

LEI HOSTS EYE HEALTH CONFERENCE

Lions Eye Institute's Outback Vision Unit will host the first WA Outreach Eye Health Conference to identify and discuss strategies for better delivery of Indigenous and remote eye health services.

The aim of the conference is to encourage the eye health community to collaborate together through inter-professional working relationships and partnerships to improve the eye health outcomes among Indigenous and remote Western Australians.

The two-day conference provides an opportunity for ophthalmologists, registrars, optometrists and aboriginal health workers currently participating in the delivery of rural, remote and Indigenous eye health care services to share information, knowledge, personal and professional experiences through interactive presentations and workshops.

In support of a collaborative approach to remote eye health care, the Lions Outback Vision Unit will also be launching a new website to provide timely and accurate information about eye health care services to regional and remote health care professionals and community members across Western Australia.

Lions Outback Vision Unit is a small but dedicated team of health professionals committed to improving the eye health of rural, remote and Indigenous Western Australians by further developing and building the capacity of local health workers and planners to deliver accessible, equitable, effective and culturally appropriate health programs.

Since 2012 a Telemedicine Project Officer has been appointed to address barriers to the uptake and effective use of Tele-ophthalmology in Western Australia. A Diabetic Retinopathy Coordinator is also employed to implement and coordinate diabetic retinopathy screening programs in the Kimberley Region.

The team has equipped three regional centres for cataract surgery, eight sites have benefited from new Tele-ophthalmology equipment for digital imaging of the eye and ophthalmology surgical services are now available in Kalgoorlie and Roebourne in the Pilbara. New outreach services are also successfully operating in the Goldfields and Pilbara.

Lions Outback Vision is supported by the Lions Eye Institute, The University of Western Australia, McCusker Charitable Foundation, RANZCO Eye Foundation and the Indigenous and Remote Eye Service – Australian Society of Ophthalmologists.

The Lions Eye Health Conference will be held on 15 February at the LEI and on the 16 February at St George's College in Perth.