

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER EYE HEALTH CONFERENCE 2025**

**SEEING
OUR WAY**

27 - 29 MAY 2025 | Whadjuk Noongar Boodja, Boorloo (Perth)

CONFERENCE REPORT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands, skies, and waterways throughout Australia. We acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land and affirm that sovereignty was never ceded.

We pay respects to our elder's past, present and emerging. We thank our elders for their guidance and commitment to the advancement of our communities. We stand in solidarity with the stolen generation and their families, calling for healing and justice for the atrocities suffered by individuals, families, and communities.

Finally, we acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have or continue to work tirelessly in eye health and vision care, to close the gap in preventable vision loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities so they can be healthy and flourishing.

LOCATION

We gathered on the beautiful lands of the Whadjuk Noongar People at The University Club of Western Australia, Hackett Entrance, 1 Hackett Dr, Crawley WA 6009.

DISCLAIMER

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this program and other Conference resources may contain images and voices of deceased persons.

ARTWORK

'Connecting Land, Sky and Water', created by contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Golding expresses Aboriginal peoples connection to land, sky and water since time immemorial. Our history shows how our people have cared for Country including the waterways and land that provides us sources for life and culture. This artwork recognises how the First Nations Eye Health Alliance aim to provide pathways, support and care into our community for better outcomes in health and wellbeing. It acknowledges how communities who come from all parts of country including salter water, freshwater regions, to connect and work together as one. The artwork allows people to see the roots of Country, the cultural practices on land, the tracks we mark, the waters we live off and around, and the stories we reflect and connect to from sky Country.

SUPPORTED BY OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS



CONFERENCE CO-HOST

CONFERENCE COVENOR

THE FIRST NATIONS EYE HEALTH ALLIANCE LIMITED (FNEHA) CEO REFLECTION

A milestone Conference and an incredible legacy

As I reflect on the incredible gathering that was the 2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference (NATSIEHC25), my heart is full of pride, gratitude and determination. Held on Whadjuk Noongar Country at The University of Western Australia, this year's conference was more than just an event — it was a collective affirmation of our shared strength, cultural power, and unwavering commitment to eye health equity.

It was a historic moment for us at the First Nations Eye Health Alliance (FNEHA). For the first time, we proudly convened this conference — not just as participants, but as leaders. As the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisation in our field, standing alongside our partners at the University of Western Australia, we brought our vision to life under the theme “Seeing Our Way.”

Over three energising days, we welcomed more than 240 delegates from community-controlled health organisations, academia, clinical practice, government and beyond. What united us all was a deep sense of purpose: to close the gap in vision outcomes for our peoples, and to do so in a way that centres culture, community and care.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our sponsors and supporters. Your generosity went far beyond funding - it was a demonstration of commitment. Commitment to supporting the leadership of First Nations peoples. Commitment to the importance of culturally safe systems. And a commitment to helping foster a future where avoidable blindness no longer defines the health experience of our communities. Your partnership made this gathering possible, and I am deeply grateful.

Throughout the conference, we were privileged to hear from keynote speakers whose words will stay with us for years to come. Their messages will be touched on in this report. Each of these voices, and many others throughout the conference, spoke to our collective truth: that our stories matter, our leadership matters, and our solutions are not only valid — they are essential.

This report captures just a glimpse of the energy, wisdom, and momentum that defined NATSIEHC25. But more than that, it captures a moment in our movement — a time when we stood together, stronger than ever, and declared that we are not waiting for change. We are leading it.

As we look ahead to NATSIEHC26 in Narm (Melbourne), I invite you to carry the momentum of this conference. Let's continue to speak boldly, act with intention, and honour the path our Elders have paved. Together, we are truly Seeing Our Way — and the view ahead is one of possibility, justice and cultural strength. In unity and strength,

Lose Fonua
CEO,



Lose (Rose) Fonua
Chief Executive Officer
The First Nations Eye Health Alliance Limited



