigenous health research.

The Vision 2020 Australia 5-year plan, *'Strong Eyes, Strong Communities'*, published in 2019, has received support from COAG and the Australian and State and Territory Governments who will work jointly on avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Avoidable blindness and vision loss is one of the four priority in Indigenous health identified by COAG. These commitments from the Australian Government are very significant and timely - they clearly open the pathway to further addressing the Indigenous inequity in eye health and close the gap for vision.

2019 National Conference

A two-day national conference was held in Alice Springs on 14 and 15 March 2019, organised by IEH at the University of Melbourne and co-hosted by AMSANT. It provided an opportunity to highlight the advances being made in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health by many people and organisations across Australia.

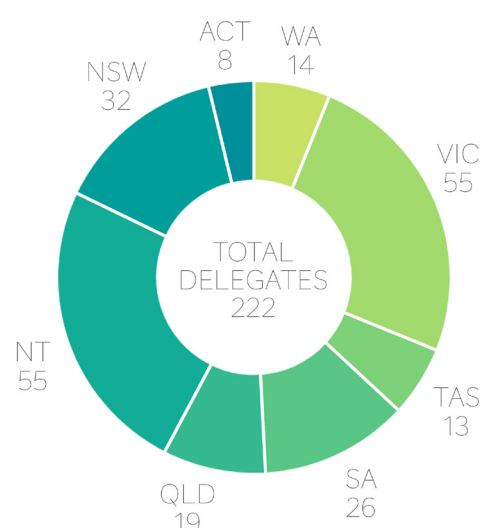
The 2019 Conference theme *'Strengthen & Sustain'* provided a framework to explore successes and opportunities to strengthen eye care, and initiatives and challenges to sustain progress towards the goal of equitable eye care by 2020.

This Conference is the third national conference supporting close the gap for vision initiatives, the previous conferences were held in Melbourne in 2017 and 2018. The 2017 National Conference established a sector target of 2020 to close the gap for vision.

Delegates

Two hundred and twenty two (222) delegates from all states and territories of Australia attended the 2019 Conference, including community members, local and regional services and representatives from national peak organisations, federal and state governments and non-government organisations. (See Appendix A)

This report provides an overview summary of the Conference, capturing key messages and highlights.



Welcome and Conference Opening

Unfortunately the Welcome to Country, as per the Conference program, was cancelled as a sign of respect for the families of two deceased Arrernte traditional owners of Mparntwe.

Kumalie Riley, Arrernte Elder, wished the two-day Conference every success.

An Acknowledgment of Country was provided by Trevor Buzzacott from Aboriginal Community Services South Australia and IEH Advisory Board member, at the opening of the Conference.

Drum Atweme, an initiative of Tangentyere Council's Youth Services program, provided delegates with a wonderful welcome function experience.

The drumming group is made up of young people from town camps in Alice Springs who often experience boredom, depression, low self-confidence and exposure to violence and substance abuse.



Drum Atweme with Milpa the Trachoma Goanna

Conference Opening



Professor Hugh Taylor, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne

Professor Hugh Taylor, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne, welcomed colleagues from all over Australia and thanked this year's co-host AMSANT for their guidance, support and participation during this year's conference.

Professor Taylor reminded delegates how far we've come as a sector. *'It is terrific to see the progress that has been made with great work being done by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations and all of our partners in eye health'.*

Professor Taylor concluded by mentioning *'these improvements are very encouraging, but more needs to be done if we want to achieve our goal of giving all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the same eye health as other Australians'.*

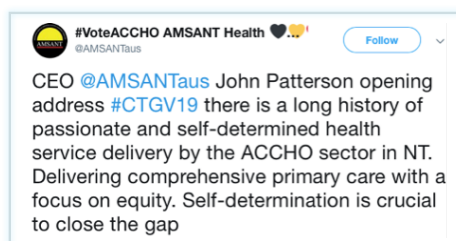
John Paterson, CEO of AMSANT and Conference co-host delivered the opening keynote address. Mr Paterson's presentation addressed the current status of housing in the NT noting that the NT Aboriginal population have the worst housing in Australia. Around 60% of Aboriginal people live in overcrowded housing and one third live in poorly maintained houses. Improvements in housing will halt the spread of infections causing trachoma, scabies, otitis media and rheumatic fever.

'We must have cooperation between the two levels of government to address our housing crisis. We are tired of the excuses and political standoffs, while our communities suffer'.

Mr Paterson also noted closing the gap targets are not being met however he was heartened with the process to refresh the Close the Gap targets, we are now *'seeing a shift towards government working in equal partnership with our people'.*

He also identified that one of the key achievements in Indigenous eye health in the NT had been the formation and ongoing success of regional eye coordination groups and that AMSANT is involved in both groups.

Mr Paterson concluded with *'I believe the eye care gap will not sustainably close - along with the rest of the health gap - if we do not have the political commitment to self-determination and to fixing the social determinants of health, equitably, based on need and Aboriginal-led'.*



John Paterson, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT).

The Hon Ken Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Health opened the Conference via video message. He acknowledged the collective contribution of those attending the Conference, outlining the opportunity to engage with the themes evolving from the Conference, and encouraged building on the ideas going forward.



Video Message, Hon Ken Wyatt MP,
Minister for Indigenous Health

Minister Wyatt confirmed the Government's commitment to Indigenous eye health and a continued strong investment where \$34.2 million will be provided for a range of Indigenous eye health activities through to 2020-2021.

He also mentioned a new Indigenous Health Research Fund as part of the MRFF \$160 million for Indigenous health research and the COAG Health Council has committed to working jointly on avoidable blindness as one of four priorities in Indigenous health.

Minister Wyatt also highlighted the great work involved in the development of the newly published *Strong Eyes, Strong Communities* 'blue print', and the huge steps forward proposed in the 5 year plan.

[Video: Hon Ken Wyatt Video Message](#)

Caroline Edwards, Deputy Secretary Health Systems Policy and Primary Care Australian Government Department of Health acknowledged the significant improvements achieved in Indigenous eye health, and noted the ongoing Australian Government commitment and investment, as she posed the question to delegates of 'where to from here on Indigenous eye health?'.

There were always calls for more funding, but the challenge is to achieve optimum outcomes with the best allocation of limited funds. She mentioned recent initiatives including increasing the Visting Optometrists Scheme (VOS), the allocation of cameras in Aboriginal Health Services and improvements in trachoma rates and cataract surgery.

She congratulated the sector on completing the five year plan '*Strong Eyes, Strong Communities*' and suggested that the integration of eye health within broader services and a focus on prevention were next steps.

Ms Edwards paid particular tribute to the role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions to eye care and the importance of Indigenous leaders being at the centre of the system being established.



Caroline Edwards, Australian
Government Department of Health

Shaun Tatipata, Manager of The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program provided a very personal, moving and inspiring 'FRED Talk: Beyond 2000....& 20'.

Mr Tatipata, a descendent of the Wuthathi people, proudly opened his talk with 'Geez, I'm deadly!'

He shared his personal journey, highlighting the critical role that Aboriginal Community Health Organisations can play not just in providing health care, but in providing career opportunities and pathways.

He spoke about how we are all in this together and we need to work beyond parity and strive for excellence in eye health. Mr Tatipata also spoke of the principles of self-determination and the important value and sustainable outcomes of ACCHO-led models.



Shaun Tatipata, The Fred Hollows Foundation



#CloseTheGapforVision @WePublicHealth · Mar 13

Shaun Tatipata - as a sector, we need to think about how we can redesign pathways and how we can support ACCHOs to make it easier for them to support their patients @FredHollows #CTGV19

Donna Ah Chee, CEO of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, opened day two of the Conference and highlighted that Congress is the 2nd oldest ACCHO in Australia – 45 years old. It looks at upstream health (preventative) model as its service and takes a life course approach.

In a similar vein to John Paterson, Ms Ah Chee emphasised the need to deal with inadequate housing to address the issues upstream to the key determinants of eye health, including trachoma, where overcrowding and poor housing maintenance have critical impact.

