

## Patient and provider perspectives on cataract surgery intensives

*Presenters: Eric Turner and Camilla Bullen, The Fred Hollows Foundation*

The Fred Hollows Foundation (The Foundation) first supported cataract surgery intensives (intensives) in 2007 to help reduce the backlog of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people needing cataract surgery in the Central Australia and Barkly region of the Northern Territory. Since then, The Foundation and partner organisations have delivered intensives in regions including Cape York, Darwin, Katherine and Western New South Wales, in which many of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have received cataract surgery might otherwise not have been able to access the treatment they needed.

While originally conceived as a short-term measure to reduce long patient waiting times, intensives continue to be delivered in response to the barriers to accessing eye care services that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to face. The delivery of intensives also presents an opportunity to highlight what is needed in the delivery of eye care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—good coordination, culturally appropriate support and flexibility.

Information from patients and service providers was systematically collected as part of the intensives delivered over four weekends in 2018 in partnership with Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service, based in Katherine, and Darwin Private Hospital. By conducting face-to-face interviews and online surveys, patients and services providers were asked to share their thoughts on their experiences before, during and after the delivery of the Intensives.

This presentation will share these insights gathered from patients and service providers. The presentation will provide a better understanding, from the perspectives of patients and services providers, on the quality and outcomes of intensives. It will also identify lessons learned and areas for improvement in the delivery of cataract surgery and eye care more broadly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.