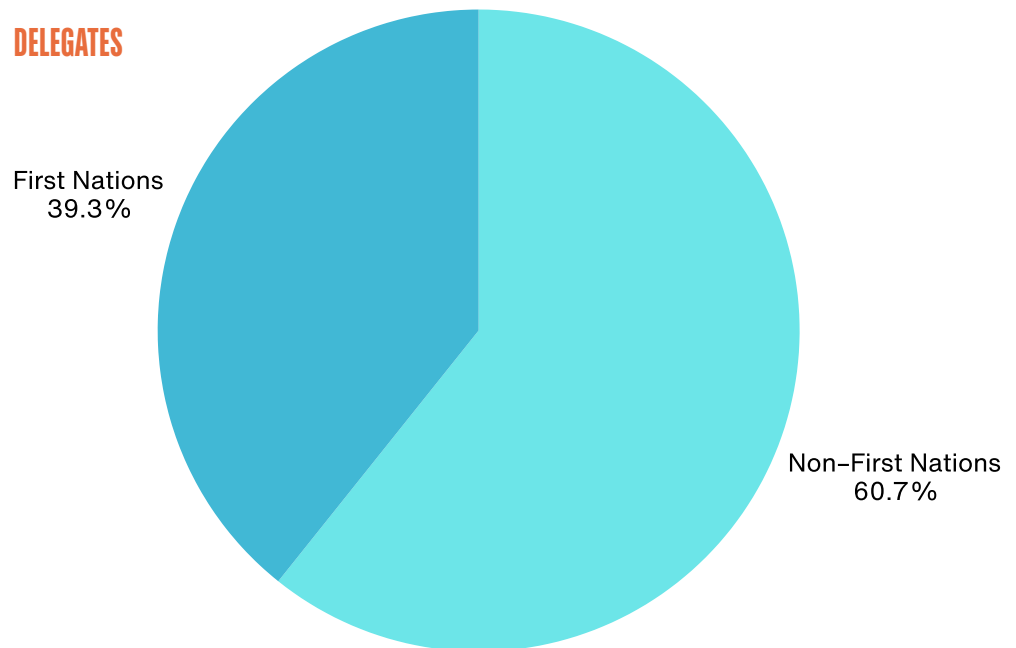
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Dates: 27- 29th of May 2025

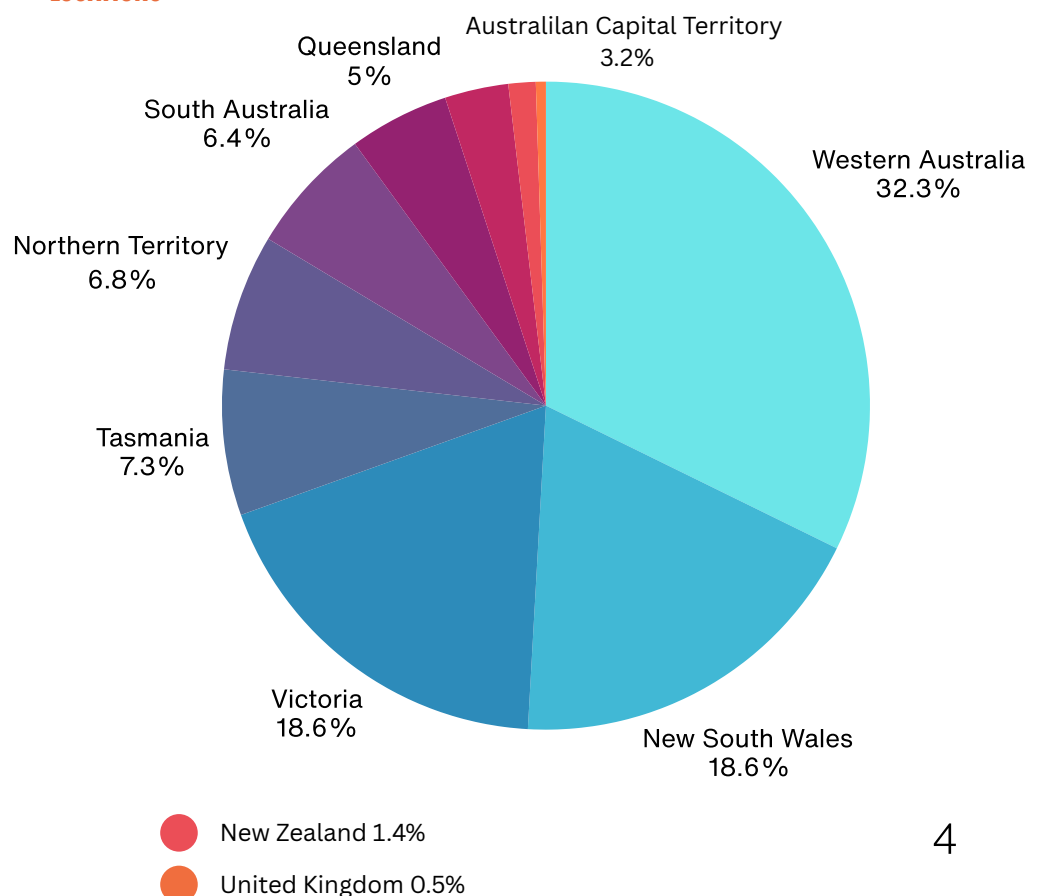
Venue: Uni club, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia

