



Screening for diabetic retinopathy. Photographer: Alan McDonald, 2014



The Fred Hollows Foundation

# The Inaugural Fred Hollows Foundation EYE HEALTH AWARD

## Recognising Commitment to End Avoidable Blindness

Although Professor Fred Hollows died more than 20 years ago, his fierce determination and commitment to improving the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lives on through The Fred Hollows Foundation.

The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program works with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) and other eye health stakeholders to improve the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote and underserved communities in Australia. The Foundation is launching its Inaugural Eye Health Award to recognise the significant contribution of an ACCHO to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's eye health.

## THE AWARD – WIN A DRS CAMERA

Recipients of the award will receive a CentreVue Digital Retinography System – known as a DRS Camera - valued at \$16,000. Onsite training on the installation, maintenance and use of the DRS camera will also be provided.

Refer over for further information.

### Nominees must

1. Be an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and a member of NACCHO;
2. Provide eye health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
3. Promote eye health and demonstrate improvements in eye health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For example, through
  - improved access to and delivery of eye health services;
  - improved coordination of eye health services and patient pathways;
  - reduced eye health service waiting lists;
  - influence and impact within eye health system reform;
4. Describe how a DRS Camera will assist their health service improve primary eye health care.

### Nominate by submitting:

A concise, informative and creative presentation about the existing eye health work of your organisation. Submissions can be made in various formats including text, photographs, video, audio and educational or promotional brochures.

### Award ceremony

Finalists will be showcased, and the Award presented, at the NACCHO Annual General Meeting, October 2014 at Cairns.

### Awardee responsibilities

The recipient of the award will provide The Fred Hollows Foundation with media and promotional opportunities.

### Nominations submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to:

#### Gay English

The Fred Hollows Foundation,  
Indigenous Australia Program  
T: 08 8920 1400  
E: [genglish@hollows.org](mailto:genglish@hollows.org)



Regional Eye Health Coordinator receiving DRS camera training

A DRS camera can assist with increased screening and early detection of diabetic retinopathy at the primary health care level by incorporating annual retinal checks into the diabetes health check and chronic disease management plans.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have better vision than mainstream population;

***BUT adults are 6 times more likely than other Australians to go blind.***

**94%** of vision loss among adults is **preventable** or treatable;

Vision loss among adults causes **11% of the health gap** behind cardiovascular and diabetes, equal with trauma but ahead of alcoholism and stroke.

### ***Diabetic Retinopathy is the third leading cause of vision loss***

and blindness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians of which 37% of adults have diabetes. 98% of blindness from diabetes is preventable with early detection and timely laser treatment. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes need an eye exam every year and better access to diabetes education; but 35% of adults have never had an eye exam. Only 37% of those needing laser surgery have received it.

# Screening for Diabetic Retinopathy in Primary Health Care

Annual retinal photographs improve patient care through:

- Early detection of diabetic retinopathy;
- Regular monitoring of any known eye conditions in patients with diabetes;
- Provision of more efficient optometry outreach services and a decrease in the number of patients that have to travel for screening and treatment.
- Raising awareness about diabetic eye disease.

The CentreVue DRS camera is a non-mydratiac DRS camera meaning it does not require dilation of the pupil. It is user friendly; captures quality images in a community setting; delivers 80% accuracy; and can easily export data.

*“This DRS camera is an amazing piece of technology. The photography process is quick, simple and requires no skill. The pictures are astonishing in detail. Mostly I’m amazed that it has been dropped on our doorstep by The Fred Hollows Foundation without any fanfare. For the first time ever we can do effective mass funduscopy screening. We are now setting up ‘Retinography’ as a routine part of our annual diabetes check-ups. The camera will be operated by the chronic disease nurse and our Aboriginal health workers. Meanwhile, as a GP, I can also see its potential in acute eye consultations. It will get used. This is a game-changing gadget.”*



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District Medical Officer, Tiwi Islands