



2020: A new vision and refreshed values

In 2020 we embedded our new vision that better reflects the reason why we do what we do - better vision for all.

Our refreshed staff values of Integrity, Care, Curiosity, Impact and Unity underpin our culture and everything we do.

PURPOSE **VALUES WHY WE EXIST OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES** To prevent and cure blindness and Integrity: we do what we say we're going eye disease. to do, and are accountable, transparent and responsible in our actions. Care: we consider and respect our patients, collaborators and each other. VISION **Curiosity**: we ask questions, are interested and never stop learning. **Impact**: we make a positive difference OUR to the lives of others and the **ASPIRATION** communities in which we operate. Better vision **Unity**: we support each other and work for all. as one to achieve common goals.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and people of the lands on which we operate, and honour their elders past, present and future.



Our 'Why'

At the Lions Eye Institute, we make a difference to people's lives through **excellent patient care** and by pushing the frontiers of science to discover **new treatments and cures** for eye disease.

The Lions Eye Institute spans the dual complementary pathways of research and clinical care, bringing together a globally recognised team of researchers and clinicians who continually build on each other's discoveries, knowledge and expertise, to deliver sight-saving treatment and care around the world. The quest for knowledge and its life-changing applications for patients is what drives our work.



Clinical services

World-class ophthalmology services including eye examinations, treatment and day surgery in our Nedlands, Murdoch, Midland and Broome clinics. Laser vision correction with Western Australia's first laser vision clinic, Lions Laser Vision. Comprehensive optometry services through Lions Optics. Active clinical trials based right here in Perth.

Research

Five priority areas of translational research supported by our award-winning researchers.

- 1 Glaucoma
- 2 Diabetic and vascular retinopathies
- 3 Indigenous eye disease and community eye research
- 4 Genetic eye disease, gene therapies and macular degeneration
- 5 Cornea, ocular surface and ocular immunology

Community and education

Addressing the unique challenges of delivering quality specialist eye health care to rural, remote and Indigenous communities through Lions Outback Vision.

Sharing our expertise through partnerships locally and globally, particularly in Indonesia. Eye tissue donation with the Lions Eye Bank.

Message from our **Chair** and Managing Director



Peter Forbes and Professor Bill Morgan

We are delighted to present to you the Lions Eye Institute's **2020 Annual** Report.

The events of 2020, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, were unexpected and challenging. However, this unprecedented situation presented the Lions Eye Institute with an opportunity to reflect and re-focus on our core vision and purpose with revitalised strategic plans.

COVID-19 caused a significant shift to how we now welcome patients to our clinics, as well as to our research operations and working arrangements for staff. The Institute was among the earliest medical providers to apply lessons from our south-east Asian colleagues handling of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We introduced new processes and procedures to mitigate a range of health and financial risks, and we continue to monitor and adjust our response to keep ahead of issues as they arise.

One area of substantial growth for the Institute in 2020 was the uptake of telehealth services. The Lions Eye Institute through Lions Outback Vision has offered teleophthalmology to rural and remote communities in Western Australia for almost a decade. With restrictions on metropolitan face-to-face consults a concern during 2020, all of our clinicians moved swiftly to provide telehealth consults. This allowed us to monitor the eye health of our patients while continuing to provide urgent in-person treatment and surgery.

Extensive renovations continued at the Broome-based Lions **Outback Vision Kimberley Hub**. A team of dedicated staff moved permanently to Broome early in the year to establish the need for services in the region. A temporary clinic was made possible thanks to generous donations of equipment from key supporters. Once complete, the

Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Hub will be the first research ophthalmology clinic in Western Australia based outside of the Perth metropolitan area.

We were delighted to announce a partnership with Perth Children's Hospital, the Perron Paediatric Retinopathy Initiative. This initiative will help to reduce blindness in Western Australian children with diabetes through a substantial research project into the cause of diabetic retinopathy, and by improving access to world-class screening services and treatment.

After introducing a new Care Centre in late 2019, we renovated space within our Nedlands clinic to cater for the quickly growing team. The Care Centre team is now the first point of call for phone and email enquiries to the Lions Eye Institute and a crucial part of the service we provide to our patients.

