

# Eye Care in Action: Optometry in Aboriginal health services



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Public Health Division

# Brien Holden Vision Institute

- A multidisciplinary collaborative global research, development, commercialisation and education organisation focused on developing breakthrough solutions that will improve the quality of vision for all.



Brien Holden Vision Institute

## ➤ **Public Health Division**

- Formerly ICEE (International Centre for Eyecare Education)



Brien Holden Vision Institute

# Overview

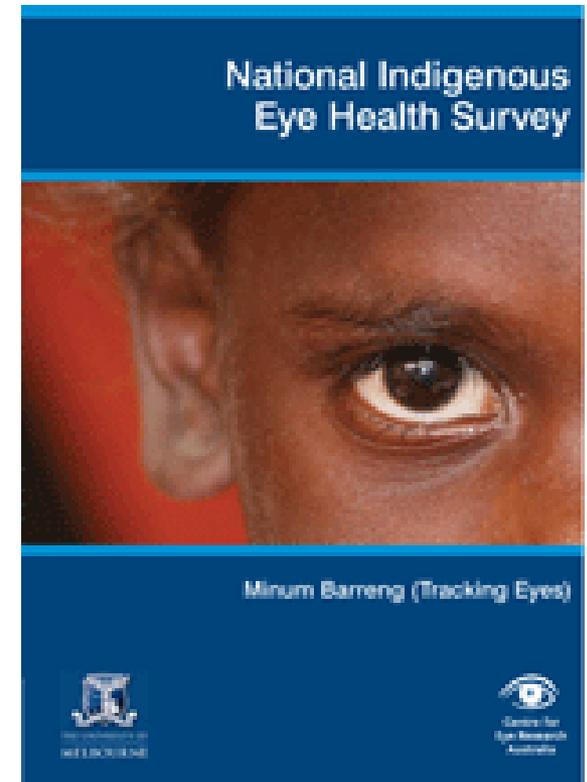
1. The 'Gap' in Eye Health
2. Program Overview
3. Key Partnerships
4. Current Research
5. Education Activities
6. Eye Health Promotion



A little about ourselves ...