Theme: The theme for the 2025 Conference “Seeing Our Way”, reflects the growing evolution of self-determination and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in eye health and vision care. It creates a forum of “seeing through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens” to both position and strengthen our current and future state of eye healthcare sector projects and initiatives. The focus of this work is to ensure the vision and future needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health are strong and bright.

DELEGATES




LOCATIONS





AUNTIE PROFESSOR DOSEENA FERGIE

“We had to put down some ideas towards a draft National Plan. My emphasis is that I advocate for mob and I really want to make the government accountable to Closing the Gap.”


Click [here](#) to watch video 

Bursary Delegate



ANTHONY LYONS

“I thought the conference was amazing. It's really nice to meet all of our mob and all the new faces and especially our leaders and that they're passing down their knowledge and that we as the younger generation really take that in and put that out to the work that we do out in the communities.”

Click [here](#) to watch video 

Bursary Delegate

SUPPORTED PLACES

Supporting Mob to Be in the Room Where It Happens

At this year's conference, the First Nations Eye Health Alliance proudly supported 40 attendees with fully funded tickets — including 14 people who received full bursaries covering travel, accommodation and registration. We know that for many of our mob, the cost of attending conferences like this can be a barrier. That's why providing this kind of support isn't just about covering expenses — it's about making sure the right voices are in the room. It's about ensuring community members, early-career professionals, students and Elders can show up, share their knowledge, and shape the future of First Nations eye health.

Without this support, many simply wouldn't have been able to attend. That's the reality.

The impact? More representation. More connection. More powerful conversations grounded in lived experience. And a stronger, more inclusive sector as a result.

We're proud to back our mob — and we'll keep showing up to make sure they can too.


BURSARIES

We were proud to offer ten fully funded bursary spots at this year's conference, covering travel, accommodation, and ticket costs. These bursaries were designed to remove financial barriers and ensure that community members who might not otherwise have the opportunity could be part of the conversations shaping the future of First Nations eye health. For many, this support meant the difference between attending or missing out — and their presence brought rich insight, lived experience, and deep connection to the space. It's a reminder of how vital it is to make sure our mob can be in the room, not just watching from the sidelines.



CHLOE MULHOLLAND

“I got to present this year, and it's been one of my highlights and one of my goals in life to present at a conference level. So I've just started off small, but it's been amazing, all the amazing stories. Listening to today, yesterday, great tabletop presentations from all the AMSs... Yeah, it's just been an amazing 3 days.”

Click [here](#) to watch video 

Bursary Delegate

You can watch all NATSIEHC25 vox pops [here](#) 

NATSIHC25 OBJECTIVE AND KEY OUTCOMES

Key Objectives

1. Empower First Nations Leadership in Eye Health
2. Foster and elevate emerging leaders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, equipping them with the skills and insights necessary to lead future health initiatives.
3. Promote Integrated Health Solutions
4. Showcase and discuss innovative health solutions that seamlessly integrate traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge with contemporary medical practices, setting a precedent for holistic health care.
5. Empower Community Health Practices
6. Spotlight sustainable health practices that empower communities to manage and improve their eye health, ensuring these methods are culturally attuned and community-approved.
7. Influence Policy and Drive Systemic Reform
8. Utilise the conference as a platform to influence health policy, bringing together health professionals, community leaders, and policymakers to tackle disparities in eye health.

