

# EYE AND EAR SURGICAL SUPPORT (EESS) PROGRAM

## AIM

The Eye and Ear Surgical Support (EESS) program aims to reduce instances of avoidable blindness and deafness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations through expediting access to eye surgery (largely cataracts) and/or ear surgery for conditions caused by middle ear infections (Otitis Media).

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility criteria for the EESS program include:

- Patients identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Patients live in Victoria within MMM 3 – 7 location\*
- Patients require eye surgery (largely cataract)
- Patients require ear surgery caused by middle ear infections (Otitis Media)

\*The Modified Monash Model defines whether a location is a city, rural, remote or very remote. Please refer to the [Health Workforce Locator](#) for location classifications.



## FUNDING SUPPORT

- Domestic travel, meal and accommodation support and other incidentals for health professionals
- Domestic travel, meal and accommodation support and other incidentals for eligible patients and their carer
- Pre and post consultations for the surgery
- Hospital and anaesthetic fees (not including surgery fees- surgery should be bulk billed)

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## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 1** Patients identified on the public waiting list for eye surgery (largely cataracts), and ear surgery and referral received from an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO)
- 2** RWAV Outreach Program Coordinator will liaise with specialist, patient and ACCHOs to complete an EOI application form
- 3** The application will be assessed against needs assessment and eligibility criteria.
- 4** Successful applicant will be notified
- 5** RWAV Outreach Program Coordinator will liaise with all parties to support patient through the surgical pathway and follow-up care

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information or if you require any assistance, please contact us

**T: 03 9349 7800 (option 2)**

**E: [vicoutreach@rwav.com.au](mailto:vicoutreach@rwav.com.au)**