



## **Media Statement**

Thursday, March 12, 2015

### **Indigenous sight program secures prestigious 40Under40 Award.**

A determination to bring high-quality eye health services to some of Western Australia's most remote communities saw Lions Eye Institute Associate Professor Angus Turner named "First Amongst Equals" at the 2015 40Under40 Awards in Perth last night.

More than 800 businesspeople and fellow nominees gathered at Crown Perth for the annual awards, which are run by WA Business News and recognise the cream of the State's young entrepreneurial talent.

Associate Professor Turner was recognised for founding Lions Outback Vision (LOV), a community-driven project which treated almost 5000 remotely-located patients last year.

LEI Managing Director Professor David Mackey said the win was testament to Associate Professor Turner's willingness to look at a problem and find innovative solutions.

"Angus saw the substantial gap in eye health between rural and remote Western Australians and their urban counterparts," he said.

"His approach has been to find new ways to connect rural and remote Western Australians to critical eye health services and he has been successful in seeing many more people being treated for eye disease – people who otherwise may have fallen between the gaps."

Associate Professor Turner's next challenge is to secure community support and funding for an Outback Vision Van – a mobile eye health service with the capacity to

treat 200 patients per week and offer a range of services, including treatment of cataracts, refractive error, trachoma, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

Once up-and-running, it is anticipated the van will travel to 16 towns across the State from Albany to Kununurra, covering more than 25,000km each year.

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