

Mapping the Ecosystem supporting Australian First Nations Eye Health

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The ecosystem supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health involves many organisations and agencies working across multiple parts of the health care system to address the various parts of the eye care journey. A greater transparency, clarity and understanding of the stakeholders in the eye health sector, and their roles, contributions and responsibilities, may help to facilitate improved collaboration and reduced duplication of effort and consequently minimise strains on limited resources: with the ultimate focus of improving eye health outcomes.

01 Introduction

In 2022, the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) Indigenous Strategy Taskforce (IST) identified the potential value of mapping the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health ecosystem and proposed a collaboration with interested stakeholders to undertake this work. The IST was interested in identifying:

- 1) groups / organisations / agencies and the work they are undertaking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health; and
- 2) roles, scope, features, connections, collaborations, gaps and duplication within the sector.

This information could then be organised, presented and made available for the sector to inform OCANZ and other interested organisations and groups so as to improve the work they do.

02 Objective

This project aims to create visual representations (maps) of the complex and multi-layered Australian First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) eye health sector. It is envisaged that the maps would also include interactive features that would enable users to access differing layers, information and parts of the system depending on their area of interest i.e. service delivery layer, policy layer, funding layer etc.

The end product could be represented as a large map with smaller and more focused sub-maps showing different parts of the system that can also be extracted and sliced in different ways.

03 Scope

- The proposed scope of the project includes:
- Australia only in the first instance (noting that there is interest in an Aotearoa/New Zealand map).
 - A focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
 - The whole system – including primary, secondary and tertiary care.
 - Service delivery and funding models established through Australian Government, States and Territories, community, public, private and philanthropy.
 - Service delivery, policy and pathways of care.

The scope of the project does not include directories of organisations, pathways, or individuals at the local level nor directories of contact details of individuals, positions, or projects within organisations.

04 Methodology

A project working group was initially established by invitation to interested personnel from OCANZ, Optometry Australia and the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) and the work, in part, was to build from previous eye health mapping exercises. The project working group will continue to consult, work with and seek advice from First Nation's organizations and individuals to guide and inform the process, including the OCANZ IST.

The project working group recognises the challenge of observing and identifying the various stakeholders and their multiple roles and relationships and that this exercise requires the expertise and input from those working across the sector. Consultation and engagement is a priority to ensure the project delivers satisfactorily and is supported by and of value to people working in the eye health sector and particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples and organisations working in eye health.

The project working group intends to consult broadly and at the time of publication of this poster, the project working group had achieved this by:

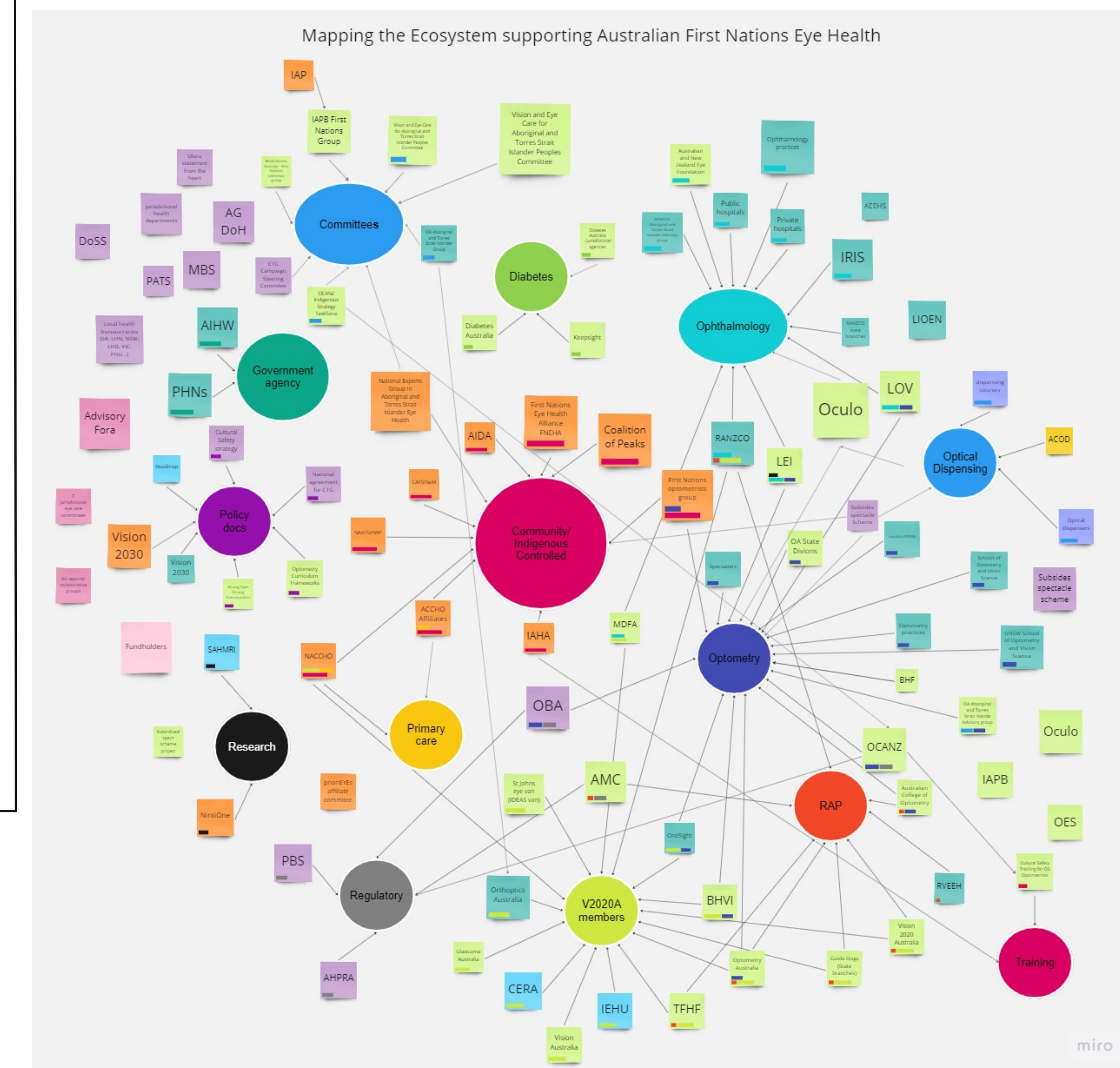
- a) Presenting the project concept at the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference's table top sessions;
- b) Engaging with representatives from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Now we would like to hear from you!

This poster presents an interim report for ongoing work, rather than a finalised project output. We invite you to share your feedback, thoughts, and suggestions, particularly to help us ensure all stakeholders or organisations are represented.

Please leave a sticky note with an organisation or stakeholder name, or email us your feedback via the QR code.

We hope that this project will be of benefit to you in your role in eye health.



Acknowledgements

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