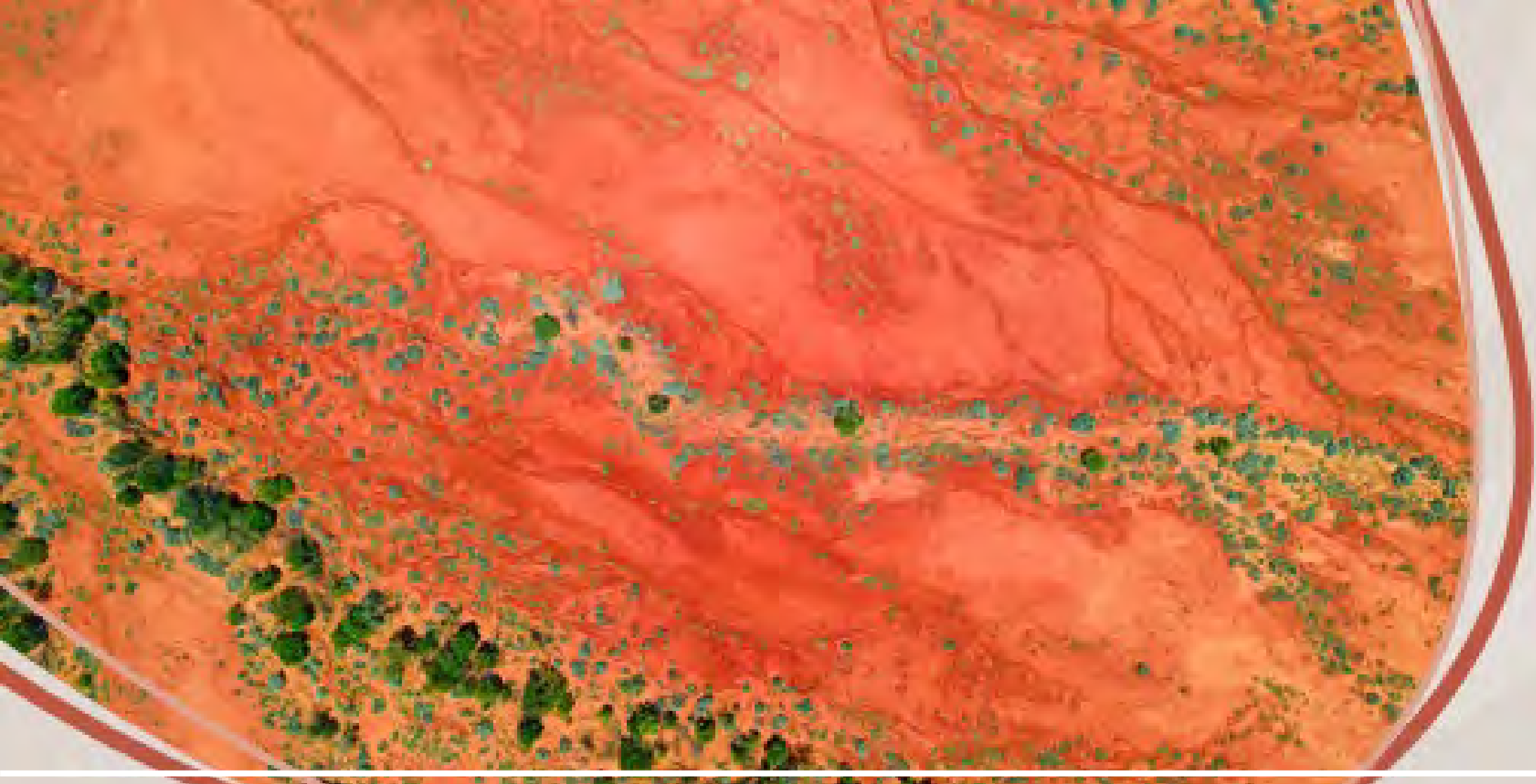




**FIRST NATIONS
EYE HEALTH ALLIANCE**
Our Vision, Our Way

**Disclaimer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this document may contain references and/or pictures of deceased people.*



Acknowledgement of Country

Overview

- Introduction to The First Nations Eye Health Alliance (FNEHA)
- The eye health story and the emergence of the Alliance
- The National Landscape needs and Opportunities for WA