Key Outcomes

- Recognition of Incremental Change - Selwyn Button emphasised that closing the gap is not only about grand gestures but also about the small, steady changes at the local level that create lasting impact.
- Collaborative Journey Towards Improvement- Janine Mohamed highlighted the potential achievements when venturing forward together, advocating for reshaping systems for those living with low vision through collaborative efforts.
- Honouring Legacy and Responsibility - Aunty Pat Anderson AO reflected on the importance of legacy, reminding attendees of the responsibility to build a future worthy of the sacrifices made by ancestors.
- Advocacy for Structural Reform- Dr. Hannah McGlade brought attention to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, speaking candidly about the rights of women and children and the urgent need to address racism within health systems.
- Healing Through Recognition- Tony Hansen shared the announcement of the Redress Scheme for WA Stolen Generations survivors, highlighting it as a deeply moving reminder of the power of truth, justice, and recognition to restore wholeness.
- Breaking the Cycle of Trauma- Anne-Marie Banfield, through her delivery of the Jilpia Nappaljari Jones Oration, gave voice to the unspoken impacts of trauma, committing to ensuring that trauma stops with her generation and emphasizing the possibility of healing through honesty and cultural strength.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Pat Anderson AO



Aunty Pat's reflections were deeply moving. She spoke to the importance of legacy – not just as something we inherit, but something we actively shape.

Her reminder that we are accountable to future generations gave weight to the work ahead of us.

It was a stirring and timely call to honour those who came before us by building systems they would be proud of.

Pat Anderson AO is an Alyawarre woman known nationally and internationally as an advocate for the rights and health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aunty Pat was the Chair of the Lowitja Institute for nearly 20 years and has extensive experience in Aboriginal health, including community development, policy formation and research ethics. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2014 for distinguished service to the Indigenous community as a social justice advocate, particularly through promoting improved health, and educational and protection outcomes for children.

Along with Professor Megan Davis and Noel Pearson, Pat was awarded the internationally renowned Sydney Peace Prize for 2021-2022 for leadership in delivering the Uluru Statement from the Heart to the Australian People, calling for Voice, Makarrata, Truth.

In 2024, she was awarded the National Peacewoman award by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for her work for Human Rights and Indigenous Australians, and for her co-leadership of advocacy for The Voice to Parliament Campaign.

In 2016, she was awarded the Human Rights Medal by the Australian Human Rights Commission for her tireless work to advance the rights and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in regard to education, health, early childhood development, and preventing violence against Aboriginal women and children.

Pat Anderson was Co-Chair of the Referendum Council that released its final report in 2017 and has since led the work of the Uluru Dialogue in partnership with the ILC UNSW.

Put simply Aunty Pat Anderson AO is one of us who cares deeply for her people and wants peace in this country.





KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Selwyn Button, Productivity Commissioner

Selwyn Button has been appointed for a 5-year term as a full-time Commissioner in June 2024.

Selwyn is a Gungarri man from Southwest Queensland and an experienced leader of health, education and governance organisations across the public, private, not-for-profit and community-controlled sectors.

Prior to joining the Commission, Selwyn was a partner of PwC Indigenous Consulting (PIC), where he worked with a range of organisations to realise the commercial and community potential of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, projects and initiatives. Previously, Selwyn has been the national Registrar of the Office of the Registrar for Indigenous Corporations, the Assistant Director-General for Indigenous Education in Queensland, Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, and Chair of the Lowitja Institute.

Selwyn has led major policy, service delivery, governance and legislative reforms in his various leadership roles. He has also made significant contributions through his service as a board member of numerous sporting, arts, culture, health and early childhood education and care organisations. A former primary school teacher and Queensland police officer, Selwyn holds a Bachelor of Teaching, a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration. He was a Wolfensohn Scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and is an active member of the Harvard Club of Australia.

Selwyn co-leads the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stream of work at the PC.

Selwyn opened with warmth and clarity, reminding us that real progress often happens at the grassroots level. His words grounded us in the power of community-led change and the importance of consistency over grand gestures. It was a strong start to the conference — a reminder that even quiet, local action can ripple outward and contribute to national transformation.

He highlighted that in 2022–23, elective cataract surgery wait times were 135 days at the 50th percentile — and a staggering 348 days at the 90th percentile. These delays have real consequences for our communities, particularly Elders. He also shared that in 2020–21, the rate of unplanned readmissions after cataract surgery was 1.1 per 1,000 separations. These figures underline the urgent need for more equitable and timely access to care. Selwyn's message was clear: our systems must be responsive, accountable, and centred on community needs if we're serious about closing the gap in eye health.





Janine spoke with conviction about the work of the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the importance of walking together as we design more inclusive systems.