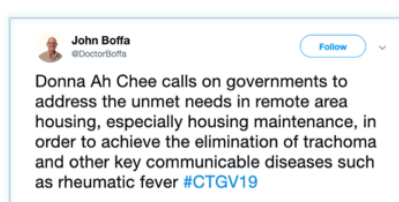
She also reiterated the standoff between the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government noting that the gap will not close unless adequate maintenance of housing is addressed. Ms Ah Chee hoped that the Conference will help resolve this standoff and result in better housing (see Alice Springs Declaration 2019 on page 16).

Ms Ah Chee also described the important clinical work that Congress is doing in eye health including screening for trachoma and trichiasis, treatment of all common eye diseases including diabetic retinopathy, access to spectacles and the introduction of retinal cameras.

Ms Ah Chee concluded seeking support for the implementation of the Uluru statement.



Donna Ah Chee, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress



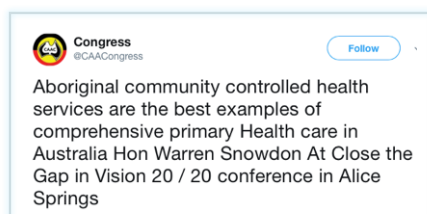
The Hon Warren Snowdon, Shadow Minister Aboriginal Health

The Hon Warren Snowdon, Shadow Minister Aboriginal Health acknowledged the very ambitious but structured approach of *The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision*. Shadow Minister Snowdon felt other conditions need a similar strategy to eye health.

He also spoke of the need for regional assemblies around the country similar to the way ATSIC was organised, where community voices will be given prominence with the aim of changing the way things are done.

Shadow Minister Snowdon said it was important to de-politicise discussions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and to take a bipartisan approach and he was committed to working in this way.

Shadow Minister Snowdon concluded by saying he believed there was broad agreement about the direction Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs to take... *'The voices of Ken Wyatt, Pat Dodson, Warren Mundine, Linda Burney are being heard'*.



William Tilmouth, Senior Aboriginal Community Member, Chair of CAAC and founding chair of Children's Ground recounted his early days in Tangentyere Council.

Mr Tilmouth agreed with Donna Ah Chee on the need to focus on prevention rather than cure and with Shadow Minister Warren Snowdon on the need to listen to real community voices and the need for greater regionalisation.

However, Mr Tilmouth mentioned that he thought ACCHOs are a means to an end where the goal was healthy people and then questioned whether both governments and Aboriginal organisations had really achieved enough over the past 30 years. He talked about the accountability of organisations and suggested that genuine Aboriginal community control is required *'of the people, by the people and for the people'*.



William Tilmouth, Senior Aboriginal Community Member

Ngangkari – Traditional Healers of Central Australia

Pantjiti Unkari McKenzie, a practicing Ngangkari, talked about the role of traditional healers in providing holistic healing services to community.

Pantjiti spoke in language, with the assistance of an interpreter - providing delegates with the opportunity to experience the importance of language in Indigenous culture, a key focus of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

'We (Ngangkari) work day and night. People's spirits come in the day and at night, but we don't get tired'

'We work alongside doctors of western medicine as a team'

'When doctors and nurses can't do things they call Ngangkari. We check spirit. We find the spirit and bring it back. We touch and that is part of what we do.'

Q & A session with delegates:

How are services integrated with Ngangkari and mainstream health services?

'It is more positive with nurses. Doctors put up more walls and barriers'

Do you need to be there physically to treat?

'They are spirits, but if I need to be there I will come'

Do Ngangkari only treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or others too?

'We heal non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people too. I have even treated policeman!'



Pantjiti Unkari McKenzie, Ngangkari traditional healer



Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ophthalmologist and President of Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) captivated delegates with a moving keynote talk *'Sustainable Change and Self Determination'* by sharing experiences and insights from his own life journey.

Dr Rallah-Baker highlighted that *'culture and self-determination are key in creating sustainable change. We must work with Indigenous people and be guided by self-determination'*.

He continued to say cultural safety is key to address the lack of understanding health professionals have about the cultural obligations of Indigenous people.



Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Ophthalmologist and President of Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA)



Dr Rallah-Baker also emphasised the critical issues of workforce development by noting that the number of Indigenous medical graduates had increased over the decades, however as the single Indigenous ophthalmologist and only 13 or so Indigenous optometrists in Australia, there is a clear need for ongoing work from the broader eye health sector in strengthening and developing Indigenous workforce and leadership capacity.

This plenary session provided delegates with a number of outstanding examples of initiatives and successful approaches to strengthen eye care towards equitable eye care by 2020. Some of the key points are captured below:

1. Strengthening Eye Care Delivery in Central Australia

Dr Tim Henderson, Alice Springs Hospital

Key points:

- Delegates were introduced to eye health services in Central Australia with the observation that 'we are doing the best we can with what we have' and that the path to do better was dependant on extra investment'
- A hub and spoke model of eye services was illustrated with a complex mix of service providers and geography covering Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and remote communities using the eye clinic at Alice Springs Hospital as the hub integrated with primary care and optometry
- Visiting specialist services are integral to a full complement of eye care and the long term service of practitioners was acknowledged and critical
- The long term sustainability for the services includes adequate space, staff and resources for the hub in Alice Springs, continuation of the visiting specialist program and the capacity to expand to meet existing and future population needs



2. Supporting and delivering retinal cameras and training in primary health care services

Colina Waddell, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation

Key points:

- The Australian Government Department of Health is funding the delivery and training of 155 retinal cameras across Australia to primary health care services that provide care to Indigenous Australians through the Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training (PEHET) project
- To support the uptake of retinal photography, two training courses were developed for Aboriginal Health Workers, nurses, diabetes educators, GPs and those using the cameras
- Additional funding has enabled the project consortium to facilitate follow up visits to sites. These visits provide the opportunity to refresh on practical skills, discuss implementation and troubleshoot issues with their regular visiting optometrist
- In 2018, a funding extension was granted for the project to direct efforts to support embedding of retinal photography into primary health care processes. This ongoing work will be guided by the Embedding Retinal Photography in Primary Health Care workshop held in November 2018



Brien Holden Vision
@brienholden

Follow

@brienholden thanks all partners & individuals for their dedicated support in Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training program funded by @healthgovau 1 roll out 150 retinal camera nationally by 202 #CTGV19 @OptometryAus #AustralianAid #BrienHolden

3. Working Towards a Nationally Consistent Spectacles Subsidy in New South Wales

Jennelle Schroder, Vision Australia

Key points:

- Currently, subsidised glasses are available through the NSW Spectacles Program to Aboriginal clients who have a pension or health care card, or a Centrelink Income Statement. This has limited the subsidy and provision of glasses based on financial status and is a significant challenge for Aboriginal clients trying to access the service
- Vision Australia worked with stakeholders to trial the removal of these criteria in select Visiting Optometrist Scheme outreach clinics in 2018
- The trial had three aims: to demonstrate that need for subsidised vision correction in the Aboriginal community was not being met under current eligibility restrictions; to establish that extending access to the service would provide for particularly vulnerable members of the Aboriginal community and; to demonstrate that making the Program available in outreach clinics, regardless of financial status, would be sustainable
- Twenty-eight sites offered subsidised vision correction to any Aboriginal client presenting at clinic for six months. Client demographic data was captured electronically, and clients were surveyed for feedback on quality of life impacts, eye health, eye examination history, and satisfaction measures
- Preliminary results of the trial showed that an increase in client volumes at trial locations were sustainable

4. Safe Bathrooms and Environmental Health – Managing Trachoma Prevention

Matthew Lester, Health Department of Western Australia & William (Chicky) Clements, Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation.