Introduction to FNEHA

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Community Controlled charity (DGR) working nationally
- Focused on the development of healthy and thriving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Lead from deep knowledge and lived experience to influence and engage the collective obligation and reciprocity across the health community to build our vision, our way



Pat Anderson AO



Trevor Buzzacott OAM



A/Professor Kris Rallah-Baker



Anne-Marie Banfield



Lauren Hutchinson



Shaun Tatipata



Jaki Adams



Nick Wilson



Makkailah
Ridgeway

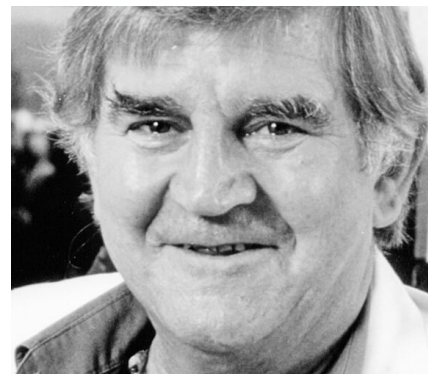
Learning from the Australian Trachoma eye health story...



Francis
Stanislaus Flynn
(Frank) (1906 -
2000)¹



Dame Ida Mann
1893-1983²



Fred Hollows 1929-1993 ³

"I hope all Aboriginal children will grow up in an equal world"

- Fred Hollows.

Fred was committed to working alongside Indigenous community leaders, demanding equal eye health opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Times Fred Hollow stood up against injustice, The Fred Hollows Foundation⁴

1 Photo from Missionaries of scared heart <https://misacor.org.au/item/1495-msc-history-fr-frank-flynn>

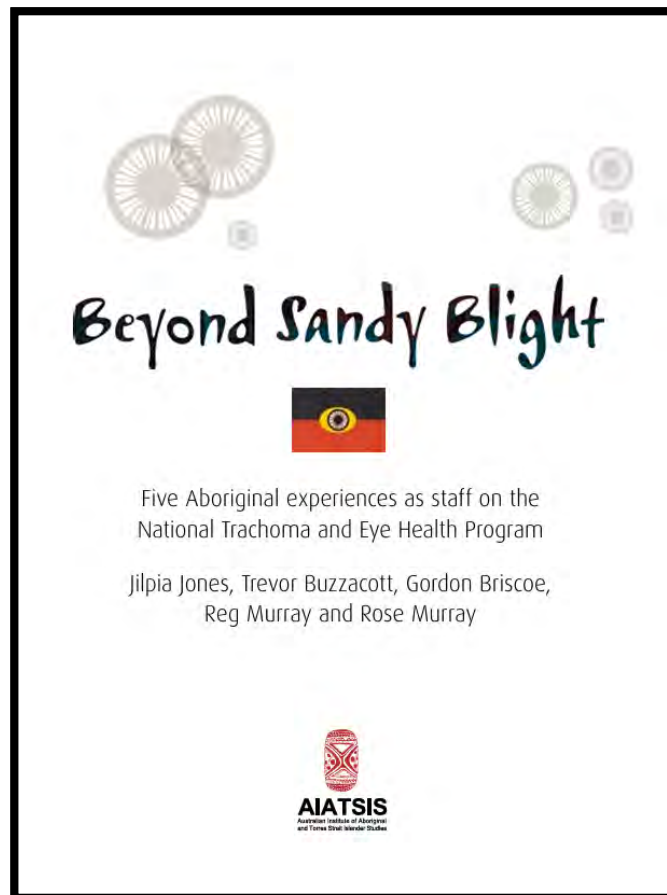
Trachoma in Australia, Hugh R Taylor, Med J Aust 2001; 175 (7): 371-372

2 Obituary Dame Ida Mann <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1442-9071.1984.tb01134.x>

3 <https://www.hollows.org/au/blog/11-times-fred-hollows-was-remembered#ANCHOR:1>

4 <https://www.hollows.org/au/blog/remembering-fred>

First Nations workers critical infrastructure in the Australian Trachoma eye health story...



