



Eye and Ear Surgical Support program

Introduction

The Eye and Ear Surgical Support (EESS) program is funded by the Australian Department of Health, under the Indigenous Australians' Health Program, and forms part of CheckUP's outreach services. The EESS program aims to reduce the instances of avoidable blindness and deafness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations through expediting access to eye and/or ear surgery. Services are prioritised to people living in MMM 3-7 locations across Queensland.

Aim

The overall aim of the EESS program is to improve 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.

Objectives

The objectives of the EESS program are:

- to reduce surgery wait times for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people needing eye surgery (largely cataract) and/or ear surgery for conditions resulting from Otitis Media;
- to reduce barriers to accessing timely surgical treatment;
- strengthened and culturally supported patient surgical pathways; and
- improved eye and ear health for patients who receive surgery.

The Outreach programs are made possible through funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.



"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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