Key points:

- The Aboriginal Environmental Health program in Western Australia works with Aboriginal families, their communities, health service providers and researchers, as well as the state's Housing Authority to improve the home environment with regard to having a functional bathroom in the house for safe washing
- The Environmental Health workforce have been working toward performing Safe Bathroom assessments in the 41 trachoma at-risk communities in WA
- In addition, the program in WA has been implementing a clinic generated referral system for environmental health assessment at the time of diagnosis of a preventable contagious condition
- The focus on trachoma screening and elimination has been a precursor for developing this referral process. The environmental health interventions that prevent trachoma transmission also prevent a wide range of other hygiene related medical conditions and sequelae



AusVotesHealth#
@WePublicHealth

The costs of soap and towels in remote areas impacting on eye health #CTGV19 but great work happening in safe bathrooms with Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Health Service in the Kimberley

5. Ophthalmology for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Rural Communities

Claire O'Neill, NSW Rural Doctors Network

Key points:

- Southern NSW Local Health District Aboriginal Health Services (SNSWLHD) identified a need for affordable ophthalmology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the South Coast of NSW where the Aboriginal population is approximately 5.8% of the community
- In partnership with the local Aboriginal Medical Services, the Aboriginal Unit in Grand Pacific Health and Rural Doctors Network gained funding to undertake clinics to primarily address this need for clients with chronic disease (including diabetes) and clients at risk of eye health issues
- The Aboriginal Health Services for SNSWLHD coordinated the clinics for the ophthalmologist and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) referred clients to the program and assisted with transport and case coordination through the Integrated Team Care (ITC), a 'Closing the Gap' initiative
- To date the engagement and outcomes have been positive with all clinics being booked out and good attendance outcomes



Follow

Claire represented us today at #CTGV19. One in 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults has Diabetic Retinopathy, which can lead to irreversible vision loss. At @NSWRDN we are working collaboratively towards health equality.

IEH welcomed abstracts for the 2019 Conference on any topic relating to the Conference theme '*Strengthen & Sustain*' that may be of interest and relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health and efforts to close the gap for vision.

Over 30 abstracts were received from across the country, including a number of submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Topic areas included eye care in primary care; eye-care stakeholder collaborations; community-led and cultural engagement approaches and initiatives; workforce development; challenges in coordination and case management; improving outcomes and access to services; health system changes and reform.

We thank presenters for '*sharing your story*' through table top presentations and posters presentations.

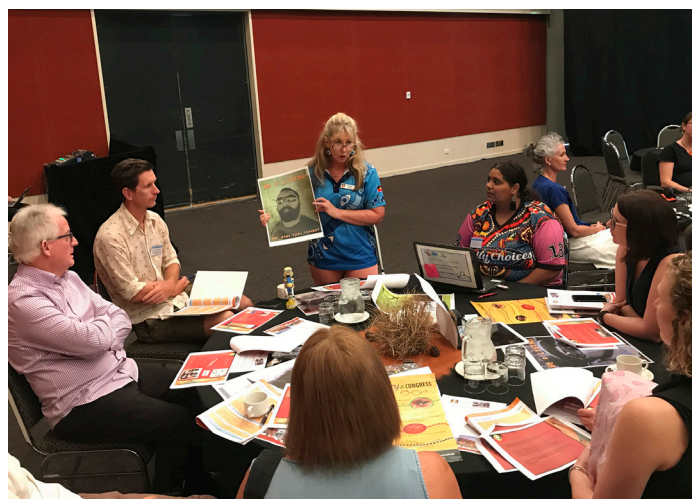
Table top and poster topics and presentations are listed on Appendix C of this report.



Posters displayed in the trade exhibition hall

'Diversity & variety of subjects - love the short, sharp table top presentations' - Conference Delegate Feedback

'Table top presentations and the variety of presenters. Excellent. It felt real and we are all working towards the same outcome'- Conference Delegate Feedback



This plenary session provided delegates with a number of examples of initiatives and challenges to sustain progress towards equitable eye care by 2020. Some of the key points are captured below:

1. 'Strong Eyes, Strong Communities': A Five Year Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health

Judith Abbott, Vision 2020 Australia

Key points:

- This Plan presents the collective effort and aspirations of sector on what to do for the next five years
- Strong Eyes, Strong Communities is referred to as the 'Blueprint' which picks up elements of The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision and what else is required to sustain the work already implemented
- There are four overarching principles:
 1. Enhance service delivery
 2. Eliminate trachoma
 3. Strengthen partnerships and local support
 4. Enhance eye health in ACCHOs and other primary care services
- Vision 2020 Australia recommendations for implementation include: embedding and enhancing existing initiatives, programs and policies, enhance state and territory engagement / action and new funding needed in some areas



2. Preparing GPs to Participate in Indigenous Eye Care

Dr Andrew Rowan, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress

Key points:

- General Practitioners (GPs) participate on a daily basis in eye health
- GP scope of practice is generally limited to non-sight threatening eye conditions. There are no tools or training on dealing with the three main causes of Indigenous vision loss (refractive error, cataract, diabetic retinopathy)
- There are 40,000 GPs nationwide who are not participating in efforts to Close the Gap for Vision. Where do GPs fit in?
- The course content GPs receive on eye health is limited. GPs don't feel confident in eye health
- GPs are often the first point of call for the patient and have a better understanding of the patient and population. This places them in a situation where they could do more. How can GPs be supported or trained to do more in eye care?



Dr Andrew Rowan with some challenging thoughts on the role of the General Practitioner in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care. What opportunities are there to make the most of GP's in this space? #CTGV19 @WePublicHealth



3. Making Entry-Level Optometry Training Culturally Safe

Joleen Ryan, Deakin University & Sian Lewis, Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

Key points:

- Ensuring that all optometrists develop cultural capabilities before graduating is an important step towards providing culturally safe services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- There are currently just under 5,600 optometrists registered in Australia; only 11 of these optometrists identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in 2017/18
- To help optometry programs to implement a culturally safe curriculum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in November 2018 the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand launched the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework
- The Optometry Framework contains three themes:
 - Theme 1: Integrating cultural safety into reflective practice and professionalism
 - Theme 2: History and diversity of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, the post-colonial experience and implications for population health and health care practice
 - Theme 3: Delivery of culturally safe eye health care in partnership with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health professionals, organisations and communities

4. Sustaining Partnerships in the Elimination of Trachoma

Sue Beyon, NT Department of Education

Key points:

- Commitment by the Education Department of Northern Territory to play a part in the shared goal to eliminate trachoma
- Common hygiene messages promoted for trachoma overlap with that of otitis media
- Planning and infrastructure are important initiatives in eliminating trachoma
- **Challenges faced:** Staff turnover and vacancies, amount of running water available in communities, upkeeping hygiene practices once trachoma is eliminated (especially in community)
- **Successes include:** Aligning trachoma to the Australian Curriculum (no extra work for teachers), schools have resources to understand the message and implement strategies and evidence-based influence on future planning for building schools



5. Growth and Sustainability of Eye Health Services through the Support of a Holistic Framework

Celia McCarthy, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health

Key points:

- The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) in South-East Queensland has been developing its eye health services over the past 5 years for Australia's largest and equal-fastest growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
- This has been integrally linked to growth and reform in comprehensive primary healthcare within the Indigenous community-controlled health sector
- IUIH's eye health services expanded from 7 clinic settings, in 2014, to 18 in 2018
- Community awareness of eye health services and the uptake of annual eye health checks were increased through a variety of eye health promotion activities
- Pathways into ophthalmology services, including cataract surgery and diabetic retinopathy treatment were developed and implemented



Sarah Davies
@sarahjdavies91

Follow

'We know that setting someone up for success needs a combination of family and community, as well as a strengths based approach,' says Celia from @IUIH_ #CTGV19 @WePublicHealth

6. Stay Focused on Refractive Error

Anna Morse, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation

Key points:

- Refractive error as it is a significant contributor to Indigenous vision loss
- NIEHS (2008) showed that Indigenous people were 20 times more likely to be blind from uncorrected refractive error compared to non-Indigenous people
- Correcting refractive error is simple, effective and affordable
- Subsidised spectacle schemes are available in all states and territories but vary in cost and eligibility
- Cost modelling has been done consistent with the Optometry Australia (OA) principles. Cost estimates (based on Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Subsidy Scheme (VASSS) model) for 50% coverage over 3 years is ~\$7 million
- The government has invested \$2 million for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Subsidised Spectacles Scheme Initiative. Project to run from 2018 – 2020 and will focus on two areas; building nationally consistent schemes and increasing short term access to subsidised spectacles



Vision 2020 Australia
@Vision2020Aus

Follow

Angus Turner of @LionsEyeInstAus talking at #CTGV19 about the proposed regional hub for Aboriginal health delivery in the Kimberley. Innovative ways to meet health needs - including eye health - in remote WA.