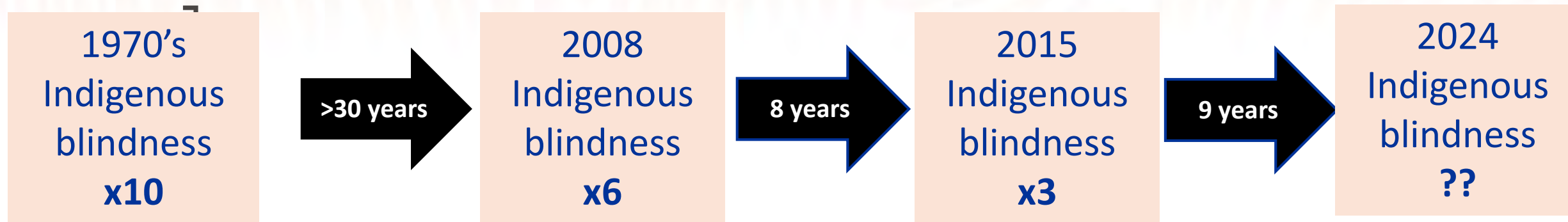
There **was a need** for the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program (NTEHP) to **employ Aboriginal workers at every place we visited. Working side-by-side with local Aboriginal men and women**, these experiences captured the names and faces of countless Aboriginal people. The experiences and events **resulted in an unbelievable impact that changed us forever. Many Aboriginal communities and individuals were part of this program. The engagement and contribution of Aboriginal workers resulted in significant** epidemiology data collection and opportunities to **construct better programs and services on the ground.**

Trevor Buzzacott, Beyond Sandy Blight

www.fneha.com.au



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Current Eye health

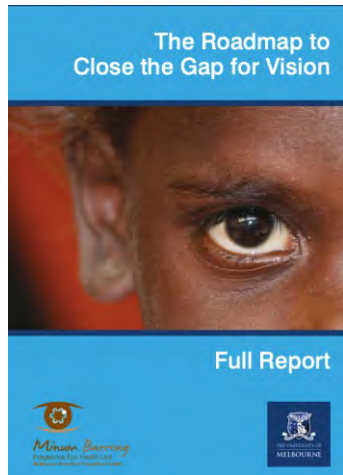


- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience more vision impairment and blindness than non-Indigenous Australians.¹
- Most vision loss is potentially preventable with main causes refractive error (61%), Cataract (20%) and diabetic retinopathy (5%).²

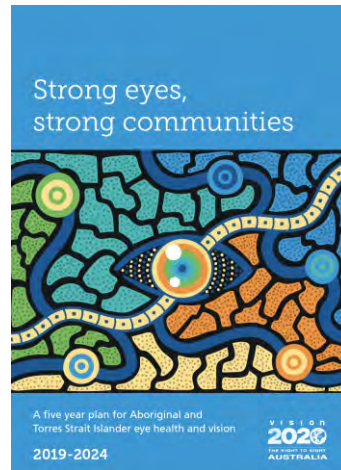
1. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/eye-health-measures-indigenous-2023/contents/prevalence-what-is-the-extent-of-eye-health-proble/prevalence-of-vision-impairment-and-blindness>

2. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/eye-health-measures-indigenous-2023/contents/prevalence-what-is-the-extent-of-eye-health-proble/main-causes-of-vision-impairment-and-blindness>

Key plans and research identifies the need for First Nations leadership



2012
Highlight the importance of service delivery prioritized in ACCHO setting



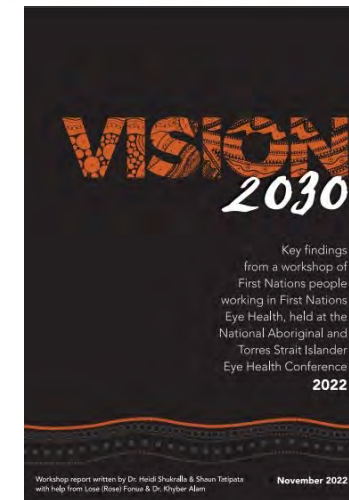
2019
Expanded First Nations community capacity and leadership needed



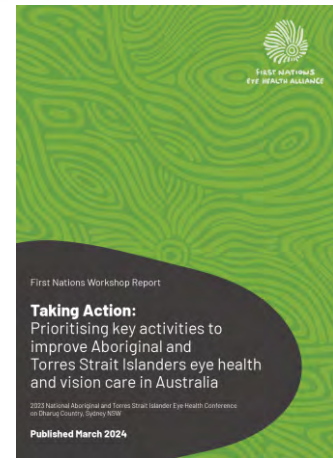
2022
Expanded First Nations leadership and ownership needed



