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| **How can Australia be the only developed country with endemic trachoma? Showcasing Bright Eyes** |
| **Setting/problem**Bright Eyes is a trachoma prevention program targeting 41 “trachoma at risk” Aboriginal communities in remote Western Australia. Trachoma is a disease that can cause blindness. It is completely preventable. Australia is the only developed country in the world that has endemic trachoma. Almost all of our cases are in remote Aboriginal communities. WHO has a target to eradicate trachoma by 2020 and the Bright Eyes program is contributing to this goal.**Intervention**Bright Eyes focuses on the F and E strategies within the WHO SAFE trachoma strategy. F symbolises facial cleanliness and E represents environmental change. Pre and post trachoma screening rates for each community will be a key measure of success.Bright Eyes is a strengths based program recognising the expertise within Aboriginal communities. As such, it works with local Aboriginal communities and decision makers to identify what they think could be done within their communities to reduce trachoma and other hygiene related illnesses. The program is developing tailored Community Environmental Health Action Plans (CEHAP) with each community to identify and plan for sustainable and realistic trachoma prevention strategies. While visiting each community to collect data to inform the CEHAP, Bright Eyes engages with the community by setting up a jumping castle, a water slide (with loads of soap), and hosts a community BBQ and movie night. Bright Eyes provides funds for 4 demonstration projects annually. These projects are community led and aim to reduce trachoma. Projects vary from community laundries, tree planting to suppress dust, trachoma art projects and week-long community hygiene projects. **Outcomes**The poster will illustrate some of the unique community led projects that have been designed by Aboriginal communities to reduce trachoma. Baseline data will be displayed but it is too early in the program to make any conclusions of success in epidemiological terms. However, the community led initiatives and engagement with the community events will be demonstrated as positive, community led, and strengths based approaches. **Implications**Given that trachoma is endemic is many developing countries, the approach taken by Bright Eyes may be replicated to support the WHO aim of eliminating trachoma by 2020. **Preferred presentation format****Poster** |