



Your Foundation: ANZEF's granting highlights in 2022

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, ANZEF has been able to support a wide range of projects in 2022. To our valued supporters, thank you for making this important work possible.

Grants have focused on ophthalmic education and training to build local capacity and expertise, and on a push to grow the First Nations ophthalmology workforce in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Other projects aimed to increase cultural safety in eye care delivery for First Nations Peoples, raised public awareness of caring for our eyes, and advocated for national data to inform better eye health strategies.

Read on for the list of initiatives funded in 2022.

Education & capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region

- ▶ 12-months' funding for a Diabetic Retinopathy Coordinator to strengthen diabetic retinopathy care in the Pacific by training eye health nurses and screeners in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and the Solomon Islands – in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- ▶ Virtual tickets to RANZCO Congress for delegates from developing Asia-Pacific nations and Indigenous delegates from Australia and New Zealand
- ▶ Partnering with Queensland Eye Institute to deliver the Global Eye Health Workshop on ocular trauma in low resource settings at RANZCO Congress. ANZEF sponsored five speakers from Cambodia, PNG, Fiji and Mongolia to present at the Workshop and attend RANZCO Congress in Brisbane. The Workshop was a huge success with a record number of attendees

Investing in better First Nations eye health outcomes

- ▶ Sponsor of The University of Melbourne's Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) "Our Vision in Our Hands" symposium, featuring voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in eye health and members of the newly established National Expert Group in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health
- ▶ AIDA Cultural Safety training for all first year VTP trainees in Australia 2022-2024
- ▶ Funding to develop the RANZCO Tiriti o Waitangi (Māori) Action Plan

Growing the First Nations ophthalmology workforce

Philanthropic funding is making it possible for a grants and scholarships program to be developed in consultation with key stakeholders to support the growth of the First Nations ophthalmology workforce in Australia and New Zealand. With some variation between Australia and New Zealand according to local needs and available resources, each program will include:

- ▶ outreach to medical schools to promote ophthalmology as a career
- ▶ enhanced mentoring support during the Vocational Training Program
- ▶ scholarships and grants to attend relevant Branch ASMs, the AIDA conference (for Australians), and RANZCO Congress
- ▶ annual funding towards training and professional development

With this aim in mind, ANZEF supported First Nations delegates Dr Gabrielle Perry (who will commence VTP training in 2023 at Sydney Eye Hospital) and Dr Micah Rapata from Waikato Eye Clinic to attend RANZCO Congress in October 2022. Micah presented a poster on the state of Māori Eye Health.

The Foundation also provided scholarships for one Indigenous Junior Medical Officer and one Indigenous medical student to attend the 2022 Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) Conference. Additional scholarships were awarded for five Indigenous eye health workers and medical students to attend the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference on Larrakia Country / Darwin – a powerful learning and networking opportunity supporting Indigenous eye health careers.

Advocacy, Awareness and Outreach

- ▶ Grant to Eye Health Aotearoa for a National Tactile Art Competition, a community engagement campaign across Aotearoa New Zealand to elevate the importance of vision care and advocate for the first nationwide eye health survey
- ▶ Development of the RANZCO Outreach Portal which maps current eye health outreach opportunities across regional Australia for interested ophthalmology volunteers

The endeavour continues in 2023. With your help, we look forward to making an even bigger difference towards ensuring everyone can have the best possible eye health and health care access.