2022
Aboriginal ownership and leadership critical to build equitable services



2023
Formation of a National First Nations eye health peak recommended



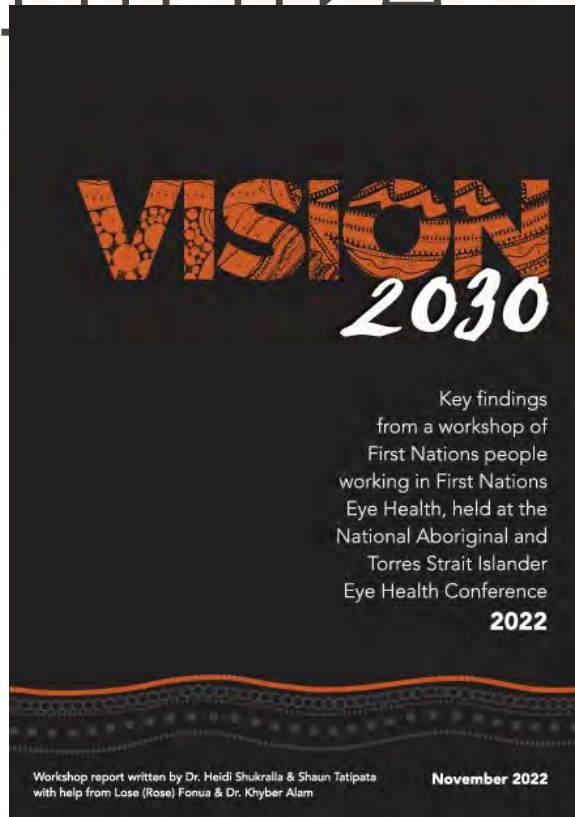
2024
Incorporation National First Nations eye health peak supported

The Alliance's Work is Informed by Mob



2022 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference, Larrakia Country The first conference with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and ownership of the conference elements.

Building our Vision for the future



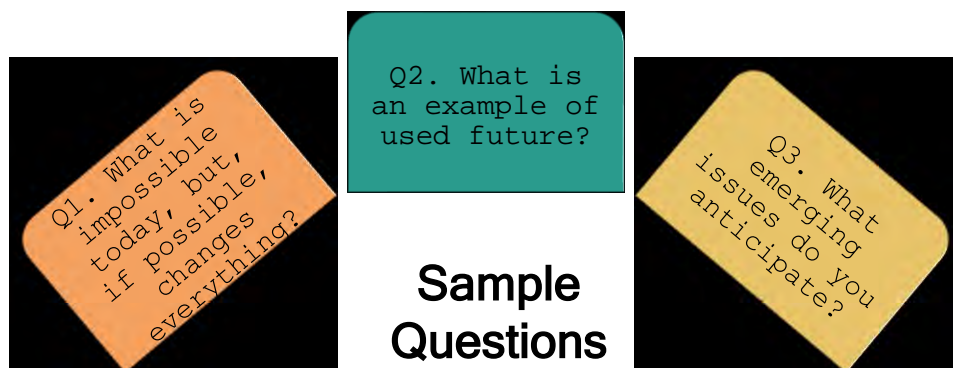
Scan the QR code to view online



Launched Larrakia Country May 2023, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister Indigenous Australians

Vision 2030 | The purpose and methodology of the workshop

- Create space for First Nations eye care workers and professionals to develop a shared vision and goals for eye care in First Nations communities
- Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health workforce and professionals
- Utilised a preferred future based on strategic foresight tools futures thinking.



