End avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



Invest an additional $65 million to meet the Australian Government commitment to ending avoidable blindness in Indigenous communities by by 2025.

The Australian Government has committed to ending avoidable blindness in Indigenous communities by 2025[1]. Despite this, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People continue to experience blindness and vision loss at three times the rate of other Australians.

Strong Eyes, Strong Communities – a five year plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health and Vision 2019-2024[2] sets out a concrete plan of action to take this commitment forward. Critically, the plan's actions and approach also align strongly to the principles and directions set out in the *National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020*.

While Government has taken action on some recommendations, there are still a number that require immediate Government support if we are to meet the target goal of closing the gap in vision by 2025.

With further investment *Strong Eyes, Strong Communities* can deliver more than 183,000 required additional outreach services over the 2021-2025 period as well as other activities to build sustainable, community led locally-responsive eye care into the future.

By combining the expertise, resources and commitment of community-controlled organisations, the eye sector and Government, we can achieve integrated models of healthcare that will enhance eye care delivery. Honouring the Government's commitment to ending avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and closing the gap in vision.

VISION 2020 THE RIGHT TO SIGHT AUSTRALIA

SETTING AUSTRALIA'S SIGHTS

[1] Australia's National Long Term Health Plan (2019), p7 https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-s-long-term-national-health-plan_0.pdf
[2] Vision 2020 Australia 2019, Strong Eyes, strong communities, https://www.vision2020australia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Strong-Eyes-Strong-Communities-A-five-year-plan-for-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-eye-health-and-vision-2019-2024.pdf