



WA ABORIGINAL EYE HEALTH 2024 FORUM

TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024

ESPLANADE HOTEL FREMANTLE BY RYDGES, FREMANTLE

9.00 AM TO 5.00 PM FOLLOWED BY A FREE NETWORKING SUNDOWNER

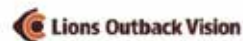
W A L Y A L U P

FINAL PROGRAM

The WA Aboriginal Eye Health 2024 Forum is made possible through funding from
the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



WELCOME FROM THE WA ABORIGINAL EYE HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

The WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group (Advisory Group) was re-established in 2020 to provide a platform that supports all key stakeholders to work collaboratively in the delivery of eye health services across Western Australia (WA). The purpose of the Advisory Group is to facilitate a consistent approach to the planning, coordination and funding of sustainable, evidence-based eye health services to Western Australians, with a focus on improving the eye health of Aboriginal communities.

The Advisory Group builds upon the University of Melbourne's Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision, acknowledging that successful eye health outcomes involve the coordination of both eye care services and the patient journey on the eye health pathway.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lose (Rose) Fonua – First Nations Eye Health Alliance

Lose (Rose) Fonua is a Wiradjuri and South Sea Islander woman and current interim CEO for the First Nations Eye Health Alliance.

She is an Academic Specialist and Associate Director of the Indigenous Eye Health Unit, Chair of Worthwhile Ventures and the Managing Director of the Sydney-based Indigenous Consultancy company, TELL Consulting.

Lose has a background in Indigenous leadership, public and population health, preventative health programs, strategy, policy and medical research. Her life's passion is to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples healthy, well and flourishing.



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Please note: program is subject to change

8.30am Registrations (Level 1 foyer) – tea and coffee on arrival

OPENING PLENARY – Rottnest/Garden Room

9.00am Welcome from the WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group
Khyber Alam

Welcome to Country

Walter McGuire

Walter McGuire is a Wadjuk Noongar maam (pronounced 'marm') and owner/ operator of Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences, with his wife Meg McGuire. Their multi-award winning business is based on Bibbulmun Country in Perth, Western Australia. As a proud descendent of several Bibbulmun tribal clans of the South West of WA, Walter continues 'Telling the First Story' of Aboriginal people to local, inter-state and international visitors to Perth from all over the world.

PLENARY

9.15am Keynote presentation: First Nations Eye Health from a National Perspective

Lose (Rose) Fonua – First Nations Eye Health Alliance

Hear from Lose on the formation and development of the First Nations Eye Health Alliance, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation focused on improving the eye health of First Nations people within Australia. On the back of the launch of the First Nations Eye Health Alliance Strategic Plan 2024-2028 in May 2024, Lose will provide an update on the key strategic priorities and areas of activity. The Alliance will undertake to strengthen the national conversation around eye health and vision care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

10.00am Discussion – cultural safety

Jessica Curnuck – Eye Health Coordinator, Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

This session, facilitated by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Eye Health Coordinator, will engage delegates in a discussion on integrating and coordinating culturally appropriate care for Indigenous patients and families along the eye health pathway. This will be an opportunity to identify and discuss cultural protocols, clinical governance and strategies for integrating health services within an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS).

10.30am Morning tea – Rottnest/Garden Room

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PLENARY – Rottnest/Garden Room