Professor Sohail Inayatullah, First Nations Workshop, 2022, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference



Vision 2030 Workshop | The future of eye health care for First Nations Communities

- 2030 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates are projected to reach 1 million¹
- Our current service levels continue, there will be:
 - Limited increase in uptake of eye health checks, diabetic eye examinations and diabetic retinopathy treatment
 - Low representation of eye health workforce
 - **Remaining gap in eye and vision care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in 2030.**²

*Lose kids were concerned about the data.
But there is hope...*

1. National Eye Health Survey 2019

https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1984144/niehs_full_report.pdf

2. Gillor & Anjou, 2022 Guestimations 2030, a crude assessment of eye care services and needs, Indigenous Eye Health Unit 2022 www.fneha.com.au



Vision 2030 | The future of First Nations eye and vision care services

1. Strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Self determined approaches:

- Led by First Nations people
- Strength based
- First Nations led evidence-based research on impact of eye and vision care problems in First Nations Communities

2. Services:

- Access to eye care no matter where we live
- Eye Care services patient centered
- Utilise technology to expedite screening and treatment pathways
- Services codesigned and delivered by First Nations people
- Resourced and sustainable

3. Prevention Focused:

- Children receive regular and comprehensive eye checks
- Routine screening for DR in diabetic Australians
- Health promotion holistic, integrated



*First Nations Workshop, 2022,
National Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Eye Health
Conference*

Vision 2030 | The future of First Nations eye and vision care services

4. Workforce:

- Greater numbers of First Nations eye health workforce
- Existing capabilities of our communities strengthened, harnessed and valued
- Education and pathways led by our workforce

5. Environment:

- Housing meets the needs of First Nations people and their families
- Plan to maintain the collective voice of our communities through political changes

6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Eye Health:

- Our choice, our vision through a national peak body led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities



*First Nations Workshop, 2022,
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Eye Health Conference*

Critical Workshop next steps

- Establish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Eye Health body (commenced July 2023 post approval from community)
- Build a picture of prevention services in our communities (commenced at 2023 workshop)
- Prioritise First Nations Children and people with diabetes (focus for 2024)
- Build a national eye health dataset and effectively map and understand impact of work in this space (focus for 2025/6)



The First Nations Alliance Board and secretariate
2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Eye Health Conference, Dharug Country



Continuing the story on Dharug Country

- Definitions of Prevention
examine prevention across the
life course
- Actions to help the Alliance
to take carriage of moving
forward

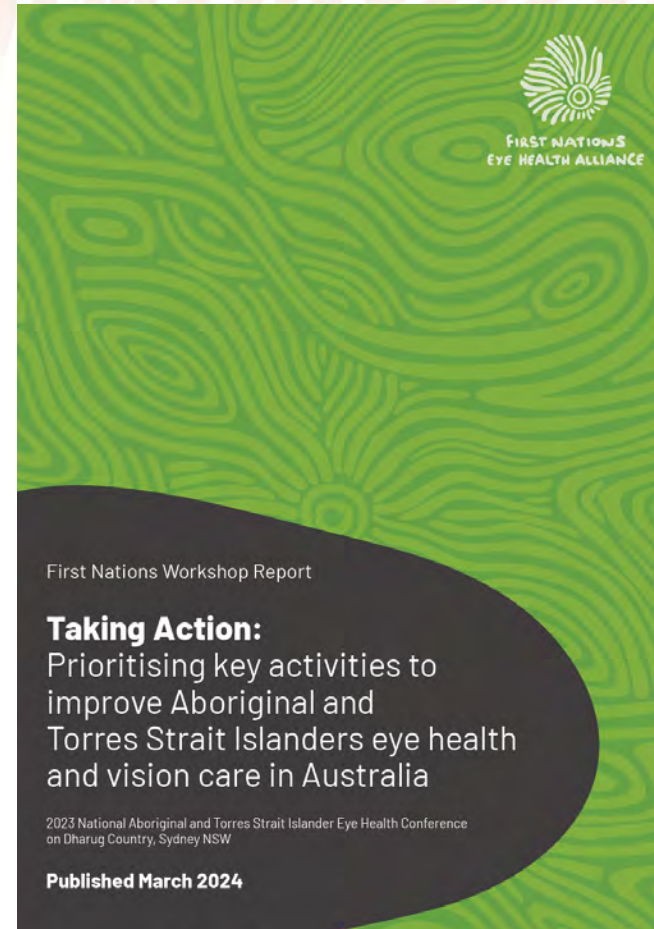


Mr Nick Wilson and Shaun Tatipata, 2023 FNEHA First Nations Workshop, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference

Overview

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Nations Workshop, NATSIEHC23

2. Future implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health



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1. Prevention definitions centred on holistic cultural safe system