Our vision for reconciliation is to make a significant contribution to closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' eye health. In 2020 we revisited our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and developed it into an Innovate RAP. This important piece of work has provided us with a roadmap to achieving better eye health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



We partnered with The University of Western Australia to deliver Western Australia's first and only Doctor of Optometry program.

The school will help combat the growing shortage of optometrists in the State and increase collaboration between eye care providers, improving outcomes for patients.

The Institute also became a founding partner of the International **Space Centre with** The University of Western Australia. This partnership will enable us to continue the great work our researchers are doing in the fields of glaucoma, genetics and immunology.

Ever mindful of the views and experiences of those living with low or no vision, we embarked on a project to re-establish our **Consumer and Community** Advisory Panel. Led by staff with lived experience of vision loss,

the panel is a committed group of individuals who we will look to for advice on a number of future initiatives.

The Lions Save-Sight Foundation WA Inc. (LSSF) is recognised as one of the foremost volunteer eye health organisations in Australia and a key player in the establishment of the Lions Eye Institute. In 2020 we celebrated alongside LSSF as they marked 50 years of leading the development of world-class ophthalmic care in Western Australia and internationally. Additionally, LSSF committed to supporting a Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data with Curtin University.

In response to the increasing demand for timely eye health care, we began work on a plan to help alleviate pressures on the public health system and provide accessible eye health services in Midland, to service Perth's eastern corridor and the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions.

We established two new **Professorial Chair positions,** including a Chair in Optometric Research with UWA and, alongside the Ian Constable Chair, they will provide a significant

increase in our research capacity and capability. Worldwide recruitment to fill these positions has commenced.

As part of our continued focus on governance, we formed a new Board sub-committee framework that will elevate our focus on financial performance, risk management and compliance, research integrity and stakeholder engagement. We also welcomed a new Board member, Professor Jane den Hollander AO.

We wish to thank our wonderful staff for their dedication and hard work during this year like no other. Thank you also to our Board of Directors and leadership team, as well as our valued supporters.

Peter Forbes

Peter Forbes Chair

Professor Bill Morgan Managing Director







Board of Directors



Peter Forbes Chair

Peter Forbes joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2014 and was elected Chair in 2017. He is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a board member of the East Metropolitan Health Service, Chair of the Local Government Indemnity Scheme, and an external member of the Law Society of WA's Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee.



Professor William (Bill) Morgan Managing Director

Professor William (Bill) Morgan has been an ophthalmologist at the Lions Eye Institute for 25 years and was appointed Managing Director in July 2019 after joining the Board in 2018. He is a consultant ophthalmologist at Royal Perth and Perth Children's Hospitals, Director of the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science at UWA, a visiting professor at the University of Udayana, Indonesia and Co-Director of the Lions Eye Institute's McCusker Glaucoma Centre.



Richard Alder

Richard Alder joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2017. Richard is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has worked in the securities industry since 1965. He was employed by JBWere for 31 years, consulted to Australia's largest ASX-listed investment company, Australian Foundation Investment Company, and was Employer Director on the Government Employees Superannuation Board.



Dr Margaret Crowley

Dr Margaret Crowley joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2016. She is an experienced Chief Executive Officer and Board Director and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has held senior executive positions in state and federal governments, universities and the not-for-profit sector - including 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Association for the Blind of WA Inc. She has served on state and federal health boards and authorities over the last five years.



Tony Joyner

Tony Joyner joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2013. He has more than 30 years' experience as a commercial and corporate lawyer and for nine years was the Managing Partner of the Perth office of international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, where he is currently employed as a partner and Global Head of Technology. He sat on the global board of the firm for nine years, and chaired its Risk Management and Audit Committee. He is also a board member of the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Rudolf Brunovs

Rudolf Brunovs is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Masters of Business Administration. He retired as a partner of the chartered accounting firm Ernst & Young (now EY) after 27 years in a number of their offices. He is currently a Director and the Principal of Mainstay Consulting Pty Ltd and Non-Executive Director of Deep Yellow Limited. He joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2005.