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- 11.00am Update on WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health data
Mitchell Anjou Indigenous Eye Health Unit, The University of Melbourne
Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou, Director at the Indigenous Eye Health Unit will present the most recent eye health data including *Eye Health Measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People 2023* and highlight key potential focus areas for WA.
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- 11.15am Cultural safety and workforce development – Permanent Optometry Services in an ACCHS
Eric Dalgety and Margaret Peel – Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
Learn about the collaboration between the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS), The University of Western Australia (UWA) School of Optometry and WA Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) in establishing a permanent Optometry service within an ACCHS. With support from the Fred Hollows Foundation, a fully equipped Vision Clinic was launched within GRAMS in 2023, providing comprehensive eye care services to GRAMS patients and teaching culturally safe eyecare to UWA Optometry students. The successful initiative has enabled GRAMS' patients to access to critical vision-saving services.
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- 11.30am Improving access to eye services for Aboriginal people living on or visiting Wadjuk Noongar Boodja
Daniel Hunt and Nadia Rind – Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service is an ACCHS based in the Perth metropolitan region. Hear from Dr Daniel Hunt, Deputy Medical Director and Nadia Rind, Aboriginal Health Practitioner, on how Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service has been working to increase access to Optometry and Ophthalmology services within an ACCHS.
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- 11.45am Environmental health – trachoma prevention
Matthew Lester – WA Department of Health, Environmental Health Directorate
Trachoma is preventable, and Australia is the only developed country in the world where it still occurs. Matthew Lester, Manager Science and Policy Unit will provide an update from the WA Department of Health on current Environmental Health activities and health promotion initiatives to find, screen, treat, manage and prevent trachoma among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
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- 12.00pm Culturally safe, self-management diabetes education in Aboriginal communities
Kathryn Huet and Diane Ledger – Diabetes WA
Hear from the Diabetes WA Aboriginal Health Team on their approach to preventing and managing Type 2 diabetes and related complications such as vision loss. Learn how their program teaches skills and practices to effectively manage diabetes in community, including annual health checks, medication compliance and setting their own realistic goals.

12.20pm Lunch – Rottnest/Garden Room

PLENARY – Rottnest/Garden Room

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- 1.15pm Increasing access to eye health services in rural and remote WA
Angus Turner – Lions Outback Vision
Hear from Dr Angus Turner, Ophthalmologist, Associate Professor at UWA and Director of Lions Outback Vision. This presentation will highlight the innovation, collaboration and coordination of services to remote and First Nations communities across WA.
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- 1.35pm Provision of Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS) services in regional WA – a collaborative approach
Helen Wright, Rajneil Prasad and Byron Klein – Lions Outback Vision
Join local and visiting health practitioners as they share their experience in enhancing eye health outcomes for people living in rural and remote areas as well as First Nations people across WA. This presentation will highlight collaborative efforts in service delivery, resource allocation, training and integration of optometry and ophthalmology services, with a brief case study showcasing a patient's journey through the service.
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2.00pm WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group – Think Tank
Hosted by the WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group
This interactive session will provide an overview of the WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group, highlighting achievements and learnings to date and explore future directions for Aboriginal eye health and vision care service delivery and access in Western Australia, using a regional case study. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss key priorities and collectively identify areas for improvement to improve eye health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

2.50pm Closing remarks

3.00pm **Afternoon tea – Rottneest/Garden Room**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3
3.30pm	<p>Practical upskilling and training Facilitated by Jessica Curnuck</p> <p>The aim of this practical hands on workshop is to help increase knowledge around eye health and build confidence to complete eye assessments.</p> <p><i>Aimed at Aboriginal health workers and practitioners and nurses.</i></p>	<p>Advanced ophthalmology diagnosis Facilitated by Steve Bartnik</p> <p>This interactive session will provide an opportunity to discuss current clinical eye health guidelines, screening and referral pathways.</p> <p><i>Aimed at medical specialists, optometrists and nurses.</i></p>	<p>Research and innovation Showcase of current research and initiatives in First Nations eye health followed by a Q&A session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on AI in Eye Images for Systemic Health; Collaboration with Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Jocelyn Drinkwater – Lions Outback Vision This presentation will discuss the use of artificial intelligence in both screening for diabetic retinopathy and for detecting other conditions such as risk of heart disease and stroke from an eye photo.2. The Challenge: Screening through to specialist care in the Pilbara; Harnessing AI and Digital Innovation Angus Turner – Lions Outback Vision Lions Outback Vision has deployed an innovative digital solution to diabetic retinopathy screening as part of The Pilbara Challenge which brings care to more remote locations and is increasing engagement and collaboration with patients and primary carers.3. Addressing ocular trauma in WA’s First Nations population through improved understanding of epidemiology and culturally appropriate health promotion Qiang Li – Lions Outback Vision This project aims to research the drivers of eye trauma in Australia and subsequently, develop a culturally appropriate and evidence-based ‘local prevention campaign’ for dissemination and evaluation in a rural Western Australian setting.

5.00pm **Networking sundowner – Marine Lounge Bar** (includes complimentary drinks and canapés)

For further information please contact Rural Health West:
08 6389 4500 | outreach@ruralhealthwest.com.au

