

The Role of Accreditation in Improving Indigenous Eye Health Outcomes

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Proposed for Oral or Table Top Presentation

Accreditation authorities are able influence improvements in Indigenous health outcomes through setting accreditation standards which challenge education providers to produce future health practitioners who are culturally safe and reviewing how programs attract and support students who identify as Indigenous.

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) formed an Indigenous Strategy Taskforce in 2018 which includes Indigenous optometrists and experts in Indigenous health and eye health. The Taskforce has overseen development and/or implementation of a range of initiatives including:

- Implementing the *Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework*. The Framework guides training of cultural safety in reflective practice, through appropriately addressing the history, health needs and practices of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and in partnership with communities.
- Conducting activities to support implementation of the *Framework*; train teachers to teach cultural safety to students; and showcase learnings.
- Funding bursaries Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people working with optometry programs to attend conferences for professional development.
- Developing a *Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework*.
- Influencing other optometry actors (regulators, professional bodies etc) to work collaboratively to lead positive change.

This presentation will provide an overview and update of OCANZ activities supporting initiatives to close the gap for vision.