



# Brien Holden FOUNDATION

In Australia, the Foundation provides visiting optometry services to approximately 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Refugee/Migrant communities working in partnership to deliver comprehensive eye health services funded by the Australian Government. Between July 2020 to June 2021, we provided over 9000 eye examinations.

The Foundation has worked in Australia since December 1999, though invitation from the AH&MRC, with our first clinic held at Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service. The Foundation now provides over 792 clinical days of optometry across NSW. In 2007, at the direct request of NT Aboriginal eye health coordinators and their Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, the service was expanded to the NT. Today, our visiting optometry services cover remote communities in Central Australia, Barkly, East Arnhem and Darwin regions providing approximately 385 days of optometry care.

Over the past 6 years the Foundation has provided just over 56,000 individual eye examinations and over 47,000 pairs of glasses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including referral to specialist services.

We understand the importance of building local workforce and have recently announced the Brien Holden Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Optometry Student Scholarship working in partnership with IAHA.

Our Kids NT Project emerged in 2021 to meet community need identified by staff from both health and education sectors. We recognise the value of investment in, and empowerment of, children with the gift of sight. We are working towards pathways of care where no child is left behind.



We are honoured to be an integral part of refugee health programs across Australia, offering support to the refugees who seek to make Australia home. When they arrive on our shores, Brien Holden Foundation is there, at several facilities, to provide eye health examinations and on-going care. We provide a blend of clinical services to refugee support services in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory.



The [Provision of Eye Health and Equipment Training Project](#) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health (April 2017 to December 2021). A consortium of five organisations from across Australia is working in partnership to procure and distribute 166 retinal cameras and 133 slit lamps for primary health care sites that predominantly service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across

Australia. 971 health workers have been trained to use the camera between July 2017 and July 2021.

**Australian Eye and Ear Health Survey** - The Centre for Vision Research at The Westmead Institute for Medical Research (WIMR) and partners including the University of New South Wales, The George Institute for Global Health, the Brien Holden Foundation and Macquarie University are proud to announce the award of the tender. This Survey will examine close to 5,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Aboriginal Australians over a period of two years.

Brien Holden Foundation provides offshore activities in:

- **Vietnam (since 2008)** focusing on increasing the eye care workforce through education and training courses.
- **Pakistan (since 2011)** integrating and aligning eye health into the existing health care system.
- **PNG (since 2002)** to establish vision centres in Papua New Guinea and support the development of a national non-government organisation (NGO) as a social enterprise.
- **Tanzania (2011)** supporting the Ministry of Health to improve access to quality refractive errors services in the public sector hospitals. Over the years it has set up 14 Vision Centres across the country.

The **Brien Holden Foundation** is an Australian NGO. We believe that it is the right of everyone, everywhere to have the best possible vision. Because receiving vision can be life-transforming almost instantly with access to a pair of glasses. We are dedicated to quality primary eyecare services and equity of access worldwide. Our eye health programs support the diagnosis of disease, deliver access to examinations and treatment, and provide eye care education to some of the most marginalised and remote communities in the world.

Additionally, we guide policy through participation in relevant sector working groups and committees, conduct research, develop and deliver eye health training to primary health care practitioners, and actively collaborate with governments, organisations and communities to leverage the best possible outcomes.



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