Her emphasis on co-design, trust and moving forward together struck a chord — particularly in the context of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with low vision.

Janine's message was a powerful invitation to solidarity and shared responsibility.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed, Deputy CEO First Nations Group, NDIA

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed is a proud Narrunga Kurna woman from South Australia, based on Wurundjeri Country since 2019. Her most recent role before joining the NDIA as the Deputy CEO of First Nations was a five-year term as the CEO of Lowitja Institute – Australia's only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health research institute.

Over the past 30 years, Janine has worked in nursing, management, research, and health policy in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. Many of these years have been spent in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector at state, national and international levels. This includes the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA), the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), where she was the CEO from 2013 – 2018. Janine has worked tirelessly to address racism and embed cultural safety in systems, co-authoring a recent discussion paper titled Cultural safety in Australia.

Janine has served as a Board director on many boards, including establishing and serving as Director at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Practitioner Association, which earned her a Lifetime Achievement award for her service and achievements. Janine received the 2017 ACT NAIDOC Award, an Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity Fellowship in 2019, and a Doctor of Nursing honoris causa from Edith Cowan University in January 2020.

In 2021, Janine was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship by The George Institute for Global Health Australia and is currently the 2024 Australian of the Year for Victoria. She has been a regular spokesperson on critical topics such as research, cultural safety, the social and cultural determinants of health, climate and health, workforce and Indigenous data governance and sovereignty.



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Associate Professor Hannah McGlade, Curtin Law School

Associate Professor Hannah McGlade is a Kurin Minang Noongar woman of the Bibulman nation, a distinguished human rights lawyer, academic, and advocate for Indigenous rights. She serves as an Associate Professor at Curtin University's Law School, focusing her research on Indigenous human rights, particularly concerning women and children, racial discrimination law, and systemic reform.

In 2016, Dr. McGlade was appointed as the Senior Indigenous Fellow at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Since 2020, she has been a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, representing the Pacific region.

Dr. McGlade made history as the first Aboriginal woman to graduate from Murdoch University's law school in 1995. She was admitted as a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1996. She holds a Master of Laws and earned her PhD from Curtin University in 2011. Her doctoral thesis, focusing on Aboriginal child sexual assault and the criminal justice system, was awarded the AIATSIS Stanner Award and published as the book *Our Greatest Challenge: Aboriginal Children and Human Rights*.

Throughout her career, Dr. McGlade has been a tireless advocate for justice, particularly in addressing violence against Aboriginal women and children. She played a pivotal role in establishing Djinda Services, the first support service in Perth for Aboriginal victims of family violence and was the inaugural CEO of Aboriginal Family Law Services. Her work extends to various tribunals and advisory roles, including the Western Australia Mental Health Tribunal and the Medical Board of Australia.

At NATSIEHC25, Associate Professor Hannah McGlade delivered a compelling keynote address emphasising the significance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the rights of women and children, and the urgent need for systemic reform to address ongoing racism within health systems.

Her insights continue to inspire transformative change in the pursuit of equity and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

She didn't shy away from difficult truths — speaking with strength about the rights of women and children, and the ongoing racism within our health systems. Her call for structural reform was urgent and clear, urging us to reimagine health care through a lens of justice and dignity.



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



Anthony's announcement of the WA Redress Scheme for Stolen Generations survivors was a landmark moment in the conference.

His words carried the weight of history, but also the hope of healing. More than policy, his address was about recognition — and the emotional significance of having stories heard, honoured, and finally acted upon.

Anthony (Tonji) Hansen, Yokai – Healing Our Spirit

Tony Hansen is a Noongar Elder with ancestral ties to the Wardandi, Pibleman, Wilman, Koreng, and Kaneang peoples of the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar regions. At the age of three, Tony was forcibly removed from his family and placed in the Marribank Mission (formerly Carrolup Native Settlement), where he remained for 15 years. This experience profoundly shaped his life's work as an advocate for Stolen Generations survivors and their families.

Tony serves as the Co-Chair of Bringing Them Home WA Ltd. and is a founding executive member of the WA Stolen Generations Alliance, now known as the West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (WASGAC), trading as Yokai – Healing Our Spirit. He also chairs the Carrolup Elders Reference Group, working to preserve and share the legacy of the Marribank/Carrolup Mission. Tony is a member of the National Stolen Generations Reference Group under the Healing Foundation.