Dr Erica Smyth AC

Dr Erica Smyth AC joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2019. She is a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Academy of Technological Science and Engineering. She has 45 years' experience in the mineral and petroleum industries. She is currently a Non-Executive Director of the MinEx Co-operative Research Centre and is a member of the Advisory Board of the UWA Oceans Institute Foundation.



Professor Grant Waterer

Professor Grant Waterer joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2018. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians. He is Professor of Medicine at UWA and Director of Clinical Services at Royal Perth Bentley Group. He holds a PhD focused on pneumonia and a Master of Business Administration.



Professor Ian McAllister

Professor Ian McAllister joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2010. He is a consultant ophthalmologist at the Lions Eye Institute and Royal Perth Hospital. He is actively involved in research for cures for vitreoretinal disorders, especially retinal vascular disorders. He has been involved for many years in statewide diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment and was Vice-Chair of the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia and Chair of the Research Board.



Professor Jane den Hollander AO

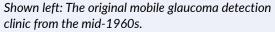
Professor Jane den Hollander joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2020. She received an Order of Australia for her distinguished service to tertiary education in the 2017 Australia Day Honours. She is currently a Director and Trustee of UniSuper Limited and Chair of its Remuneration Committee. She is also Chair of the Australian Global Health Alliance Board, Chair of the Centre for Stories Board and a Director of the Breakthrough Victoria Pty Ltd Board.

Our year in review **Our impact**



JANUARY

The Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc. celebrated its Golden Anniversary - 50 years of supporting eye health care in Western Australia.





FEBRUARY

Lions Outback Vision established the Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Hub in Broome. The hub will house three resident ophthalmologists servicing rural and remote communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley region. This is the first time Western Australia has had a resident ophthalmologist north of Geraldton, and will help close the gap in accessible eye health services for our Indigenous and remote population.

The Lions Outback Vision Van hit the road for 2020, starting off the year in Albany. This mobile eye health clinic travels up to 25,000 kilometres a year delivering high quality eye care services in regional and remote areas of Western Australia.





MARCH

Western Australia's first and only Optometry School was announced, a partnership between The University of Western Australia, Lions Eye Institute and optometry industry leaders. The new degree, a Doctor of Optometry, will allow Western Australian students to study optometry in Perth, rather than having to relocate to the eastern states.

Lions Eye Institute postponed laser vision correction and other elective eye surgery in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most office staff transitioned to working from home. Our clinics continued to offer urgent treatment for those who needed it most.



APRIL

Lions Outback Vision took delivery of new retinal imaging machines for the Kimberley Hub.

Professor Graham Barrett was recognised in the top 10 of a list of the 100 most influential people in the world of ophthalmology.

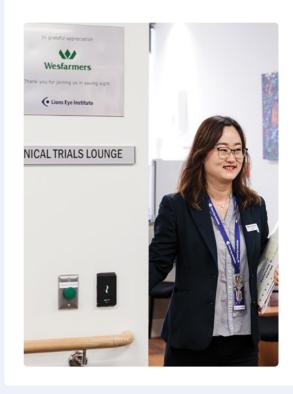
Our metropolitan clinics started offering telehealth appointments to ensure our patients could still access critical eye care during the pandemic.

With the Vision Van off the road, teleophthalmology consultations soared during the peak COVID-19 months for our Lions Outback Vision team.

MAY

Lions Eye Institute and PYC Therapeutics announced the progression to pre-clinical trials of a highly promising drug for the treatment of the leading cause of childhood blindness, retinitis pigmentosa.

Elective surgery recommenced in our clinics and staff working from home started a phased return to the office.





JUNE

The Vision Van was allowed back on the road after a brief hiatus.

Managing Director Professor Bill Morgan led a knowledge-sharing session over Zoom with 220 Indonesian colleagues. This evolved into a regular joint lecture series.

