

WA TAKES LEAD ROLE IN A NATIONAL TELE-OPHTHALMOLOGY INITIATIVE

Associate Professor Angus Turner, Director of the Lions Eye Institute's Outback Vision Unit has been appointed to lead a National Tele-ophthalmology initiative as Chair of the newly formed National Telemedicine Project Committee.

The National Telemedicine Project aims to achieve a more coordinated approach to Tele-ophthalmology across Australia. The first national teleconference for the executive was held on August 1 2012 and a face to face meeting was held in November 2012 at the RANZCO Congress in Melbourne.

The project is funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Health (OATSIH) and supported by the Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Service (IRIS), an initiative of the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists and the Australian Government.

With the convening of a National Telemedicine Project Committee Chaired by Prof Turner, the committee endeavours to serve as a platform for sharing ideas, success and failures in the world of Tele-ophthalmology as it gains momentum as an acceptable and viable mode of specialist eye health care delivery.

The committee will canvas a range of views from individuals and organisations across the wider practice of telemedicine and disseminate information to colleagues regarding best practice Tele-ophthalmology in Australia. This sharing of ideas will help to shape future advocacy efforts at a government level.

"The National Telemedicine Committee is a broad representation of professions and States to ensure that improvements and barriers to the use of telemedicine for eye health are communicated and shared around the nation," Dr Turner said.

"It is an exciting initiative to ensure providers are kept abreast of this rapidly evolving field."

The National Telemedicine Project Committee will teleconference several times a year to share and discuss each State's successes and difficulties in establishing telemedicine platforms.

More information on the project can be found on www.irisprogram.com.au

Associate Professor Angus Turner



