

# Integrating Eye Screening and Pathways for our Young Mob at Gidgee

**3 co-presenters (theory and practical) plus a 5-minute video of the eye screening (including the PHC staff utilizing the screenings) at Gidgee Healing Mt Isa.**

**Note- this abstract has evolved from a 2-hour upskilling workshop undertaken in Gidgee Healing Mt Isa (funded through Checkup) in late 2019. The upskilling involved both practical hands on learning and formal information/hand-outs on common eye conditions in children (refractive and other), and how best to screen for them, and pathways and protocols for referral. This presentation may be best as a workshop (?) however could also work as a presentation.**

## **Abstract:**

An innovative children's health care model has been developed by Gidgee Healing Mt Isa, led by traditional owner GP Dr Marjad Page. Through collaborating with the NW Qld Regional Eye Health Coordinator (REHC), and visiting Optometrist, eye screening has been integrated into children's health care, particularly child health checks. A training package in children's eye screening was designed and delivered to PHC Staff in Gidgee Healing Mt Isa during late 2019, and a useful visual acuity (VA) referral protocol tool was created by Dr Page for use by PHC staff whilst undertaking screening. The presentation includes details of eye screening methods (practical and theory), referral protocols (including the VA tool), and also early data collected. The importance of standardised measurements and processes (especially when measuring children's VA) will be discussed, along with how Gidgee Healing has integrated eye health screening into the care model for FASD and other children experiencing learning delays/difficulties. The importance of cultural safety in screening process design, the role of the REHC in children's eye health, children's eye screening as part of an integrated care model, and the role of screening in maximising the visiting optometrist's effective service delivery, will also be explored.

## **Presenters:**

**Dr Marjad Page-** the first traditional owner GP in Mt Isa, with heritage linked to three local Aboriginal tribes — Kalkadoon, Waanyi and Gangalidda. An ACCRM Fellow/rural generalist, with special interests in Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Practicing in Mt Isa and Ipswich and recently appointed Medical Director for Gidgee Healing ACCHO in NW Qld.

**Cameron Leon-** a proud Kalkadoon/Waanyi man currently living in Mount Isa, North West Queensland and working at Gidgee Healing Community Controlled Health Service as the Regional Eye Health Coordinator. Cameron has a keen interest in patient education through community engagement and empowering PHC staff through eye health screening.

**Lisa Penrose**- a clinical and public health optometrist, experienced in developing models of integrated primary health care to improve Indigenous eye health in urban, rural and remote settings. She is a Churchill Fellow, with a Master's in Public Health, and experience in business management; currently working in NW Qld with Gidgee Healing ACCHOs