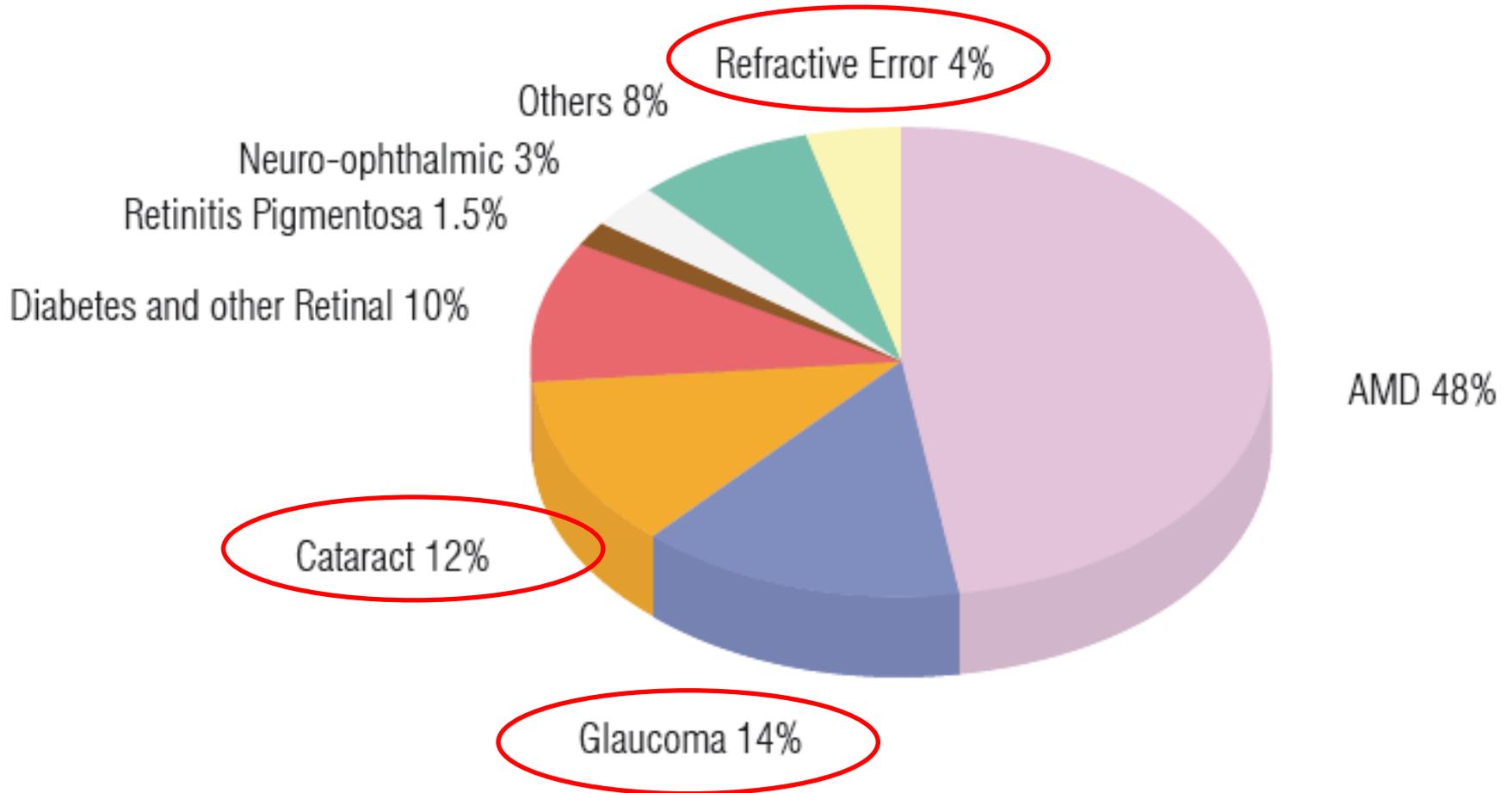
# The 'Gap' in Eye Health

- **Indigenous children:**
  - vision loss **5x less common**
- **Indigenous adults:**
  - Blindness rates: **6.2 x higher**
  - 39% cannot read normal sized print