7. New Regional Hub in the Kimberley

Associate Professor Angus Turner, Lions Outback Vision

Key points:

- A North West regional eye health hub is to be established in Broome which services the Kimberley and Pilbara regions
- The hub will;
 1. Increase the number and frequency of eye clinics
 2. Share facilities to provide care for the whole individual not only eyes
 3. Provide training and education facilities
 4. Support improved nutrition
 5. Accommodation for junior doctors and parking for mobile clinics
 6. Reduce costs of service and number of patients transferred by patient assistance transport scheme (PATS)

The panel discussion was facilitated by Donna Murray, CEO of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA).

The panel discussion considered workforce issues that challenged Conference delegates to think about culture as an enabler for growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, and how individuals and communities, can grow and be empowered by Aboriginal community control.



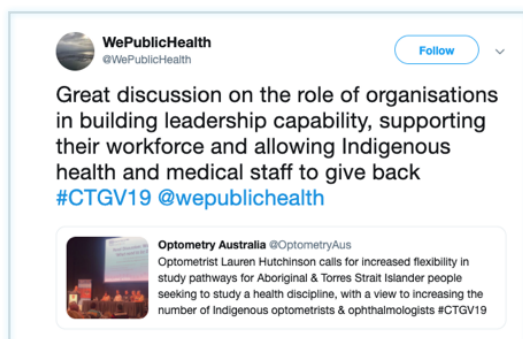
Panel facilitator, Donna Murray, IAHA

Panel Members:

- Anne-Marie Banfield, Eye and Ear Coordinator, Windamara Aboriginal Corporation, Victoria
- Kerry-Ann Woods, Eye Coordinator, Lions Outback Vision, Western Australia
- Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Ophthalmologist and President of Australia Indigenous Doctors Association, Queensland
- Lauren Hutchinson, Optometrist, Eyewear Specs, New South Wales
- Shaun Tatipata, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Northern Territory



Anne-Marie Banfield, Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Shaun Tatipata, Lauren Hutchinson and Kerry-Ann Woods



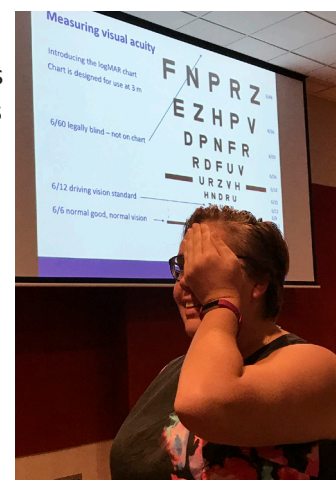
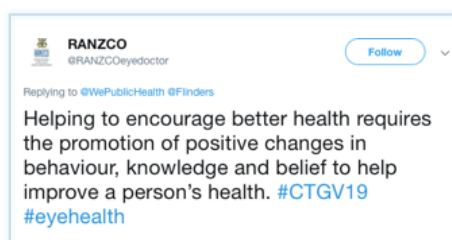
Key points:

- The Australian Government has recently documented the need for developing a health workforce with appropriate clinical and cultural capabilities to improve health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes supporting strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership
- Cultural safety is recommended to be built into the health system, including the health training system as a lifelong learning process. This needs to start with the leadership of the colleges and professional bodies and also should be embedded into professional standards and continuing professional development
- There is a need for changes in curriculum as well and the Deakin optometry program is an example of what can be done to build the cultural understanding and capacity of the eye health workforce
- Leadership is needed across the sector around what cultural safety looks like and that best practice examples should be modelled and celebrated
- Aboriginal Health Workers need to be better recognised and acknowledged for their important work. They also need to have the ability to specialise in their training to focus on an area of interest or community need (for example, eye health)
- Pathways into the eye health workforce should have flexible approaches to recruitment

A number of skill workshops were scheduled on the morning of the first day of the Conference, Thursday 14 March, at the Alice Springs Conference Centre.

Delegates had the opportunity to choose workshops from a range of topics, including:

- **Eye Spy MBS item 12325, and Beyond**, Donna vonBlanckensee, Chronic Disease Program Development explored the MBS items available to support patient care, particularly with retinal photography and chronic disease management
- **Working Better with Outreach Services**, Karen Hale-Robertson, CheckUP, with presentations from Claire O'Neill, NSW Rural Doctors Network and Steph Brake and Alex Brown from TAZREACH, highlighted how fundholders plan and fund their eye health outreach programs across refractive error, cataract and DR screening. Delegates were taken through the needs assessment process, identifying service providers and how to support links between primary activity through to treatment
- **Eye Care 101**, Mitchell Anjou, IEH, and Dr Tim Henderson, Alice Springs Hospital, provided an overview of eyes and vision and eye care systems including the key causes of vision loss for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the current initiatives and resources available to support provision and coordination of Indigenous eye care
- **Health Promotion for Aboriginal Communities**, Sue Bertossa, Flinders University, looked at how to assess and refine individual, organisational and community approaches to health promotion. Delegates were introduced to the Flinders Health Promotion Planning Tool, to help guide health behaviour change across communities



- **Working Together to improve Eye Health through Regional Implementation**, Dr Tessa Saunders, IEH provided delegates with a background about why regional implementation is undertaken in efforts to close the gap for vision, how implementation has progressed over time nationally and shared localised examples of how regions have been working, including their challenges and successes. A regional presentation about the experiences of the Grampians region in Victoria was presented by Faye Clarke from Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative and Camilla Bullen from the Fred Hollows Foundation talked about Northern Territory regional models
- **Cultural Responsiveness in Action**, Donna Murray, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, asked delegates to reflect on a core question *'what do we need to know, be and do in order to be culturally responsive?'* The workshop provided delegates with what is needed to transform systems; how individual health practitioners work to deliver and maintain culturally safe and effective care
- **Retinal Photography in Primary Health Care Practice**, Neville Turner, Australian College of Optometry, covered three components necessary to increase diabetic screening rates and prevent unnecessary blindness from diabetes: capturing images and other things required in MBS 12325; triaging retinal photos and referral decisions; and making retinal photography part of every day life at the clinic
- **Tjanpi Desert Weavers: Basket Weaving** provided a delegates with a wonderful experience, swapping stories and learning language, as delegates made a grass basket *'bush'* way with women from Tjanpi Desert Weavers



To access available presentation slides from the workshops, please visit

www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au

Alice Springs Declaration 2019

At the Close the Gap for Vision by 2020: *Strengthen & Sustain* National Conference 2019, held in Alice Springs delegates heard that improvements in environmental health and housing are essential to eliminate trachoma and to reduce rates of other childhood infections that can lead to serious conditions such as rheumatic heart disease, blindness and deafness. The Conference heard about good progress in reducing trachoma rates but also that there had been some stalling in remote Central Australian communities where trachoma remains endemic and will not be eliminated unless housing is addressed. Over half of Aboriginal people in the NT live in overcrowded housing and nearly one third live in poorly maintained housing. This is by far the worst result of any jurisdiction in Australia.

The Conference noted that there is currently a political impasse between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments which is preventing the completion of an agreement to enable desperately needed Commonwealth investment in Aboriginal housing to be made available. The Conference was also concerned at the very slow pace of implementation of the Northern Territory government funded housing program, where only 62 million of 220 million has been spent in the first two years.

The delegates demand that both levels of government urgently work to fix this impasse to ensure that Aboriginal housing investment can be made available to address the critical housing needs in the NT and contribute to improving the health and well-being of Aboriginal Territorians.

