



SAHMRI  
South Australian Health &  
Medical Research Institute



Flinders  
UNIVERSITY

# THE ABORIGINAL EYE HEALTH CARE PROJECT

## What is the study about?

This study is trying to understand how services and organisations respond to the eye care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes in South Australia. We know that blindness is three times higher in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than non-Aboriginal people, affecting everyone from young people to Elders. The good news is that up to 98% of blindness caused by diabetes is preventable by screening early and timely treatment. Therefore, from this study, we hope to get a better understanding of what causes blindness so that we can find better ways to prevent it and assist health workers, eye doctors and health services to help your eyes stay healthy.

## What is involved in the study?

There are three stages in this study.

### Stage 1: Co-design

You will be invited to take part in either one or both of the following activities: A semi-structured interview or co-design workshop. By participating in these activities, you will contribute to the development of an eye healthcare strategy action plan, that better responds to the unmet social, cultural and eye health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your community.

### Stage 2: Implementation

The eye healthcare strategy action plan developed in Stage 1, will be implemented and led by your community health service. The benefits to your community include the early identification of individuals who are at risk of blindness and increased access to eye care treatment pathways. This will help to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people losing their eyesight.

### Stage 3 Evaluation

The evaluation component of the research will allow health services and the Aboriginal community to continually engage in practice improvements. It will also assess the impact of the eye healthcare strategy action plan on strengthening the workforce, improving diabetic retinopathy screening rates and eye care treatment pathways of care.

## Who will be involved?

We will invite Aboriginal community members, service providers and other key people involved in eye healthcare and services to take part in the study.

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For more information about the study, please contact Katherine or Courtney—  
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