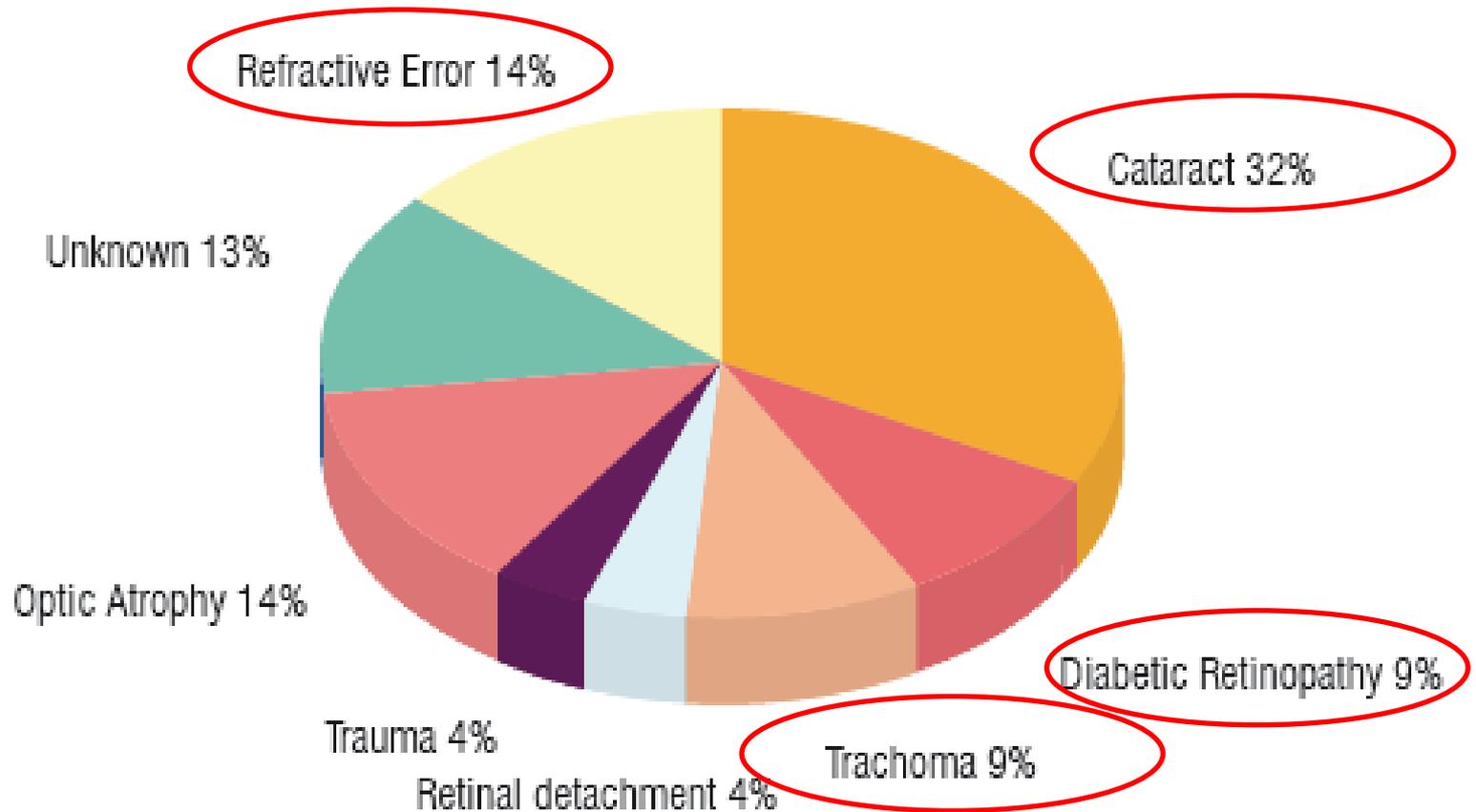
# Causes of vision loss - blindness

## Blindness in Non-Indigenous Adults<sup>4</sup>



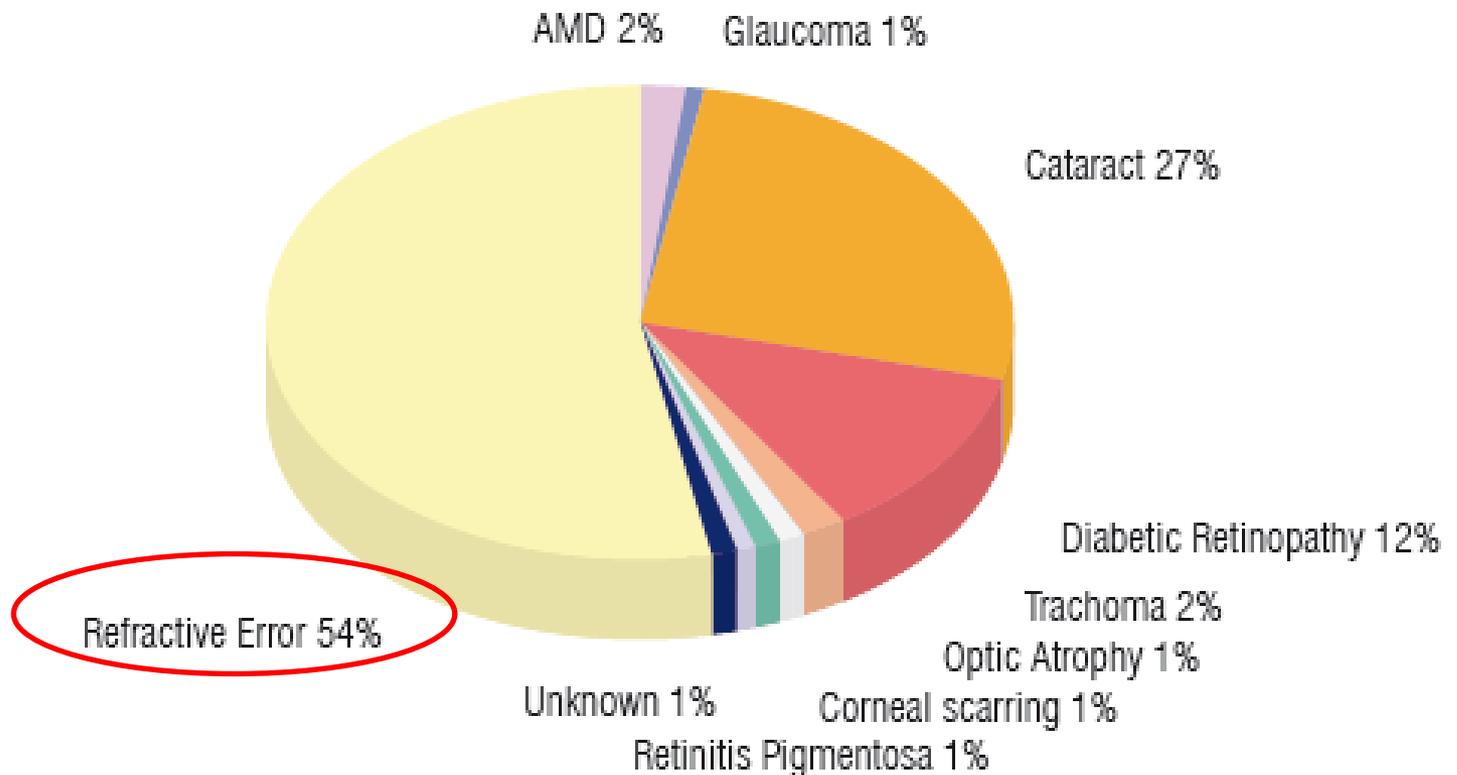
# Causes of vision loss - blindness

## Blindness in Indigenous Adults



# Causes of vision loss - vision impairment

## Vision Impairment in Indigenous Adults



# Refractive Error

- **Half of vision loss is due to uncorrected refractive error (simply needing glasses)**



