

Eye Health Promotion Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The Purpose

[Indigenous Eye Health \(IEH\)](#) plans to develop additional culturally appropriate eye health promotion resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The main causes of vision loss for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples include refractive error (the need for glasses), cataract and diabetic retinopathy. Trichiasis, as a result of trachoma infections, can lead to blindness and remains a significant issue in remote communities.

Regular eye checks, early detection and treatment help to prevent this unnecessary vision loss and blindness.

The new health promotion resources will aim to assist primary health care providers, including Aboriginal Health Workers and Practitioners, to promote regular eye checks and awareness of refractive error and cataract.

These resources will build on IEH's existing health promotion resources and tools that support the improvements in eye health system reform activities in regional collaborations across Australia.



Existing IEH Resources

IEH has previously responded to the need for eye health promotion resources for trachoma and diabetes eye care.

In 2010, IEH facilitated the development of the '[Clean Faces, Strong Eyes](#)' Trachoma Story kit and, in 2015, the '[Check Today, See Tomorrow](#)' suite of print and multimedia resources to promote diabetes eye care.

The uptake and local adaptation of these resources has been very successful in all states and territories in Australia. These free resources can be ordered as hard copies or downloaded from the [IEH website](#).

CLEAN FACES, STRONG EYES!



**CHECK TODAY,
SEE TOMORROW**



Planned Activities

In 2022, IEH will support the following activities:

- Participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples from across Australia in a series of online creative workshops to co-design the resources through sharing of their knowledge, expertise and lived experience
- Develop culturally appropriate health promotion resources including print and digital materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and primary care health providers
- Undertake national rollout of the new resources alongside existing resources to support 'Roadmap' health system reform activities through regional collaborations across Australia

Guidance and Consultation

The development of the resources will include:

- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group (workshop participants) made up of the target audience including those with lived experience
- A Steering Group, and
- An Indigenous-led creative agency

who will collaborate with the Project Leads to co-design all aspects of the resources, including its objectives, key messages, look and feel, and execution.

The following [Guiding Principles](#) have been developed by the [Project Steering Group](#) to ensure that the health promotion resources are developed in a culturally appropriate way.

Further Information

If you would like to have your voice heard, to be involved, or would like to know more, please visit Indigenous Eye Health [website](#) or contact the IEH Project Leads:

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Digby Mercer is a proud Gadigal man of the Eora Nation from Northern NSW who lives and works on Wurundjeri Country. Digby is an Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer for Indigenous Eye Health (University of Melbourne).

Digby is a lead on this project and is part of the Steering Group where he hopes to contribute by fusing his experience and interests in the creative arts industry to develop engaging and empowering resources to encourage better eye care for First Nations Australians.