Throughout his career, Tony has been a steadfast advocate for truth-telling, justice, and healing. He has played a pivotal role in national and state-level initiatives, including petitions for compensation schemes for Stolen Generations survivors in Western Australia. His commitment to sharing his personal journey has been instrumental in raising awareness about the enduring impacts of forced child removal policies and the importance of culturally informed healing practices.



JILPIA NAPPALJARI JONES ORATION

Anne-Marie Banfield

Anne-Marie is a proud Kaurna woman from South Australia who has been living, working, and raising her family on Gunditjmara country in the Southwest of Victoria for the past 30 years.

Anne-Marie is a recognised and respected member of her community and has built strong, positive relationships with both local and national Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) across Australia, having worked at a national level for the past 15 years.

Anne-Marie is the founder of Kadajiny (meaning: Thinking, Listening, Learning), an Aboriginal instructional and graphic design business specializing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learning and education resources and materials. Some of Anne-Marie's recent achievements include:

- Finalist: National Teacher of the Year Awards (2018)
- Winner: Regional Eye Health Award - The National 20/20 Vision Closing the Gap Conference (Leaky Pipe Award)
- Winner: Engagement Excellence Melbourne School of Health Sciences First Nations Yarning Circle (2022)
- Winner: MDHS Global, Place and Community Awards – Award for Indigenous Health and Wellbeing (2023)
- Winner: The University of Melbourne, Excellence in Indigenous Collaborations (2024)
- Presenter of the Jilpa Nappaljari Jones Women in Leadership Memorial Oration (2025)
- Guest speaker at the AudA National Conference (2025)

Anne-Marie's Jilpia Jones Oration was a standout moment – raw, powerful, and unforgettable. She spoke courageously about the impacts of trauma, not just on individuals but across generations.

Her commitment to ending that cycle with her own story was deeply inspiring, reminding us of the strength that comes from truth-telling and cultural resilience.



SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors of the 2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference (NATSIEHC25). Your generous support has been instrumental in bringing this significant event to fruition, enabling us to advance eye health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

OUR COHOSTS



SILVER SPONSORS



The **Fred Hollows**
Foundation

BRONZE SPONSORS



Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia

BUSINESS
EVENTS
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Bupa Optical
& Hearing



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



NAATSIHWP
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners



Optometry
AUSTRALIA



Perth Eye
Foundation
Envisioning knowledge giving sight

RANZCO
THE LEADERS IN COLLABORATIVE EYE CARE



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



CELEBRATING

25
YEARS

PARAPHERNALIA SPONSOR



Brien Holden
FOUNDATION

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**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**

The Fred Hollows Foundation works to uphold Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' right to sight, free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. This is why we partner with community-controlled organisations to enable self-determination and locally led delivery of eye health to their communities.

HOW WE WORK & OUR PARTNERS

To ensure we work alongside the community-controlled sector and utilise our strong presence in the eye health sector to uphold these values, the IAP does not work where we are not invited to ensure community organisations and leaders are calling the shots and we do not accept Government funding to ensure we are not competing with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector for resources.



Our Indigenous Australia Program (IAP)

IAP is guided by our principles to ensure we uphold our commitment to self-determination and work with integrity.

Self-determination - free prior and informed consent

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership
- Equity
- Respect
- Working Together
- Support
- Transparency and Accountability
- Patient Centred Care



SILVER SPONSOR



Partnering for Health Equity: Our Work with First Nations Communities

At Roche, we are deeply committed to reducing health inequities across Australia. We have an organisational commitment to reconciliation and a dedicated focus on the unique healthcare challenges faced by First Nations communities.

Our Reconciliation Commitment: We are on a journey of reconciliation, building meaningful relationships with First Nations communities and organisations. We proudly acknowledge and respect the cultural heritage of the lands on which we operate. Our partnership with Jawun provides invaluable opportunities for cultural exchange, fostering meaningful relationships and strengthening our commitment to a more equitable future.

At Roche, we are dedicated to building meaningful relationships based on trust and respect. We are actively engaging with First Nations communities and groups to understand health priorities and collaborate on solutions that make a real difference. We are striving to contribute to a future where health equity is a reality for all Australians.

Our Aspiration

"Roche shares one sky with the First Nations Peoples of Australia; we walk on the same land, and in the same time."