# Blinding cataract

- Blinding cataract: **12 x** more common
- Range of factors → lower rates of cataract surgery, and tendency for surgery to happen later than it should



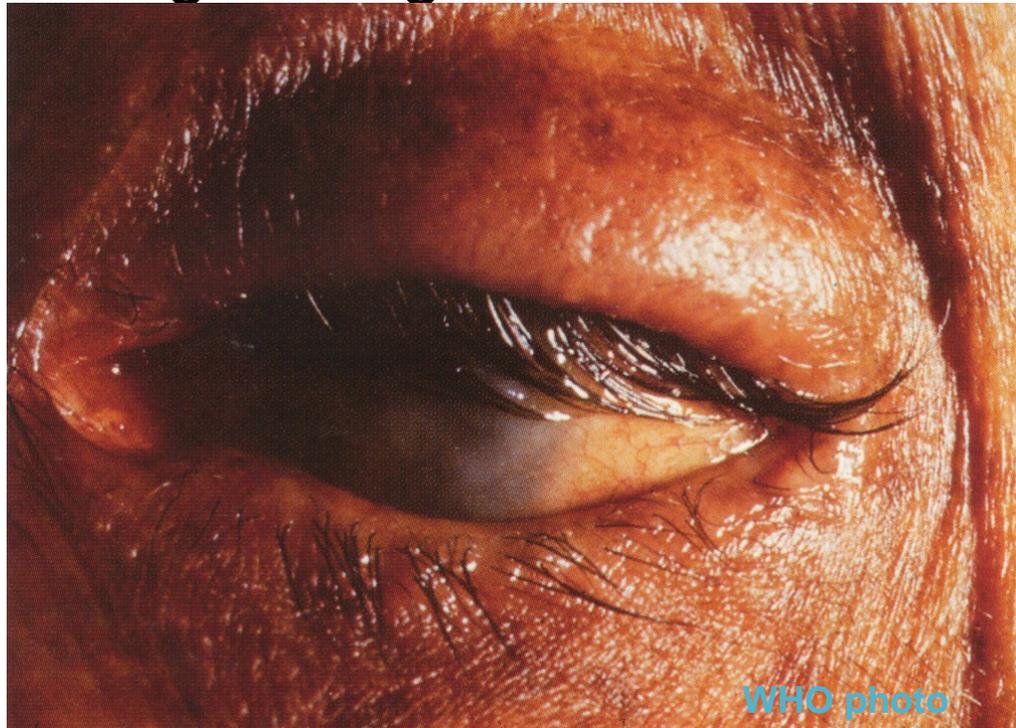
# Diabetic Eye Disease

- 37 % of Indigenous adults reported having diabetes
- 13% of those with diabetes have visual impairment



# Trachoma

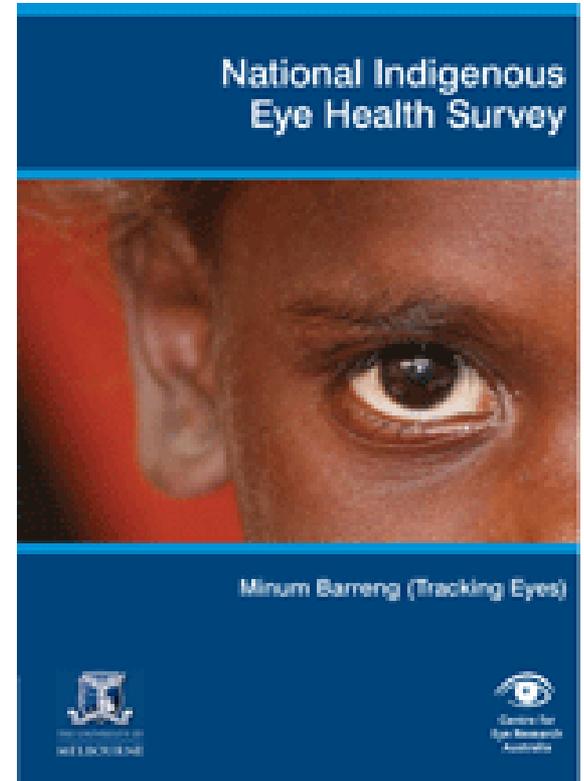
- Endemic trachoma still occurs unabated in many outback communities
- Programs running through CDC