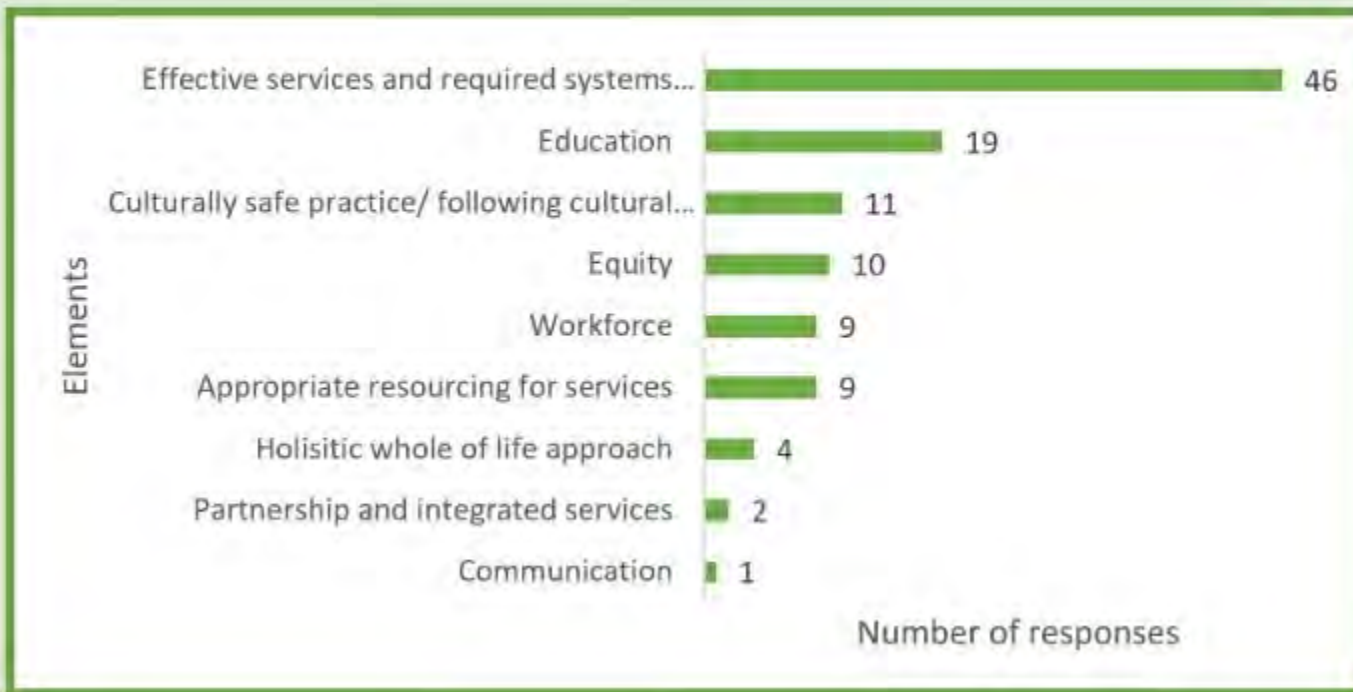
Figure 1: Summary of the group definitions of what prevention is in First Nations eye health



- Holistic: *following accepted Cultural principles and culturally safe practice*
- Accessible: *Effective Services and required systems where education underpins approaches and resources available for early detection and intervention*

Effective services key to delivery of preventative health

Figure 2: Summary of the elements that would contribute to First Nations Eye health prevention across the life course.



Most singularly important aspect was effective services and systems.

Respect for cultural values and principles critical to eye

Figure 3: Summary of the values that First Nations members believe is important to guide the work being completed in this space.



Catering in cultural safe practice and principles key where self-determination respected.