This declaration was *unanimously endorsed*.



CTGV19 Conference delegates unanimously endorsing the Alice Springs Declaration 2019

#AusVotesHealth
@WePublicHealth

Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 delegates demand that the Australian and Northern Territory Governments urgently work to address the NT housing crisis [#CTGV19](#) [@IEHU_UniMelb](#) [@AMSANTaus](#)

RANZCO
@RANZCOeyeDoctor

National Close the Gap day marks a time to reflect and act to help all Australians receive the same access to eye care. [#CTGV19](#) delegates agreed that improvements in housing conditions across NT are an essential part of eliminating trachoma from Aus.

Aboriginal Health
@NACCHOAustralia

NACCHO Aboriginal Eye Health and [#Housing @2019wihc #CloseTheGap](#)

Co Host John Paterson CEO [@AMSANTaus](#) opening speech [@IEHU_UniMelb](#) [#ClosingtheGap](#) in Vision 2020 [#CTGV19](#) Conference Plus [#AliceSprings Declaration](#) [@OptometryAus](#) [@Vision2020Aus](#)

[nacchocommunique.com/2019/03/18/nac](#)

IEH
@IEHU_UniMelb

👏👏 Delegates at the [#CTGV19](#) raise their hands in unity, demanding the urgent action by the Australian & NT government on the NT housing crisis, in order to improve health outcomes! [#closethegapforvisionby2020](#) [#CTGV19](#)

Gillian Cochrane
@gmc_cochrane

Address housing requirements in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities NOW to address public health issues including blindness and deafness [#CTGV19](#) [@IEHU_UniMelb](#) [@ScottMorrisonMP](#)

HealthInfoNet
@HealthInfoNet

Delegates from [#CTGV19](#) unanimously endorsed the Alice Springs Declaration 2019 to address the critical housing needs in the NT and contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Territorians. [bit.ly/2YaAKKy](#) [@NACCHOAustralia](#) [@IEHU_UniMelb](#) [@FredHollows](#)

MOVING FORWARD

COAG must commit to a GOOD HOUSING FOR GOOD HEALTH strategy, ensuring home health and safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

CLOSE THE GAP

Conference delegates provided feedback through an evaluation form distributed at the Conference that was also available online. A 32% response rate was received from delegates.

Overall, respondents expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the 2019 Conference.

- Nearly all respondents (96%) felt the information discussed at the Conference was of value and interest to their work
- The majority of respondents (94%) felt the Conference met their expectations
- 99% expressed high satisfaction with workshop content
- 75% indicated they could better advance the work to close the gap for vision after attending this Conference

Networking, strong Indigenous voices, workshops and table top presentations were highlights for most respondents. Respondents found the breadth of content and diversity and depth of presentations, and varying sessions formats, provided a wonderful and enjoyable event.

Some of the wrap up comments, reflections and suggestions from delegates are captured in the quotes below:

'A united front from delegates for self-determination'

'Cultural connections, keeping it relevant to our people'

'The cultural responsiveness workshop was outstanding'

'The Conference reaffirmed that we are moving in the right direction as a sector'

'It was especially great to see a session delivered in language'

'Sense of collegiality is fostered'

'Conference dinner was a highlight. The performer was brilliant, hilarious and entertaining. Love the Leaky Pipe Awards'

'Fantastic to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait people leading the Conference sessions'

'Presentations linked a singular health issue to the greater overarching issues facing Aboriginal people'

'I found it so important and valuable that we heard a lot from our Indigenous health workforce'

'Indigenous voices were strong'

'Upskill and engage Indigenous young and older generations so we are more confident and empowered to help our people'

'Continue to share stories of innovation and success from various corners of Australia'

Delegates identified ways that IEH could support their efforts to close the gap for vision including to continue to engage, support and advocate at community, regional, state and national levels.

A number of topics or areas of interest were identified and suggested for the Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 – National Conference 2020 including:

- Workforce development – from Aboriginal Health Workers to GPs
- Ophthalmology efforts in Indigenous eye health e.g. cataract surgery waiting times, diabetic retinopathy treatment
- Indigenous leadership – empowering ACCHOs in eye care
- Lived experiences/real stories/local Elders yarning
- Cultural responsiveness in action
- Data and data circulation
- More workshops on specific themes
- Social determinants of health/holistic approaches to tackling eye care

CAAMA Media Coverage

IEH were proud to partner with CAAMA radio for the Close the Gap for Vision by 2020: *Strengthen & Sustain* National Conference 2019.

A live broadcast with interviews and commentary was played during the conference.

A variety of interviews, short videos and presentations are available to view via IEH website www.unimelb.edu.au



Trevor Buzzacott and CAAMA reporter Lorena Walker during the 'Strong Voices' live broadcast. Image courtesy of CAAMA radio



Community members from the APY lands. Back Row: Trevor Buzzacott, David Pearson, Harry Harun, Graham Aitken Front Row: Murray George, Tania Pompey, Betty Umuhuri, Sammy Dodd, Willy Pompey, and Fiona Lange (IEH). Image courtesy of CAAMA radio

Media Articles/Interviews

A number of articles have been prepared by partner and other organisations and reflect some of the Conference themes, key messages and learnings.

- [Environmental Housing Improvements Critical to Eliminate Trachoma](#) *Mivision – The Ophthalmic Journal*
- [Aboriginal Eye Health and #Housing](#) *NACCHO Aboriginal Health News Alert*
- [Optometrists Embrace Ongoing Efforts to Close the Gap for Vision](#) *Optometry Australia*
- [The Central Role of Cultural Safety](#) *Vision 2020 Australia*
- [Eliminating Avoidable Blindness](#) *ABC Radio National (Professor Hugh Taylor interview with Fran Kelly)*

Social Media

Delegates were encouraged to use the hashtag [#CTGV19](#) for social media posting which generated pointed discussion for those at the Conference and those following from elsewhere.

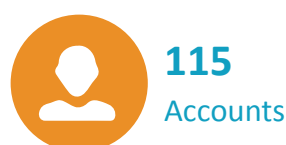
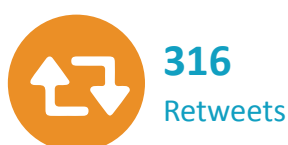
In addition to our own twitter account [@IEHU_UniMelb](#), IEH partnered with Croakey to 'take-over' the [@WePublicHealth](#) handle for the week of the Conference. Being able to share key themes and messages from the Conference to over 12,800 people who follow the [@WePublicHealth](#) was a great opportunity to highlight the amazing work coming out of the Indigenous eye health sector.



Thank you to all of the Conference Tweeters for keeping us informed and involved in the buzz of the program and event.

Search hashtag [#CTGV19](#) to see Conference Twitter posts.

#CTGV19





The second annual Leaky Pipe Award recipients were announced at the Close the Gap for Vision National Conference dinner at the Helipad, DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs on 15 March 2019.

The Leaky Pipe Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate achievements of individuals and groups in progressing activities to close the gap for vision.

2019 Leaky Pipe Award Winners:

- **Service Delivery:** Heather Wilson, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, NT
- **Unsung Hero:** Tony Coburn, CheckUP, QLD
- **Regional Engagement:** Western NSW Eye Health Partnership, Project Officer, Jane Hager, NSW
- **Community Leadership:** Shaun Tatipata, The Fred Hollows Foundation, NT



View the award winners statements on our website www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au

The awards were presented by Angee Ross (IEH), and Trevor Buzzacott (Aboriginal Community Services South Australia)



L-R: Shaun Tatipata, Heather Wilson, Trevor Buzzacott, Angee Ross, Tony Coburn and Jane Hager



The Conference dinner included a special performance by one of Australia's premier Indigenous showgirls, the one and only Constantina Bush. Originally from Katherine NT, Constantina now travels the world performing on the cabaret/burlesque circuit.

Constantina Bush entertaining guests during the dinner

EYES IN ACTION

Photography Competition

A photography competition ‘Eyes in Action’ was held in conjunction with the Close the Gap for Vision by 2020: *Strengthen & Sustain* National Conference 2019.