# The 'Gap' in Eye Health

***Overall, 94% of vision loss is preventable or treatable, yet 35% of Indigenous adults have never had an eye exam.***



# Barriers to Eye Care Services

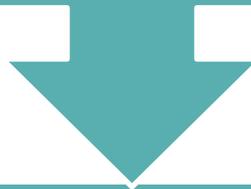
- Limited accessibility of regular eye & vision care services due to remoteness
- Workforce distribution
- Reluctance to access mainstream services in urban settings
- Cultural insensitivities
- Public awareness
- Perceived cost



# Program Overview

## Goals & Objectives:

**Increased awareness of and access  
to eye care services**



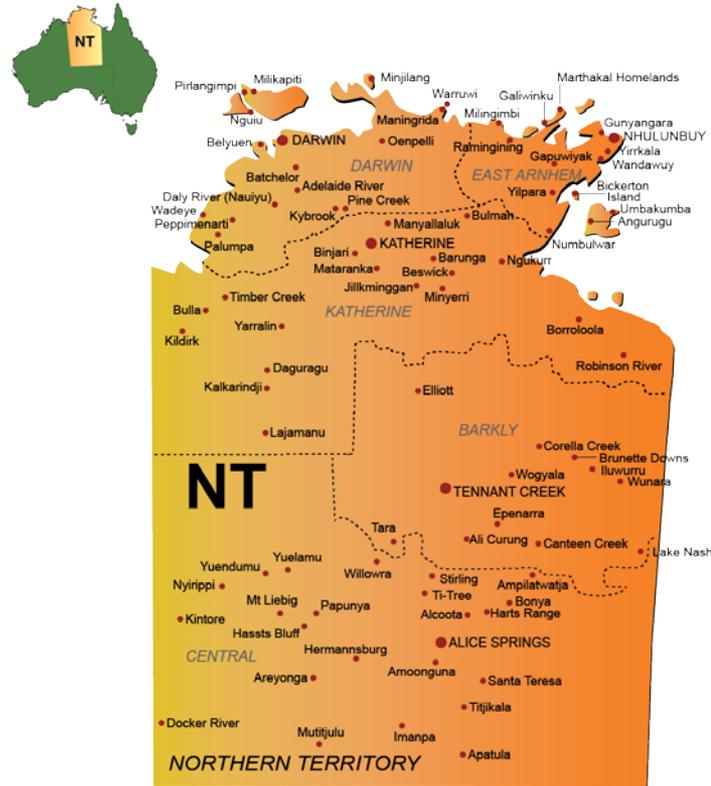
**Contribute to alleviating  
avoidable blindness and visual impairment  
in Indigenous communities**





# The Institute's Aboriginal Vision Program

Service Delivery Locations Map in 2012



Updated 2012/08/21

# The Institute's Aboriginal Vision Program

- A model for sustainable and culturally appropriate eye care services in Aboriginal communities: AMS & CHCs
- Outreach optometry clinics (DIDO / FIFO)



# The Institute's Aboriginal Vision Program

- Circuit-style provision of services



- Funding support through:
  - Visiting Optometrists Scheme (Dept of Health & Ageing)
  - Medicare
  - Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health