"Our aspiration is to walk, listen, and journey alongside Indigenous Partners with humility, fostering equal energy and power between us. We endeavor as a company to ensure that our aspirations do not sit parallel to our company's other strategies, but rather that reconciliation is an integral part of everything we do. Our focus and commitment is to forge equitable outcomes for all Australian patients and the communities that surround them, addressing in particular those gaps in Indigenous Health which align with Roche's expertise, strengths and capabilities."

BRONZE SPONSORS



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (UWA)

Co-hosting NATSIEHC25, UWA has been instrumental in facilitating this conference, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration in eye health.



OPTOMETRY AUSTRALIA

Representing the largest community of optometrists in Australia since 1918, Optometry Australia has been pivotal in uniting the sector to enhance eye health services nationwide.



PERTH EYE FOUNDATION

An independent charity dedicated to preventing blindness through the promotion of skills and knowledge, the Perth Eye Foundation plays a vital role in advancing eye health initiatives.



NAATSIHWP (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH WORKERS AND PRACTITIONERS)

Committed to ensuring Australia's healthcare system meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, NAATSIHWP's support highlights the importance of culturally appropriate eye care.



RANZCO (ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS)

As the medical college responsible for the training and professional development of ophthalmologists in Australia and New Zealand, RANZCO's involvement emphasizes the significance of professional excellence in eye health.

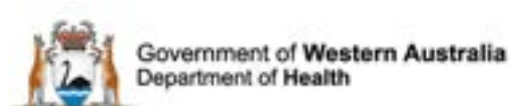


MINIM BARRENG INDIGENOUS EYE HEALTH UNIT

Established in 2008 at the University of Melbourne, this unit undertakes world-leading research to establish an evidence base and policy framework for Indigenous eye health.

RURAL HEALTH WEST

Dedicated to improving access to healthcare in rural communities, Rural Health West delivers programs to attract, recruit, and support health professionals in regional, rural, and remote Western Australia.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Responsible for regulating and advancing health within the state, the Department of Health manages a system of multiple Health Service Providers, contributing to the public health system's efficacy.

BRONZE SPONSORS



VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA

With over 50 members working across various aspects of eye health, Vision 2020 Australia plays a crucial role in representing and providing services for people who are blind or have low vision.



ABORIGINAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (AHCWA)

As the peak body for Aboriginal health in Western Australia, AHCWA works tirelessly to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities.



BUPA

A health and care company committed to helping customers live longer, healthier, happier lives, Bupa offers a broad range of services, including health insurance and community wellbeing initiatives.



SPECSAVERS

Australia's largest eye health provider, Specsavers has supported The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program since 2011, contributing over \$10 million to fund vital eye health projects.

BUSINESS EVENTS PERTH

BUSINESS EVENTS PERTH

Operating for 48 years to promote Western Australia as a premium business events destination, Business Events Perth's support has been invaluable in facilitating NATSIEHC25.

PARAPHERNALIA SPONSOR



Brien Holden FOUNDATION

BRIEN HOLDEN FOUNDATION

Recognising the importance of building local and sustainable systems of eye care, the Brien Holden Foundation has provided support helped the development of conference collateral including signage and key activations.

We sincerely thank all our sponsors for their unwavering support and commitment to advancing eye health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Your contributions have been instrumental in making NATSIEHC25 a resounding success.

Support Statement for Reparations for Queensland Stolen Generations Survivors

Uncle Tony asked the attendees of the conference to consider providing support by writing to governments asking them to support this and we are going to do this together, with their help.

We invite you to consider adding your name in support of a letter to the Queensland Government calling for the establishment of a formal reparations scheme for Stolen Generations survivors in Queensland.

Queensland remains one of the few jurisdictions in Australia without a dedicated reparations process to acknowledge the profound harm caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, cultures, and communities.

At the 2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference, we had the privilege of hearing from Uncle Tony Hansen, a respected Stolen Generations survivor, who spoke powerfully about the importance of standing together and urging the government to act. In response to his words and leadership, we are coming together to draft this letter as a collective step—a way for our voices to be heard in unity and solidarity.

Survivors of the Stolen Generations continue to carry the intergenerational trauma of these policies. A well-resourced and culturally safe reparations scheme—co-designed with survivors and First Nations communities—is essential to honour their experiences, support healing, and uphold justice. This action aligns with broader national efforts to acknowledge truth, restore dignity, and walk the path of reconciliation. Reparations schemes have already been implemented in other parts of Australia. It is time for Queensland to act and ensure no survivor is left behind.

