



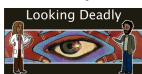
# NGOON-GODGIN VICTORIA

## Biladu-njan war (How are you? - Woi Wurrung)

### THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Implementation Planning for Strong eyes, strong communities has begun. Community voices and suggestions are coming in through the **survey**, e-mail, phone conversations and yarning together. So far, Children’s eye health, and timely access to bulk-billed services are needs raised by Community, and help with identifying persons as Aboriginal is a need raised by non-ACCO services.

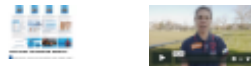
Feedback from testing of the online self-paced eye-health module Looking Deadly: “the information was good and easy to access”, “(helped me) know about eye health to help community improve eye health”



Email : EyeHealth@vaccho.org.au  
for password protected access.  
Keep talking.... We’re listening!

### REGIONAL VIEW

The 2019 Victorian Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival in Sebastopol featured a whole lot of material on check today, see tomorrow, a video featuring Aliasha Newman from Melbourne Football Club and plenty more, to raise awareness on diabetes and eye health.



Barwon Region stakeholders are working together to improve access to eye-care, including at St John of God Hospital, and to improve information flow along the referral pathways.

Eastern Metro Region eye-health Stakeholders are delighted to have a paediatrician visiting Indigenous Community Services Association Incorporated (HICSA), and with the visiting optometrist, we look forward to improving access to eye-health services for children.

### ACROSS THE NATION

- VISION2020 Australia, through its Membership is engaging with Aboriginal Organisations and Communities to plan implementation of Strong Eyes Strong Communities. There are 27 recommendations - so read, reflect on and convey your thoughts and ideas.

- A multidisciplinary Victorian Aboriginal Ear Health Reference Group is being constituted. VACCHO provides Secretarial Support and members will contribute to state-based ear and hearing health.

- World Sight Day on 10 October 2019, is an annual day of awareness to focus global attention on vision loss. The rolling theme Universal Eye Health continues in this final year of the WHO Global Action Plan.

## GET TO KNOW....

### The Victorian Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group (State Committee)

The Purpose of this Committee is to provide advice, strategies and support to improve Aboriginal eye health outcomes in Victoria. The committee's role is to:

1. Discuss Victorian Aboriginal eye health as a stakeholder group with the aim of closing the gap for vision
2. Share successes and address challenges in the implementation of programs and projects that relate to Aboriginal eye health
3. Support the coordination of state-wide activity in Aboriginal eye health to avoid duplication of effort
4. Support the implementation of the Aboriginal Health, Wellbeing and Safety Strategic Plan: Korin Korin Balit-Djak, by improving eye health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.
5. Refer issues for discussion by the appropriate organisation, group or committee including the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), the Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum and the Victorian Advisory Council on Koori Health (VACKH).

Focus areas of the 2018-2020 Action Plan are:

1. Support regional groups and their sustainability
2. Data collection, monitoring and reporting
3. Improve coordination and integration
4. Ensure effective state-wide overview of Aboriginal eye health
5. Eye health practices in Victoria are underpinned by self-determination
6. Work with VACCHO to streamline engagement and communication with ACCHO's and to improve the integration of eye health care priorities, screening and treatment with other disease programs.
7. Advocacy
  - \* Influencing change and representing the needs of patients to the Victorian State Government, and the Australian Government.
  - \* Representatives on the committee to support strategies and initiatives within their own organisation to support Aboriginal Eye Health.

The Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Group includes representatives from the following organisations:

Australian College of Optometry, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Primary Health Network (PHN) Alliance, Commonwealth Department of Health, University of Melbourne - Indigenous Eye Health Unit, Optometry Australia, Victorian Department of Health (DHHS), Vision Australia, VACCHO, Guide dogs Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Vision Initiative, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria, and includes a minimum of TWO Aboriginal consumer representatives attend quarterly meetings.

## LOOK OUT FOR...

Enrolments are open for Optometry at Deakin University, Optical Dispensing at RMIT and various accredited training and Short Courses at VACCHO.

**Share, Learn, Teach so that we all are Korin-Korin Balit Djak**

*(Growing very strong).*

Contact [eyehealth@vaccho.org.au](mailto:eyehealth@vaccho.org.au) with your stories, news and experiences!