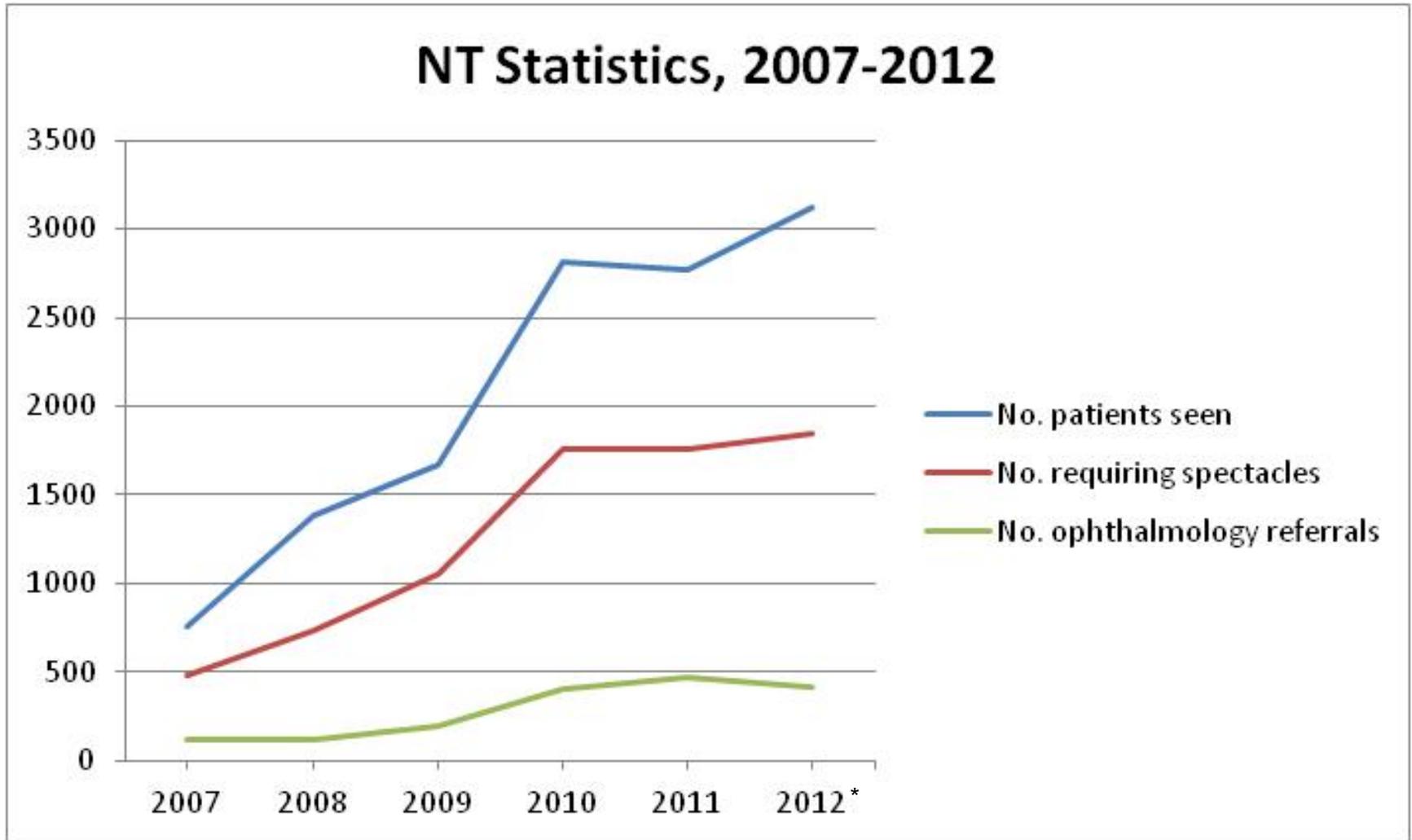


# The Institute's Aboriginal Vision Program

- The program continues to grow

2011	NSW	NT
Locations Visited	~110	~70
Patients Seen	3105	2768
Spectacles Dispensed	2215	1753
Ophthal. Referrals	407	465

# The Institute's Aboriginal Vision Program



# Key Partnerships

## Optometrists

- Short-term contracted
- Staff
- Locum and local



# Key Partnerships

## Regional Eye Health Coordinators

- Provide cultural link between service providers and communities



# Key Partnerships

## Aboriginal Medical Services and Government Health Clinics



# Key Partnerships

Ophthalmologists

District Medical Officers

Local PHC Staff

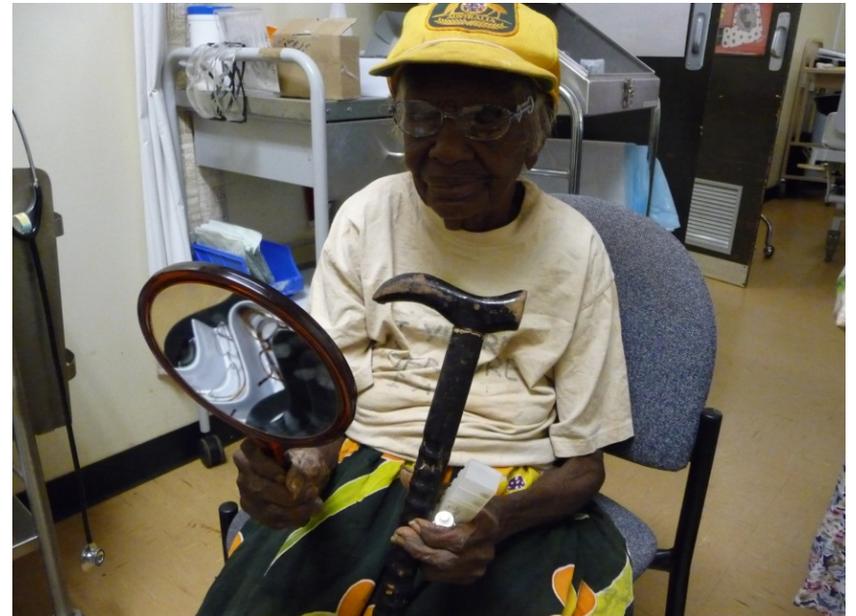


# Key Partnerships

Other NGOs

Low Cost Spectacle Scheme

Research organisations  
- (Vision CRC)



# Current Research



- Vision CRC: *“Models of vision care delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities”* (2010 – 2015)
- CRC members – ‘official collaborators’:
  - AH&MRC (and Aboriginal Health College)
  - Lowitja Institute
  - Optometrists Association Australia
  - Prof. Hugh Taylor
  - VisionCare NSW
  - Vision 2020 Australia



# People we're working with

- Other partnerships / consultation with:
  - AMSANT
  - ACCHOs (NSW & NT)
  - IEHU
  - CSHISCH
  - ATSIHRTONN
  - NSW Health
  - Menzies
  - NT Dept Health
  - FHF
  - OES
  - NintiOne
  - AHC
  - One21Seventy



# Research

- Primary Goal is **useful, practical tools** for improved regional eye care programs in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Primary Outputs:
  1. CQI Toolkit for eye & vision care
  2. Eye Systems Training Package for health services
  3. National Endorsed Training Package for REHCs
  4. Advocacy work / position paper on spectacle schemes



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Focus on improving **system** gaps in the eye care pathway