By signing onto this letter, you are joining a growing movement that calls for truth-telling, accountability, and meaningful support. Let us take this opportunity—sparked by Uncle Tony’s message—to stand together and call on the Queensland Government to commit to this long-overdue step.

Together, we can help ensure Queensland takes action in the spirit of justice, healing, and respect.

Sign the Statement

I/We support the call for a Queensland reparations scheme for Stolen Generations survivors.

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Organisation

Name: _____

Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Email (optional): _____

Sign online [here](#)

KEY ACTION 2

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Plan

Right now, Australia does not have a dedicated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Plan — and that needs to change.

We're calling for the Federal Government to fund the development of a standalone National Plan that puts First Nations voices, priorities, and leadership at the centre. This is the missing link in creating an equitable system that truly meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

If you believe in this vision too, we invite you to stand with us. We're gathering support through sign-on letters to the Ministers (letter below), calling for funding and commitment to this plan. If you'd like to add your voice, please [REGISTER HERE](#) — together, our message is stronger.



ATT: Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Date: 20 June 2025

ATT: The Hon Rebecca White MP
Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister McCarthy and Assistant Minister White,

Re: Support for the Next Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Plan

I am writing to express strong support from across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health sector for the development and funding of the next National Eye Health Plan. The importance of the next Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health plan was discussed at The 2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference (NATSIEHC25) held on the lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people, Perth, Western Australia on the 27th of May 2025.

We believe there is a valuable opportunity at this time to ensure that this important work continues to evolve under a First Nations-led approach. There is clear and widespread recognition within the sector of the need for a new plan that is grounded in the voices and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A culturally safe, community-led strategy will be central to addressing the ongoing inequities in eye health outcomes and delivering lasting impact where it is most needed.

Importantly, this work represents a meaningful opportunity to deliver on the commitments outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. By supporting a First Nations-led Eye Health Plan, we can collectively advance the Priority Reforms—particularly those focused on shared decision-making, building the community-controlled sector, and improving access to culturally appropriate services. Ensuring that our actions align with this national agreement is essential if we are to make genuine, measurable progress toward health equity. Over many years, the sector has built a strong foundation for change—through collaboration, research, and the dedication of community-controlled services and partners.

The next stage of this journey requires sustained support and appropriate resourcing to ensure that progress is not only maintained but meaningfully extended.

We would greatly welcome your support in helping to ensure that the next iteration of the Eye Health Plan receives the necessary investment and backing. With government commitment, we are confident that a First Nations-led process will deliver a practical, evidence-based and community-informed roadmap for the future.

I would be very pleased to speak further with you or your office to discuss how we can work together on this important initiative, and how the sector can continue to contribute to strong, shared outcomes in Indigenous health.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and your consideration of this request.

Warm regards,
Lose Fonua



CEO
The First Nations Eye Health Alliance Limited

Individuals and Organisations in attendance to the 2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference, in support of this letter are found below.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NATSIEHC26 IN NAARM

We're already looking forward to welcoming you to NATSIEHC26 in Naarm (Melbourne)!

Next year marks ten years of this important gathering — a milestone moment for the conference, and the second year it will be fully First Nations run and led. We're proud of how far we've come, and even more excited about where we're heading. NATSIEHC26 promises to be a powerful celebration of culture, connection, and action — you won't want to miss it.

Come be part of the next chapter.



SPONSOR NATSIEHC26

If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring NATSIEHC26, we'd love to have a yarn. Sponsorship helps us keep this conference accessible, impactful, and community-led — and we want to work with partners who are aligned with that vision.

Reach out to us at heyyoumob@fneha.com.au and we'll chat through your goals, the areas you'd like to support, and the options available. A sponsorship prospectus will be available soon — feel free to email us now to register your interest in receiving one.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

It takes a village to make NATSIEHC happen — and we're always on the lookout for mob and allies who want to lend a hand.

Whether it's being part of the conference leadership team, helping shape the program, sitting on the awards committee, or simply giving your time to help on the registration desk, every bit of support counts. If you'd like to volunteer for NATSIEHC26 you can register your interest [here](#) — we'd love to have you on the team.





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EYE HEALTH ALLIANCE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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