We shared Riley's story of living with an inherited degenerative eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa. Riley (pictured left with his sister) first visited Dr Fred Chen at the Lions Eye Institute at the age of 11. Our supporters' generous donations help support research such as Dr Chen's research into the causes of retinitis pigmentosa in the hope of one day finding a cure.

Our year in review **Our impact**

JULY

Work commenced on refurbishing new premises for the Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Hub, based in Broome.

Professor David Mackey and his team released preliminary results of their TARRGET study. The study found 38 per cent of first-degree relatives of a person with glaucoma either have the disease or are at risk of developing it. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness in Australia, and the study findings support the case for early detection and treatment.

Lions Eye Institute developed a new imaging technique to support early detection of diabetic eye disease, also known as diabetic retinopathy. Diabetes is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australian adults.



We released our Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. Research Plan for 2020-2023, and our refreshed staff values.

Dr Rhuju Mehta joined our highly skilled team of ophthalmologists. Dr Mehta, based at our Murdoch clinic, specialises in glaucoma, cataract and general ophthalmology.

A patient at our Murdoch clinic was the first in Western Australia to receive a new TGA approved treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration.

We were thrilled to welcome our amazing volunteers back to the clinic after a five month break due to COVID-19.

SEPTEMBER

WA State Government announced its support for the Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Hub, enabling the Broome-based team to improve access to eye health care in the north west of the state.

We renovated office space to create a dedicated Care Centre, a central hub for phone and email enquiries to the Institute.

We became a founding partner of the **International Space Centre** with The University of Western Australia. The partnership will see the Lions Eye Institute work with NASA on research into intracranial pressure in astronauts, which can lead to vision loss.



OCTOBER

We held our second annual Research Week, including our incredibly popular Ian Constable Lecture featuring UWA's Professor Shane Maloney. **Professor David Mackey** delivered a presentation on the global epidemic of myopia, and we held a



Professor Ian Constable

unique audio screening of the movie 'Scoob!'.

Dr Fred Chen was recognised as a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) 2020 Trainer of Excellence.

Lions Eve Institute founder and patron. Professor Ian Constable AO, was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science (AAHMS) in recognition of his international contribution to clinical treatment and research into ophthalmology.

We were proud to see our very own patient, Eamon Doak, take on the role of a **Telethon** Little Star for Telethon 2020. Eamon has a condition called Usher syndrome, which affects both his hearing and his sight.

NOVEMBER

We formed a partnership with disability services provider VisAbility, enabling patients to access a VisAbility support worker at our Nedlands clinic. VisAbility social workers have lived experience of vision loss and assist people with low or no vision to access financial support, counselling, job services, volunteering programs, community support groups and more.

Professor Jane den Hollander AO was appointed to the Lions Eye Institute Board.

Dr Samantha Lee was awarded the Raine Medical Research Foundation's 2021 Strachan Memorial Prize for best published research by an early-career clinical researcher. This was the first time in the history of the award that a publication prize went to an ophthalmology researcher.

We shared Sarah's story. Sarah was recently diagnosed with myopic macular degeneration, a complication of severe short-sightedness. Sarah could be legally blind within 10 years. Thanks to our valued supporters, we can continue our vital research to prevent vision loss in people like Sarah.



DECEMBER

We celebrated International Volunteer Day with a morning tea for our dedicated volunteers. This group of charming and cheerful individuals are the first people to greet patients visiting our Nedlands clinic, and play an important role in ensuring visitors meet COVID-19 screening requirements, as well as helping patients navigate the clinic.

Dr Mark Chia was awarded the prestigious General Sir Monash Scholarship, allowing him to undertake a PhD in Ophthalmology at University College London. His research seeks to apply artificial intelligence to advanced eye scans, to improve the early diagnosis and prevention of diabetes in rural Australia.

Our supporters

Thank you to our generous and dedicated supporters who help fund our sight-saving research and ensure we can continue to deliver exemplary patient care.