- Learn about ‘barriers to access’ from **patient perspective** – to inform the required case management approach
- **Simple**, non-complicated guidelines and system changes
- **Link** with broader approaches/systems, **embed with PHC**
- Keep findings **translatable**: refine and recommend for broader adoption by other Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health services, nationally



# CQI Approach

- Continuous Quality Improvement:
  - Tangible framework to 'operationalise' improvements to eye care at PHC level
- Methodology: working with Menzies (One21Seventy) and directly with CQI staff of ACCHOs for:
  - Baseline data collection & analysis
  - File audits
  - Exploratory data analysis



# Patient Perspectives

- Case studies of a selection of cases representing completion and non-completion of pathways of care for:
  - Diabetic retinopathy
  - Cataract
  - Refractive error



- Linked to audited files (to identify cases)
- Exact methodology to be jointly developed with NintiOne and their Aboriginal community researchers.

# 'Regional Models'

- **Work with ACCHOs in NT & NSW:**
  - **Analyse** current practice in eye care
  - **Implement** improvements
    - staff training
    - CQI
    - System supports for improved referral pathways & case management
  - Measure for effect
  
- Refine and recommend for broader adoption
  
- Link with broader approaches/mechanisms, e.g.:
  - CSHISC - nationally Accredited ATSIHP training curriculum
  - Medicare Locals – regional health service planning
  - One21Seventy – CQI tools



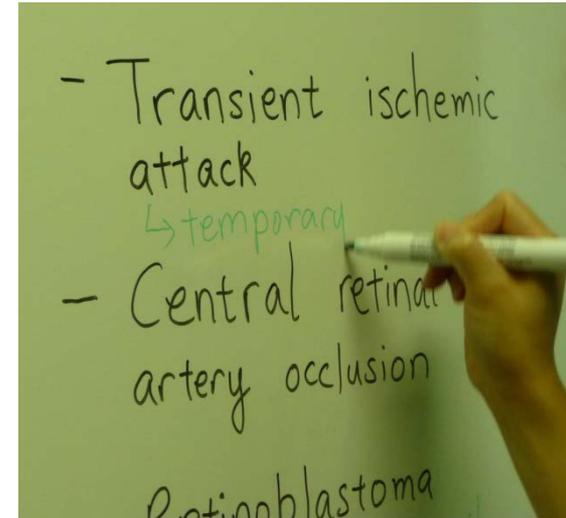
# Education Activities

## Primary Eye Care Workshops



# Education

## In-Service Training



**Module Materials for the 'Cataract' In-service**

**Aboriginal Eye Health**

**CATARACT**

**Signs:**

- Vision worse than normal
- Cloudy, milky appearance of the lens
- Change in the colour of the lens
- The pupil may look white
- Black spot in the red reflex

