



### **ABOUT THE BRIEN HOLDEN FOUNDATION**

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

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 eye care 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.

The Foundation commenced in NSW with our first optometry clinic in partnership with Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service in December 1999.



### **ABORIGINAL VISION PROGRAM - NT**

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.

We work in partnership with health services to provide culturally appropriate, accessible and affordable outreach optometry services as part of broader primary health care programs. We train, upskill and mentor primary health care workers to enable eye health checks and referral pathways to be effectively supported by health centres. Importantly, we treat the number one cause of vision impairment in our communities - uncorrected refractive error - with the provision of low and no-cost spectacles, offering payment plans and options suitable for the unique NT context.

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. And we are working towards pathways of care where no child is left behind.