

THE JEAN MCCAUGHEY ORATION 2018

Close the Gap for Vision

Professor Hugh R Taylor AC MD FAHMS

In 2008 the National Indigenous Eye Health Survey showed that although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children had much less poor vision than non-indigenous children, by the age of 40 and above Indigenous adults had six times as much blindness. However, 94% of their vision loss and blindness was unnecessary and could be prevented or treated!

Following extensive consultation with community and providers the sector-endorsed Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision was launched in 2012. It has 42 recommendations for appropriate and accessible eye care services. In the last 5 years some good progress has been made and 16 of these recommendations have been fully implemented. In 2016 the National Eye Health Survey reported the gap between Indigenous and non-indigenous rates of blindness had been halved and was now "only" three times. Although this is still not acceptable and there is more work to be done, clearly eye health is one area where the Gap can be closed.



Melbourne Laureate Professor Hugh Taylor is the Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Previously he was Head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Founding Director of the Centre for Eye Research Australia. His research interests include blindness prevention strategies, infectious causes of blindness and the development of health policy. His current work particularly focuses on Aboriginal eye health and the elimination of trachoma.



Thursday, 12th July



6.00pm



Copland Theatre, 198 Berkeley St
(The Spot), University of Melbourne, Carlton

This is a **FREE** public event

To register please visit: goo.gl/VeMfCM



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