2. Areas of work for the Alliance and sector moving

Figure 4: Summary of key priority actions in First Nations eye health and vision care



1. Workforce, scope of practice and capability
2. Education and training
3. Funding and resourcing

Other important areas for action

Research led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait

- Islander people
- *How is it different?*
 - *Generational impacts*
 - *Life course impacts of eye health and vision problems*

Systems Reform

- *Expand NSSS*
- *Expand bulk billing*
- *Mandatory screening*
- *Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership*

Prevention

- *Early detection and intervention*
- *Increase health literacy*
- *Increase health promotion*
- *Increase preventative eye screening*

Building a culturally responsive non-

- Indigenous workforce
- *Provision of culturally appropriate and responsive training needed*

Key recommendations for action

1. Celebrate the **self-determination** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by ensuring **cultural knowledge and cultural principles are made central** to the delivery of equitable eye health services in communities.
2. Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **preventative eye health and vision care activities** nationally.
3. Invest in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led **nationally coordinated education and training pathway**, that will lift the capability of First Nations eye health and vision care workforce.
4. Invest in building **resilient and sustainable** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **eye health and**

The Future of "Seeing our



The Alliance Board Strategic planning day visit to Gamay (Botany Bay), 2nd Feb 2024

FNEHA Strategy 2024 – 2028



The First Nations Eye Health Alliance (FNEHA) Strategy 2024 – 2028 launched at this year's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Conference.



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Key Priority Areas for Action

Key Priority Areas for Action

<p>1. Leadership: Positioning for success</p>	<p>1.1 Leadership and advocacy in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health and Vision Care sector</p>	<p>1.2 Recognising and valuing the legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their continued excellence</p>	<p>1.3 Advocate for whole of life prevention activities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health and vision care</p>	
<p>2. Our People: Connecting and supporting our mob</p>	<p>2.1 Understanding and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Workforce</p>	<p>2.2 Develop education and training opportunities to strengthen the capability of First Nations eye health and vision care workforce.</p>	<p>2.3 Increase opportunities for views and perspectives of the membership to contextualise the national conversation on eye health and vision care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing</p>	
<p>3. Partnerships: Collaboration for pathways to action with purpose</p>	<p>3.1 Develop reciprocal shared vision partnerships</p>	<p>3.2 Supporting and furthering self-determination through development of economic partnerships</p>	<p>3.3 Utilising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of Allyship to advocate for a cultural safe and responsive health Australian health care system</p>	
<p>4. Research and Evaluation: Building the evidence for change</p>	<p>4.1 Establishing the benchmark and future state to strengthen systems performance</p>	<p>4.2 Building sustainable and economically independent eye care models</p>	<p>4.3 Building Data to inform change that upholds data sovereignty principles</p>	<p>4.4 Drive Innovative pathways to work force development</p>
<p>5. Our Story: Establish a strong, capable, and sustainable organisation</p>	<p>5.1 Develop an organisation that honours sovereignty of place</p>	<p>5.2 Build a sustainably resourced organisation with strong governance process</p>	<p>5.3 Promote activities and celebrate achievements of The Alliance and its membership</p>	<p>5.4 Strengthen the wellbeing of The Alliance staff</p>

2024 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference

Where? Noongar Country

May 2025

Cohost: University of Western Australia

Sponsorship Prospectus: Is in the process of being uploaded and sent out to our stakeholder this week.

Follow us on our socials for more information

www.fneha.com.au or scan QR code to express interest



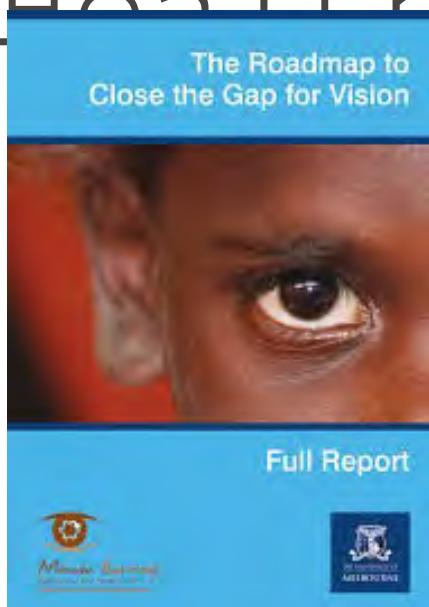
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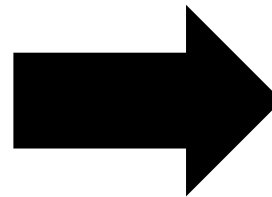
www.fneha.com.au



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Plan



Retired and almost out of date (2024)



Thank you

Get in contact with us!

Email: heyyoumob@fneha.com.au

Website: www.fneha.com.au



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