Government and organisational support



Alcon

Bay Garden Group

Essilor

GKMI Pty Ltd

Mandurah Murray Mayday Inc

Oxford Compounding Pty Ltd

Telethon

Venn Coffee

WA Country Health Service

WA Department of Health

Willie Creek Pearls

ZEISS

Trusts and foundations



Bowen Foundation

Carcione Foundation

Constantine Family Foundation Pty Ltd

H & H Cohney Foundation

Lions Save-Sight Foundation WA Inc

McCusker Charitable Foundation

Perth Eye Foundation

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Ltd

The Lindsay & Heather Payne Medical Research

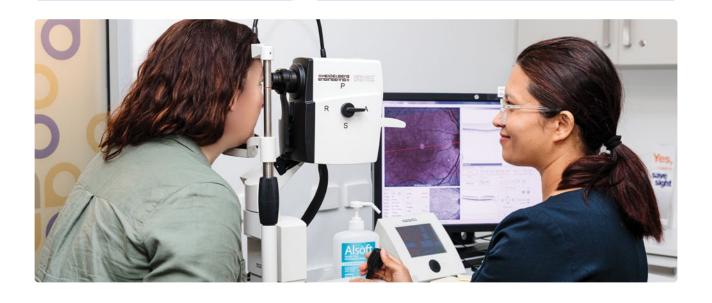
Charitable Foundation

The Fred Hollows Foundation

The Patrick Foundation

Wen Giving Foundation

Wheatley Family Foundation





R Berry

Mr Robert Branchi

Mr & Mrs Vernon and Anne Fountain

Mr John Giles

Mr Jeffrey Hay

Mr & Mrs Norman and Freda Hogg

Mr & Mrs Milenko and Frances Mihaljevich

Mr Walter Millsteed

Mr Carlo Orlando

Mrs Lynette Purser

Mrs Gwynneth Roberts

Mr Keith Spence

Mr & Mrs Peter and Melva Stevens

Mrs Nora Susac

Mrs & Mr Helen and Joe Sweet

Dr Sjakon Tahija

Mr & Mrs H and M Tracey

Mr & Mrs John and Anna Uyen

Bequests

Estate of the Late Odna Borlaug

Estate of the Late Joy Halbert

Estate of the Late Wilma Harris

Estate of the Late Joyce Henderson

Estate of the Late Dorothy Hill

Estate of the Late Suzanne Kennedy

Estate of the Late Vera June Lawrence

Estate of the Late Pamela Rowlands

Estate of the Late James Strang

Estate of the Late Maybelle Willis

Estate of the Late Miria Worthington

Stallard Family Trust

The Alan & Lilian Cameron Charitable

Endowment

The Harry & Margaret Kerman Trust Fund

Pride of Lions Eye Institute (pledges of support from Western Australia Lions Clubs)

Lions Club of Busselton Lions Club of Kojonup Lions Club of Moora Inc WA

Lions Club of Morley Inc WA Lions Club of Perth Eye Institute Inc

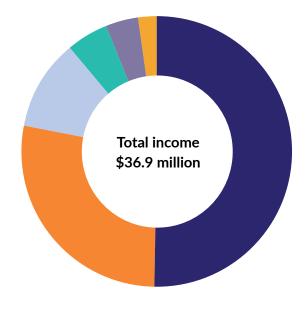
Funding received in the 2020 calendar year.

Financial report

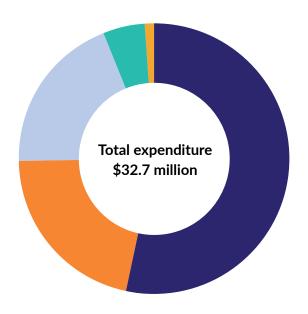
Income and expenditure

Clinical services remained our main source of income during 2020, highlighting our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of our patients, against the backdrop of disruptions due to COVID-19. Our strong focus on research continued, with research revenue in the form of grants and donations representing one-third of total income. Research accounted for just one-fifth of expenditure.

Commercial income	51%
Grants received	28%
Government assistance	11%
Donations and bequests	5%
Investment returns	4%
Other	2%







Assets and liabilities

We have maintained strong reserves and hold minimal debt. Current assets include \$28.2 million in cash and cash equivalents. Current liabilities include \$7.4 million in funding received in advance.

