

Provision of Eye Health and Training Equipment

Project Update | September 2021

Hello and welcome to our project update as at September 2021.

We hope you are all keeping safe and healthy during the lockdowns of the last few months. They have been tough on everyone, and ultimately "lockdown fatigue" as affected many people and communities. As of mid October, all states and territories will have emerged from current lockdown restrictions (hopefully). Strict restrictions remain in some places resulting in the suspension of visiting eye care services. The retinal camera is a useful tool to triage those in need of urgent eye care. For more information training and utilizing the camera during restrictions, contact your state representative

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WA	Helen Wright	addismob@gmail.com	

The COVID-19 Retinal Camera Protocol outlines recommendation for safe practice during the pandemic. You can find the protocol [HERE](#).

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Retinal Camera Training Courses

978 health workers has been trained to use the camera between July 2017 and July 2021. A total of 169 primary health care professionals have completed the Diabetic Retinopathy Assessment Course.

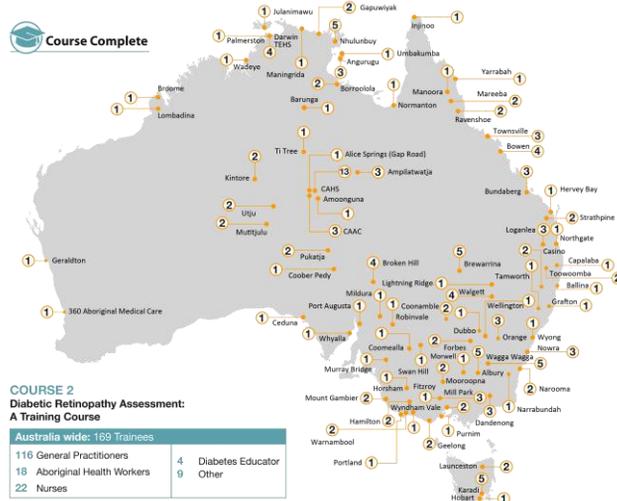
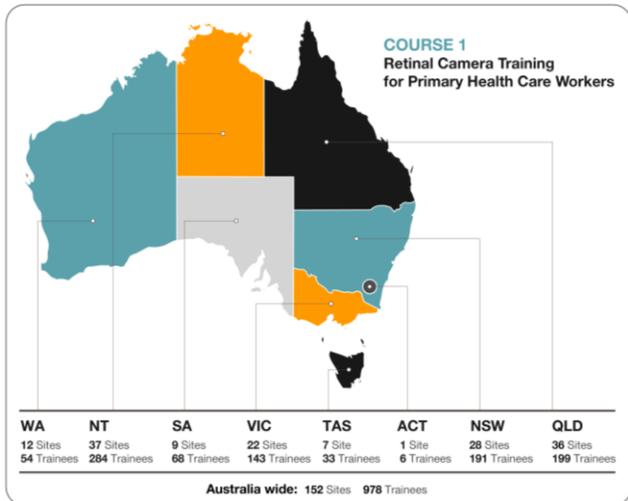


Figure 5-6: Completion of Course 1 & 2 at September 2021

Course 2 – Diabetic Retinopathy Assessment

Course 2: Diabetic Retinopathy Assessment is now accredited with ADEA (3 CPD points) and NATSIHWA (3 endorsed hours).

This online course aims to enhance primary health workers to triage for Diabetic Retinopathy within non-mydratic retinal photographs and appropriately refer to an optometrist or ophthalmologist. In addition, the course will update primary health workers on non-retinal complications of Diabetic Retinopathy and other ocular diseases that may be encountered in retinal photographs.

The course takes 2-3 hours to complete and will remain free for retinal camera recipients until December 2021.

Please contact education@cfeh.com.au if you would like to enrol to this course.

PEHET Sustainability

To 2022 and Beyond...

As the PEHET project wraps up at the end of December 2021, the Brien Holden Foundation along with consortium members have been planning on ways to ensure sustainability of the retinal camera and slit lamp usage far into the future....