It aimed to highlight the diversity, beauty and fascination of not only the work we do in eye health, but also what we see while we do this work.

Entries were open to amateur photographers and all entries were displayed at the Conference for delegates to view and nominate a winner.

The topic was open, and entries were encouraged to be inspired by the theme of the Conference *‘Strengthen & Sustain’*.

The winning entry of the ‘Eyes in Action’ photography competition was from Kristina Hatfield, Rockhampton, QLD who entered the image, taken by her daughter Lelarnie Hatfield, titled *‘Through her Eyes’*.



‘Through her Eyes’

Darumbal Gadyu (girl) connecting back to Nunthi (Country) learning about Identity and the Yadaba (respect) of Nunthi

We thank the following organisations for their trade displays and being available to talk to delegates and answer questions about their work during the Conference:



Special thanks to:

Confetti and Skeet, a local Indigenous enterprise, for designing and hand-making the stunning table centrepieces at both the Conference and dinner.

Table numbers were hand painted by local Arrernte artist, Amunda Gorey.



www.confettiandskeet.com.au/



Thank you also to our 2019 Conference supporters: Alice Springs Convention Centre, DoubleTree by Hilton, CAAMA Radio and Croakey. We would also like to acknowledge a generous contribution from Professor John Funder AC, IEH Advisory Board member.



IEH acknowledges that the event was supported by funding from:



Appendix A - List of Delegates

Name	Surname	Organisation
Stuart	Aamodt	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
Judith	Abbott	Vision 2020 Australia
Tammy	Abbott	Ninti One
Donna	Ah Chee	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Lauren	Aitken	Aboriginal Community Services
Graham	Aitken	Aboriginal Community Services
Cathy	Aktan	Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
Fadwa	Al-Yaman	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Philip	Anderton	The University of New South Wales
Kate	Andrews	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
Mitchell	Anjou	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Luke	Arkapaw	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Caroline	Atkinson	Dandenong & District Aborigines Co-operative Ltd
Archie	Baker	Department for Health and Wellbeing, South Australia
Anne-Marie	Banfield	Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation
Ashley	Banister	NSW Rural Doctors Network
Denise	Barwick	Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service
Jenna	Besley	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Sue	Beynon	Northern Territory Department of Education
Graham	Bidstrup	Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up
John	Boffa	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Caitlin	Bradley	Rural Health West
Lisa	Braedon	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Stephanie	Brake	Tasmanian Department of Health
Tracey	Brand	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Lyn	Brodie	Optometry Australia
Alex	Brown	TAZREACH - Tasmanian Department of Health
Yvette	Buckby	Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
Camilla	Bullen	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Samantha	Burrow	Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet
Trevor	Buzzacott	Aboriginal Community Services
Stephanie	Callisto	Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
Thomas	Campbell	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Skye	Cappuccio	Optometry Australia
Susan	Carden	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Piers	Carozzi	Australian College of Optometry
Cesar	Carrillo	Sight For All
Inge	Carter	Vision Resource Centre, Department of Education
Judy	Clark	Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Reference Group
Faye	Clarke	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Nadia	Clements	Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
William	Clements	Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and services
Tony	Coburn	CheckUP
Gillian	Cochrane	Gillian Cochrane Consulting
Bianca	Cochrane-Owers	Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service
Rosemary	Copeland	Top End Health
Rebecca	Cox	Queensland University of Technology
Caroline	Craven	Country Health South Australia
Gary	Cserie	Optometry Australia
Jason	Currie	Vanguard Health
Eric	Dalgety	Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
Sarah	Davies	Optometry Australia
Colette	Davis	Australian College of Optometry
Kristine	Davis	Guide Dogs SA.NT
Nicole	Davis	Mallee District Aboriginal Service
Rosie	Dawkins	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Lyndall	De Marco	IDEAS Van
Tina	De Melo	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Sally	Dell	Rotary Club
Sinead	Denny	Lions Eye Institute
Deborah	Douma	Sonder- Integrated Team Care, Closing the Gap Program
Nicholas	Downie	Launceston Eye Doctors
Caroline	Edwards	Australian Government Department of Health
Jose	Estevez	South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute
Josie	Faunce	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
Jane	Ferbrache	Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association
Rachael	Ferguson	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Mary	Florence	Northern Sydney Local Health District Aboriginal Health Service
Sharon	Forrester	Ninti One
Rodolfo	Garcia	Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW
Denise	Gardner	Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association
Murray	George	Aboriginal Community Services

Appendix A - List of Delegates (*continued*)

Name	Surname	Organisation
Rosamond	Gilden	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Guy	Gillor	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
Jim	Golden-Brown	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
Melanie	Gould	Sydney North Health Network
Kerry	Green	Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc.
Zheng	Guan	Capital Eye
Jane	Hager	NSW Rural Doctors Network
Karen	Hale-Robertson	CheckUP
Jenny	Harnett	OneSight
Abdul	Harun	Aboriginal Community Services
Denise	Hayes	Launceston Eye Hospital
Melissa	Hebbard	Rotary Club of Milawa Oxley
Tim	Henderson	Alice Springs Hospital
Dean	Heycox	Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Regional Health and Community Services
Marc	Hicks	Karadi Aboriginal Corporation
Shelley	Hopkins	Queensland University of Technology
Jenny	Hunt	Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service
Lauren	Hutchinson	Eyewear Specs
Suzanne	Jenkins	Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service
Talicia	Jetta	Aboriginal Health Council of WA
Nilmini	John	Australian College of Optometry
Jacqueline	Johnson	Guide Dogs SA.NT
Amy	Johnson	Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
Michael	Karpa	Cairns Eye and Laser
Nicole	Kempster	Department of Health, Centre for Disease Control
Caitlin	Kindness	Optometry Student
Sharon	Kirkpatrick	Dandenong & District Aborigines Co-operative Ltd
Kerry	Kornhauser	End Trachoma 2020
Helen	Lambert	NT Primary Health Network
Fiona	Lange	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Peter	Larsen	Specsavers
Chris	Lee	Diabetes Australia
Fiona	Lester	Day Dawn
Matthew	Lester	Environmental Health, Department of Health, WA
Sian	Lewis	Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand
Damien	Loneragan	Damien Loneragan Optometrist
Elizabeth	Louwdyk	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Fiona	Lucey	Rural Health West
Christina	Ly	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
An	Ly	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
Kate	Lynch	University of Queensland
Xiaotian	Ma	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Duchesne	Markham	Specsavers
Russell	Marnock	Rotary Club of Emerald
Lesley	Martin	Australian Trachoma Alliance
Michelle	Marven	Optometry Victoria
Jessica	Massie	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Celia	McCarthy	Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
Jennifer	Merryweather	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Kath	Midgley	Northern Territory Department of Education
Liana	Miller	CheckUP
Krista	Mills	Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
Samantha	Moody	Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council
Rebecca	Moon	Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative
Elizabeth	Moore	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
Anna	Morse	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Peter	Mungkari	Aboriginal Community Services
Josiah	Murphy	Bill Robertson Eye Care Plus
Donna	Murray	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Susan	Nelson	Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
Claire	O'Neill	NSW Rural Doctors Network
Maureen	O'Keefe	Australian College of Optometry
Henry	Parham	The Fred Hollows Foundation
John	Paterson	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
Theeran	Pearson	Hunter Primary Care
Candice	Pearson	Eye Care Queensland
David	Pearson	Aboriginal Community Services
Kate	Pecar	Australian College of Optometry
Ellen	Pedler	Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
Jenni	Phelps	Rural Doctors Workforce Agency
Kezlee	Pickett	Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation

Name	Surname	Organisation
Emma	Poletti	Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council
Willy	Pompey	Aboriginal Community Services
Emily	Procopis	OPSM Alice Springs
Valma	Radford	Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative
Renee	Ragonesi	Department of Health, Centre for Disease Control
Kristopher	Rallah-Baker	Ophthalmologist & Australian Indigenous Doctors Association
Beverley	Rawson	Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc.
Chris	Rektsinis	Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
Cathy	Rennie Matos	Specsavers
Justyna	Rezsowska	Alice Springs Hospital
Lachlan	Rich	CheckUP
Athlone	Riches	Hunter Primary Care
Philip	Roberts	CareFlight
Bill	Robertson	Bill Robertson Eye Care Plus
Emma	Robertson	Karadi Aboriginal Corporation
Linda	Robson	Alice Springs Hospital
Angee	Ross	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Tania	Roulston	Flinders University
Andrew	Rowan	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Joleen	Ryan	Deakin University
Dr Tessa	Saunders	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Jennelle	Schroder	Vision Australia
Nicholas	Schubert	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Paula	Sheehan	Australian Government Department of Health
Sumit	Shevade	Maffra Vision Care
Amy-Lee	Shields	Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up
Amanda	Short	Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation
Fungisai	Siggins	Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation
Tammy	Simmons	Department of Education, Northern Territory Government
Warren	Snowdon MP	Federal Member for Lingiari
Janne	Speirs	Rotary Club of Berwick
Yash	Srivastava	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Emma	Stanford	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Cathy	Starr	Nganampa Health Council
Robert	Stevens	Aboriginal Community Services
Che	Stockley	Vision 2020 Australia
Fiona	Stokes	Central Australia Health Service
Helen	Summers	Helen Summers Optometrist
Richelle	Tabbada	Northern Territory Government
Elizabeth	Tahere	NT Department of Health, Centre for Disease Control
William	Talbot	William Talbot Eyecare
Shaun	Tatipata	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Hugh	Taylor	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Desley	Thompson	Ninti One
Angus	Thornton	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
William	Tilmouth	Senior Aboriginal Community Member
Rex	Tjami	Aboriginal Community Services
Lien	Trinh	Rotary - Nourish Our Communities
Joshua	Tuiono	Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative
Eric	Turner	The Fred Hollows Foundation
Neville	Turner	Australian College of Optometry
Angus	Turner	Lions Outback Vision
Matthew	Tyne	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Annie	Vickerstaff	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Donna	vonBlanckensee	Chronic Disease Program Development
Colina	Waddell	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Shelley	Walters	Maternal and Child Health Thursday Island and Torres Strait Health
Sanditha	Wickramasinghe	Royal Darwin Hospital Top End Health Service
Kerre	Willsher	Researcher
Jeanine	Willson	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Nick	Wilson	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Heather	Wilson	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
Paula	Wines	NT Department of Health, Centre for Disease Control
Kerry-Ann	Woods	Lions Eye Institute
Helen	Wright	Lions Eye Institute
Carol	Wynne	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
Aryati	Yashadhana	Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Tiger	Zhou	Alice Springs Hospital

Day 1, Thursday 14 March 2019

8.00 - 13.30	Conference Registration	The Ghan Foyer
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Conference Workshops

9.00 - 10.30	1. Eye Spy MBS Item 12325, and Beyond Donna von Blanckensee, Chronic Disease Program Development	Ellery Room A
	2. Working Better with Outreach Services Karen Hale-Robertson, CheckUP	Ellery Room B
	3. Eye Care 101 Mitchell Anjou, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne	Ellery Room C
	4. Health Promotion for Aboriginal Communities Sue Bertossa, Flinders University	Ellery Room D

10.30 - 11.00	Morning Tea	MacDonnell Room A + B
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11.00 - 12.30	5. Working Together to Improve Eye Health through Regional Implementation Dr Tessa Saunders, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne	Ellery Room A
	6. Indigenous Leadership TBC	Ellery Room B
	7. Cultural Responsiveness in Action Donna Murray, Indigenous Allied Health Australia	Ellery Room C
	8. Retinal Photography in Primary Health Care Practice Neville Turner, Australian College of Optometry	Ellery Room D
11.00 - 13.00	9. Tjanpi Desert Weavers: Basket Weaving (Cost \$60 per delegate) Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council	MacDonnell Room A + B

12.30 - 13.30	Lunch Poster Viewings & Trade Table Displays	MacDonnell Room A + B
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Opening Session: Day 1

Chair: Professor Hugh Taylor, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne

13.30 - 14.00	Welcome to Arrernte Country Kumalie Riley, Arrernte Elder followed by Tinkerbee Dance Performance
14.00 - 14.15	Welcome Address Professor Hugh Taylor, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
14.15 - 14.30	Opening Address Conference Co-Host John Paterson, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
14.30 - 14.45	Video Message Hon Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Indigenous Health
14.45 - 15.00	Where to from here on Indigenous Eye Health Caroline Edwards, Australian Government Department of Health

15.00 - 15.30	Afternoon Tea Poster Viewings & Trade Table Displays	MacDonnell Room A + B
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Session 1: Strengthen

Chair: Christopher Lee, Diabetes Australia

15.30 - 15.45	FRED Talk: Beyond 2000.....& 20 Shaun Tatipata, The Fred Hollows Foundation
15.45 - 16.45 Presentations 10 minutes each	1. Strengthening Eye Care Delivery in Central Australia Dr Tim Henderson, Alice Springs Hospital
	2. Supporting and Delivering Retinal Cameras and Training in Primary Health Care Services Colina Waddell, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
	3. Working Towards a Nationally Consistent Spectacles Subsidy in New South Wales Jennelle Schroder, Vision Australia
	4. Safe Bathrooms and Environmental Health - Managing Trachoma Prevention Matthew Lester, Health Department of Western Australia & William Clements, Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation
	5. Ophthalmology for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Rural communities Claire O'Neill, NSW Rural Doctors Network

16.45 - 17.00	Day 1 - Delegate Wrap up and Close
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17.00 - 18.30	Welcome Reception	The Courtyard, Alice Springs Convention Centre, 93 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs (please note this is an outdoor event)
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Day 2, Friday 15 March 2019

8.00 - 9.00	Conference Registration	The Ghan Foyer
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Opening Session: Day 2

Chair: Eric Turner, The Fred Hollows Foundation

9.00 - 9.10	Welcome & Conference Opening Day Two
9.10 - 9.25	Donna Ah Chee, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress
9.25 - 9.45	Opening Address Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Northern Territory
9.45 - 10.00	Seeing Clearly William Tilmouth, Senior Aboriginal Community Member
10.00 - 10.30	Ngangkari - Traditional Healers of Central Australia NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation

10.30 - 11.00	Morning Tea	Poster Viewings & Trade Table Displays	MacDonnell Room A + B
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Session 2: 'Sharing your Story'

Chair: Nick Schubert, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne

11.00 - 12.15 Table Top Presentations: Delegates choose 6 topics within this session. Each presentation will be 10 minutes	
TT.01 Establishing an Ophthalmology Clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)	TT.11 Exploring Non-clinical Support Roles and Functions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health
TT.02 Evaluating a Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker Diabetic Retinal Photo Triaging Model	TT.12 Trachoma in the Torres Strait: A Public Health Conundrum
TT.03 Clearer Futures: Highlighting the Strategies and Skills Aboriginal Health Workers have and are Developing to Ensure Better Eye Care Outcomes	TT.13 Patient and Provider Perspectives on Cataract Surgery Intensives
TT.04 Student Optometry Placements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services- Perspectives from a Tertiary Institution	TT.14 Training & Tools for Independence
TT.05 Who's Looking At You	TT.15 The Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme- 'Strengthening and Sustaining Access'
TT.06 Visual Characteristics of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	TT.16 Optometry and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Care in 2040
TT.07 Eye Health Coordination in Queensland's West	TT.17 Working and Yarning Together: A Collaboration to Support the Knowledge Needs of the Health Workforce
TT.08 Eye Doctor Mob at the Top End	TT.18 Music to our Eyes
TT.09 Working Together to Detect Diabetic Retinopathy with Retinal Photography in Primary Health	TT.19 Informed Consent: Trachoma iTalk
TT.10 MBS in 10 Minutes	TT.20 Outreach Optometry at Congress: The Strength in Partnerships