**What is a Cataract?**

- Clouding of the lens inside the eye
- It is not a growth on or in the eye

**EFFECT ON VISION**

**Simulator glasses >**

**CATARACTS - Teacher's Manual**

**THIS RESOURCE**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**MATERIALS REQUIRED**

**ASSESSMENT**

**CATARACTS**

**Teacher's Guide**

**Participant Handbook >**

**Visual teaching aid**

# Education

## Cultural Awareness Training



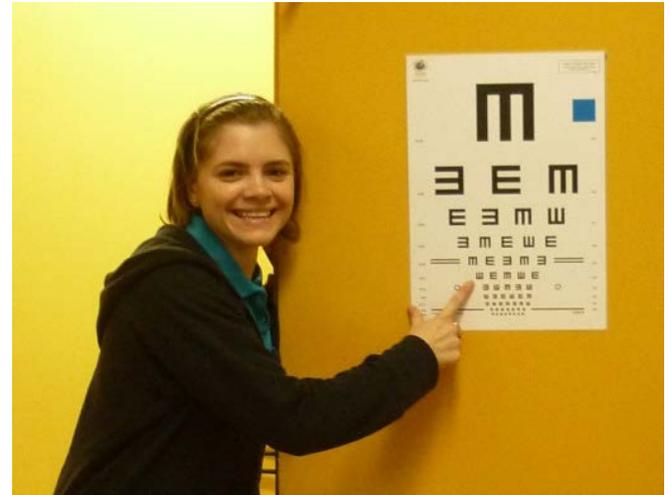
# Education

## REHC training programs



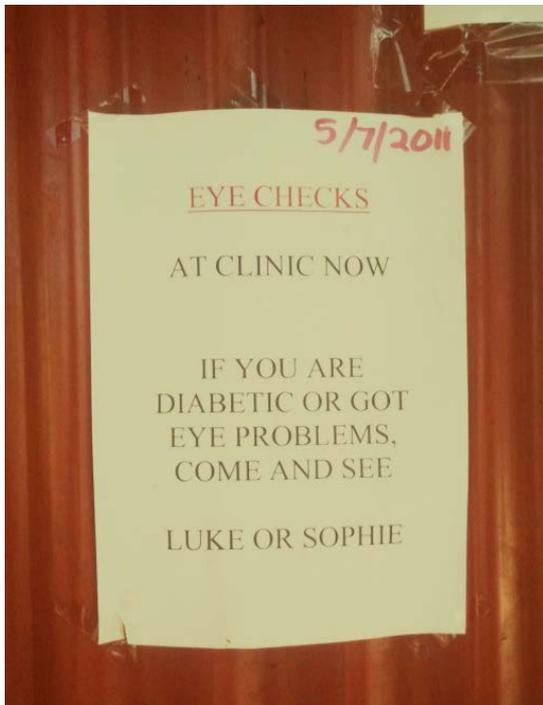
# Education

## Student Preceptorships



# Eye Health Promotion

## Impromptu Promotion ..



# Health Promotion

## Promotional Posters



**Get your eyes checked**

Everyone needs their eyes checked every two years.  
But if you have trouble with your eyes, get them checked now.

Where: \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Not a physician or eye specialist. Vision Central Aboriginal Corporation Inc.



**Get your eyes checked!**

Mark Ella AM, Former Wallaby Captain and first Aboriginal captain of an Australian national sporting team



**Look after your eyes - get them checked**

Mark Ella AM, Former Wallaby Captain and first Aboriginal captain of an Australian national sporting team



**Get your eyes checked**

Everyone needs their eyes checked every two years.  
But if you have trouble with your eyes, get them checked now.

Where: \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Health Promotion

Banners for visiting clinics



Get your **eyes checked**  
here today



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# Health Promotion

## I See For Culture Kits

- Flip-charts (x2)
- Posters (x2)
- Model eye
- Simulator masks
- Instruction manual





Questions?



# vision

**for everyone...everywhere**

[brienholdenvision.org](http://brienholdenvision.org)