Online Training

The consortium has worked to develop 3 **online** courses. These courses are all accessible from the [Brien Holden Foundation PEHET Website](#) and can be completed by anyone:

Course 1: Retinal Camera Training for Primary Health Care Workers (online, self-directed, 2 hours)

- a) We have also made available our Optometrist training materials for future consortium members and Optometrists who visit sites to be able to access and deliver training when necessary. These are available here (and through the website): [Delivering the Retinal Camera Training Course](#)

Course 2: Diabetic Retinopathy Assessment (delivered by the Centre for Eye Health)

- a) Reading service to be offered by the CFEH, ACO (TBA) and BHF.

Course 3: Slit Lamp Training Course (online, self-directed)

Accessible Resources

The Foundation alongside the consortium has developed a "Retinal Camera Toolkit", has been printed and sent to all sites, as well as made available digitally via our website.

A comprehensive 142-page document, the toolkit provides resources and instructions on Medicare, eye health, measuring visual acuity, taking photos and producing reports, and embedding the camera into primary healthcare.

The toolkit can be accessed digitally here: [Retinal Camera Embedding Toolkit](#)

Alongside the toolkit, we will be sending a QR Code sticker that will be stuck on each camera and in the practice, to give current and future staff an easy and fast method of accessing our database of online resources (see next page for instructions on where to attach).

The QR code will link here, check it out! <https://linktr.ee/brienholdenfoundation>

Reported Camera Usage

A reminder that the Camera Usage reports for July – September 2021 is due. Please send the following reports to Colette Davis cdavis@aco.org.au:

- Quarterly Report for July-September 2021
- Equipment Usage Report (generated by the camera laptop)

Photo Grading Service from Centre for Eye Health (CFEH)

As part of Course 2: Diabetic Retinopathy Assessment, CFEH (Centre For Eye Health) provides mentoring support for those who have completed the course. Course participants are invited to upload photographs for feedback on interpretation and triaging/referral decisions. This service has been expanded, and all health services receiving a retinal camera through the PEHET project will now have unlimited access to this reading service until the end of the project in December 2021. After December, the service will be paid.

CFEH are also offering a HOTLINE, where their Optometry staff can provide feedback or assistance for any Course 2 participants seeking guidance as they are triaging their patient's retinal photos. Ph: (02) 8115 0777. Turnaround time for grading is usually within 48 hours. The report can then be forwarded to the GP to facilitate Medicare billing.

To find out more about this service, contact the CFEH at education@cfeh.com.au



You will soon receive our Retinal Camera Toolkit in the mail along with a QR code sticker. Please attach the sticker to the camera as shown.

Retinal Camera Promotional Material – Order Yours Today!

To help encourage patients at your clinic to get a retinal photograph taken, you can order a pull up or hanging banner which is free of charge to your clinic and fully funded by the project. All banners are personalised to include your health service logo and a photo of your staff using the camera.



Example of hanging banner (also available in dark colours for outdoor use)

We are also offering health services the option of retinal camera pamphlets; these pamphlets can be personalised and will show the same images that are printed on the banner. It will have a “did you know” facts and a section on the bottom for health service staff to book a clinic time for the patient.

For more information and to order a banner or pamphlets, please contact Marc Eskander:

**E: m.eskander@brienholdenfoundation.org
P: 02 9065 0709.**

For more information about the project, [click here.](#)

DO YOU HAVE DIABETES?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Even if your eyes feel fine and you see well, you can have diabetes in the eyes.
- If we catch it early and you have treatment, we can stop your eyes from getting worse.
- If you don't check, you can lose your vision.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Come in and have a photo of your eyes.
- We can tell you more about diabetes in the eyes.
- If you have diabetes in the eyes, we can help you.
- If you have other eye problems, we can refer you to the eye doctor.

HOW DO I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

- You can make an appointment at reception – we might even be able to fit you in now; OR
- Ring to make a booking.



The back of the pamphlet contains clinic information.

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