12.15 - 12.30	Conference Delegate Group Photo 	MacDonnell Room A + B
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	Poster Viewings & Trade Table Displays

Session 3: Sustain

Chair: Dr Guy Gillor, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

13.30 - 13.45	Sustainable Change and Self Determination Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Ophthalmologist & Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA)
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13.45 - 15.15 Presentations 10 minutes each, followed by Q&A	
1. 'Strong Eyes, Strong Communities': A Five Year Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Judith Abbott, Vision 2020 Australia	4. Sustaining Partnerships in the Elimination of Trachoma Sue Beynon, NT Department of Education
2. Preparing GPs to Participate in Indigenous Eye Care Dr Andrew Rowan, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress	5. Growth and Sustainability of Eye Health Services through the Support of a Holistic Framework Celia McCarthy, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
3. Making Entry-Level Optometry Training Culturally Safe Sian Lewis, Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand and Joleen Ryan, Deakin University	6. Stay Focused on Refractive Error Anna Morse, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
	7. New Regional Hub in the Kimberley Associate Professor Angus Turner, Lions Outback Vision

15.15 - 15.30	Afternoon Tea	Poster Viewings & Trade Table Displays	MacDonnell Room A + B
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15.30 - 16.15	Panel Discussion: Workforce - 'What needs to be done?' Facilitator: Donna Murray, Indigenous Allied Health Australia	Chair: Lyn Brodie, Optometry Australia	
	- Anne-Marie Banfield, Windamara Aboriginal Corporation - Kerry-Ann Woods, Lions Outback Vision - Dr Kristopher Rallah-Baker, Ophthalmologist & AIDA	- Lauren Hutchinson, Eyewear Specs - Shaun Tatipata, The Fred Hollows Foundation	

16.15 - 16.30	Day 2 - Delegate Wrap up and Close	'Eyes in Action' Photography Competition Announcement
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18.00 - 21.00	Conference Dinner & Leaky Pipe Awards With Entertainment from 'Constantina Bush'	The 'Helipad', DoubleTree by Hilton, 82 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs (please note this is an outdoor event)
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Table Top Presentations

- TT01 Establishing an Ophthalmology Clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) *Presenter: An Ly, Victorian Royal Eye and Ear Hospital*
- TT02 Evaluating a Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker Diabetic Retinal Photo Triaging Model *Presenters: Bianca Cochrane-Owers, Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service and Jane Hager, NSW Rural Doctors Network*
- TT03 Clearer Futures: Highlighting the Strategies and Skills Aboriginal Health Workers have and are Developing to Ensure Better Eye Care Outcomes *Presenter: Anne-Marie Banfield, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation*
- TT04 Student Optometry Placements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services - Perspectives from a Tertiary Institution *Presenter: Dr Shelley Hopkins, Queensland University of Technology*
- TT05 Who's Looking At You *Presenters: Joshua Tuiono and Vel Radford, Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative*
- TT06 Visual Characteristics of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children *Presenter: Rebecca Cox, Queensland University of Technology*
- TT07 Eye Health Coordination in Queensland's West *Presenters: Lachlan Rich and Tony Coburn, CheckUP*
- TT08 Eye Doctor Mob at the Top End *Presenter: Dr Sanditha Wickramasinghe, Royal Darwin Hospital*
- TT09 Working Together to Detect Diabetic Retinopathy with Retinal Photography in Primary Health *Presenters: Dean Heycox, Katungal Aboriginal Community and Medical Services Corp and Christina Ly, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation*
- TT10 MBS in 10 Minutes *Presenter: Donna vonBlanckensee, Chronic Disease Program Development*
- TT11 Exploring Non-clinical Support Roles and Functions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health *Presenters: Aryati Yashadhana, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation and Jennifer Merryweather, The Fred Hollows Foundation*
- TT12 Trachoma in the Torres Strait: A Public Health Conundrum *Presenter: Kate Lynch, The University of Queensland, Queensland Health*
- TT13 Patient and Provider Perspectives on Cataract Surgery Intensives *Presenters: Eric Turner and Camilla Bullen, The Fred Hollows Foundation*
- TT14 Training & Tools for Independence *Presenters: Kristine Davis and Jacqueline Johnson, Guide Dogs NT/SA*
- TT15 The Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Scheme – 'Strengthening and Sustaining Access' *Presenter: Piers Carozzi, Australian College of Optometry*
- TT16 Optometry and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Care in 2040 *Presenters: Sarah Davies and Skye Cappuccio, Optometry Australia*
- TT17 Working and Yarning Together: A Collaboration to Support the Knowledge Needs of the Health Workforce *Presenter: Sam Burrow, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet*
- TT18 Music to our Eyes *Presenters: Graham Bidstrup and Amy-Lee Shields, Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up*
- TT19 Informed Consent: Trachoma iTalk *Presenter: Renee Ragonesi, Centre for Disease Control*
- TT20 Outreach Optometry at Congress: The Strength in Partnerships *Presenters: Heather Wilson and Lisa Braedon, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress*

Poster Presentations

- 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health - Challenges in Coordination and Case Management *Authors: Richelle Tabbada, Linda Robson and Justyna (Ola) Rzeszowska*
- 2 A Review of Aboriginal Patients Attending Two Eye Clinics in 2018 WA *Authors: Kerry Woods, Associate Professor Angus Turner and Sinead Denny*
- 3 Check Today, See Tomorrow: Local Adaptation of Health Promotion Materials *Authors: Nick Schubert, Mitchell Anjou, Carol Wynne, Rosamond Gilden, Dr Tessa Saunders, Philip Roberts and Professor Hugh Taylor*
- 4 Embedding Optometry in Aboriginal Health Services - Learnings and Future Directions *Authors: Dr Genevieve Napper, Gary Crierie, Jose Estevez, Dean Milner, Anna Morse, Lisa Penrose, Vicki Sheehan and Lauren Hutchinson*
- 5 From There to Here - A Story of Strengthening and Sustaining over 20 years *Authors: Maureen O'Keefe, Neville Turner, Piers Carozzi, Colette Davis and Nilmini John*
- 6 Lions Outback Vision Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Project - A Review WA *Authors: Sinead Denny and Associate Professor Angus Turner*
- 7 Northern Territory Trachoma Intensives *Author: Renee Ragonesi*
- 8 Rate & Severity of Diabetic Retinopathy in End Stage Renal Disease in Central Australian Aboriginal People *Authors: Tania Roulston, Dr Tim Henderson, Ebony Liu, Basant Pawar, Victoria Orpin, Jose Estevez and Dr Jamie Craig*
- 9 Sustainable Elimination of Trachoma by 2020 and Beyond Depends on Collaboration and Partnerships *Authors: Fiona Lange, Emma Stanford, Tina De Melo, Angee Ross, Yash Srivastava and Professor Hugh Taylor*

For further details on presentations and abstracts please visit

www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au

Appendix D - Acronyms

ACCO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
ACCHO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
ACCHS	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
AHW	Aboriginal Health Worker
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIDA	Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
AMS	Aboriginal Medical Service
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
BHVI	Brien Holden Vision Institute
CAAC	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
CAAMA	Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association
CABIEHS	Central Australia and Barkly Integrated Eye Health Strategy
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
EESSSP	Ear and Eye Surgical Support Services Program
IAHA	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
IDEAS Van	Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening Van
IEH	Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne
ITC	Integrated Team Care
IUIH	Institute of Urban Indigenous Health
LOV	Lions Outback Vision
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MOICDP	Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program
MRFF	Medical Research Future Fund
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NEHS	National Eye Health Survey
NIEHS	National Indigenous Eye Health Survey
OCT	Optical Coherence Tomography
PHN	Primary Health Network
RANZCO	Royal Australian and New Zealand Council of Ophthalmologists
RDN	Rural Doctors Network
RHOF	Rural Health Outreach Fund
RVEEH	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
SAFE	Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvement (WHO strategy to eliminate trachoma)
VACCHO	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
VAHS	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
VES	Victorian Eyecare Service
VOS	Visiting Optometrists Scheme

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