

Stepping up to close the gap in Indigenous eye health

About Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation

We've been helping people see for over forty years. As the only charity dedicated to supporting Sydney Eye Hospital we're proud to have donated **\$20 million** to the professional development of staff, discovering better treatments and improving diagnosis through research and in delivering evolving technology and equipment to ensure the hospital can meet the growing demand for services.

We believe everyone should have a critical, equitable and accessible eye service and welcome your support. Our priorities include improving equity and delivering patient focused and evidenced based care that is digitally enabled, underpinned by expert training and research.

Aboriginal artwork by Brenden Broadbent



Sydney Eye Hospital
FOUNDATION

About Sydney Eye Hospital

Sydney Eye Hospital is the only state-wide quaternary referral facility for eye diseases in NSW. The hospital offers a full ophthalmology service in medical and surgical care in all eye conditions.

People come from all over Australia seeking the expert ophthalmic speciality services and dedicated care the hospital is renowned for, including a **24 hour Emergency Department** for eyes, hands and general health.

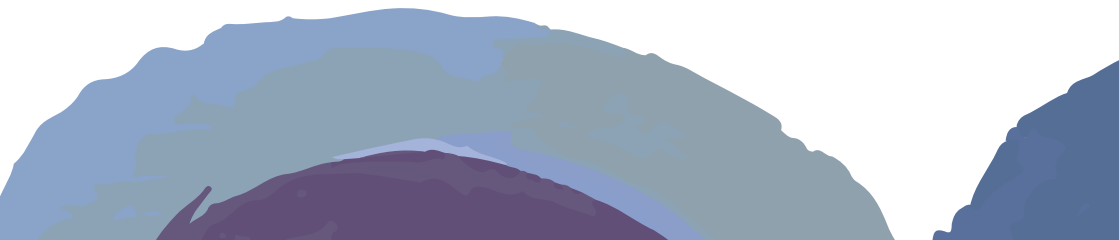
It's the major training centre for eye surgeons, training over half of Australia's ophthalmologist's onsite and in rotation in NSW, Darwin and Hobart. Specialising in training of nurses, orthoptists and ophthalmologists, the hospital also delivers **50,000 outpatient services, over 6,200 surgical procedures, 6,400 inpatient services** and helps **over 15,000 emergency admissions annually**.

Established in 1878, Australia's oldest eye hospital continues to service the community and rise to the challenges, currently planning for an estimate **30% increase** in demand due to the ageing population and the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Helping to close the gap now

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are experiencing blindness and vision loss at three times the rate of other Australians and are also waiting longer for surgery, accounting for **11% of the health gap**.

With **90% of all vision impairment and blindness** in Australia preventable or treatable, we believe it's time to step up to close this gap. In June 2021 we partnered with the Aboriginal Liaison Unit of South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) to provide funds for family and essential support, enabling Indigenous patients access to expert care. Together we aim to reduce early discharge for reasons of financial hardship so patients seek and complete treatment.



In October 2021 we commenced a gap analysis, initially with health professionals to map service delivery to contribute in developing a Foundation Action Plan. Stakeholders include Prince of Wales Hospital, SESLHD Aboriginal Liaison Office, NSW Rural Doctors Network and Optometry NSW.

Our vision

Every Australian deserves the best eyecare available. It is not acceptable to us that a person in Sydney with private health cover waits 3 weeks for their cataract surgery whilst some of our fellow Australians in rural and remote areas are waiting up to 2 years. Cataract surgery improves lives, not only by giving better sight but it helps maintain independence, reduces the risks of falls in the elderly and reduces depression and isolation. Nor is it acceptable that patients requiring treatment for diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration do not have the same opportunity for treatment as those in the city.

We are excited to provide a comprehensive eye care to all those in need in NSW working with our health care partners at Prince of Wales Hospital, Rural Doctors Network, Optometry Australia and the Brien Holden Institute. We are identifying the need and will provide skilled ophthalmologists where no surgical service is available and establish a telemedicine network to lessen the burden of travel and facilitate timely delivery of eyecare.

A culturally sensitive clinic for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families will open at Sydney Eye Hospital and provide for those complex cases that can't be addressed regionally thus providing a continuous link from country to a world class eye care service.

We can do this together.

Thank you.





Brenden Broadbent Commissioned by SESLHD Mental Health

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