Introduction

Eye and Ear Surgical Support Services (EESSS) is a Commonwealth Department of Health funded program, and forms part of CheckUP's Outreach programs. The EESSS program aims to improve access to eye and ear surgical services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, prioritising people living in rural and remote locations, for the treatment and management of their eye and hearing health conditions.

Aim

The overall aim of the EESSS program is to expedite access to surgical services and support a culturally appropriate pathway into surgery for Indigenous Australians with diagnosed eye and ear conditions who have been waiting for surgery. Services are prioritised to people living in rural and remote locations across Queensland. The EESSS program forms part of the Indigenous Australians' Health Program, and is delivered in collaboration with relevant stakeholders reducing barriers to surgery for those who need it most.

Objectives

• Establish new or enhance existing services and pathways to ensure timely surgical treatment for eye and ear conditions to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Australians, with flow on effects to educational and employment outcomes
• Focus on culturally appropriate service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, prioritising people living in rural and remote locations (RA 3-5).
• Support a range of activities that overcome barriers to surgical interventions, including recruitment of health professionals to perform the surgery, and the provision of assistance with the cost of travel and accommodation for health professionals performing surgery as well as patients and their carers undergoing surgery.
• Coordinate the planning and implementation of surgical interventions in collaboration with local health providers and existing programs
• Ensure integration of services for streamlined treatment and continuity of care.

"My daughter is doing really well. The service is amazing. It makes such a big difference for families to be able to get the surgery when it’s needed rather than spending three years on the wait list."

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