Current assets	53%
Non current assets	47%
Current liabilities	89%
Non current liabilities	11%

More detailed financial reports are available at lei.org.au/about/publications





Grants



Australian Competitive Grants

GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence: From discovery to therapy in genetic eye diseases	Mackey, D et al
NHMRC Ideas : Accelerating the identification, treatment of splice-altering mutations underlying inherited retinal disease	Chen, F Fletcher, S McLenachan, S Cunningham, P
NHMRC Investigator: Further advances in glaucoma therapy	Yu, D-Y
NHMRC MRFF CDF: Career Development Fellowship – Developing personalised treatment for retinal degeneration	Chen, F
NHMRC Partnership: Improved early diagnosis of eye disease by integration of retinal photography and artificial intelligence to build an opportunistic screening service in regional and remote primary care settings	He, Mingguang Turner, A Keel, S Zhang, Lei
NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship: Understanding, predicting, preventing and treating the highly heritable, common eye disease myopia and glaucoma to reduce blindness and visual impairment	Mackey, D
NHMRC Program: Translating genetic determinants of glaucoma into better diagnosis and treatment	Mackey, D et al
NHMRC Project: Orbital pressure aleteration and interactions with intracranial and intraocular pressure	Morgan, B
NHMRC Project: Young adult myopia: genetic and environmental associations	Mackey, D Chen, F Milne, E
ORIA: Optimizing a pipeline for developing treatment for CRB1 – related inherited retinal diseases	Chen, F
RANZCO: Lions Outback Vision	Turner, A





Government Grants

GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Australian Government Department of Health: Rural Health West 4 - VOS	Turner, A
Australian Government Department of Health: Rural Health West - Indigenous Eye Coordinator	Turner, A
WA Country Health Service	Turner, A
WA Government Department of Health: Research Institute Support (RIS)	
WA Government Department of Health: Round 23 MHRIF	
WA Government Department of Health: Telethon Perth Children's Research Fund. Investigating the genetic and environmental factors involved in early onset myopia	Carvalho, L

Other Grants

GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc: Research support	
McCusker Charitable Foundation: Lions Outback Vision	Turner, A
Novartis: DNA analysis for 45 recessive genes with Leber congenital amaurosis or retinitis pigmentosa residing in Western Australia	Chen, F
Perpetual: Developing a gene-independent treatment for inherited blindness	Carvalho, L
Perpetual: Training volunteers to teach visually impaired and blind people to use specifically-designed and commercially available apps	Mackey, D
Perth Eye Foundation	Turner, A
The Fred Hollows Foundation	Turner, A
The University of Western Australia: Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science infrastructure funding	
Vanguard Health: Lions Outback Vision	

International Grants



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Artema Therapeutics: Retinal gene therapy approaches	Carvalho, L
Google LLC: Computer aided diagnosis of eye disease in Australian population(s) using deep learning	Turner, A
Tahija: Inherited retinal degeneration project	Carvalho, L



2020 Snapshot





252 employees

79% female **21%** male **16** highly experienced clinicians

25 students

60 researchers

58,441 consultations

across our Midland, Murdoch and Nedlands clinics

9,758 surgeries and minor procedures

1,198 telehealth consultations

15 volunteers in the clinic concierge program

95% of patients happy or very happy with clinic services



229 rural clinical school trainees

research papers published



professional education forums

29 research grants totalling



\$**6**.021M



3,086

Lions Outback
Vision surgeries
and minor procedures

1,166 telehealth consultations

Vision Van 26,427km driven 411 driving hours



7,578 outreach patients 2,145 by the Vision Van 45% Indigenous 1,636 pairs of

spectacles dispensed





H C Z

53 active clinical trials24 external 21 sponsored8 investigator initiated

5 new trials activated new patients enrolled in trials

680 clinical trial patient visits



271 corneal transplants

57 corneas exported interstate or overseas

142 sclerae

transplanted by Lions Eye Bank **3,786** donations worth



\$1.4м

\$571 received from 14 hequests

677 frames 1,984 lenses sold by Lions Optics



1,346Lions Optics eye examinations

