

“REAL HUMANITY IS
SHOWN WHEN WE
CARE FOR OTHERS.”

– Professor Fred Hollows



The Fred Hollows
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

WE SEE A WORLD IN WHICH NO PERSON IS NEEDLESSLY BLIND OR VISION IMPAIRED.



“I’LL SAY IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE – THANKS TO FRED HOLLOWES.”

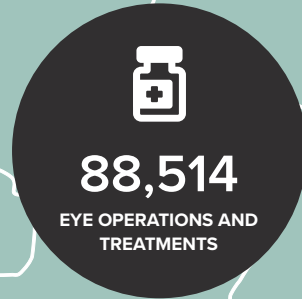
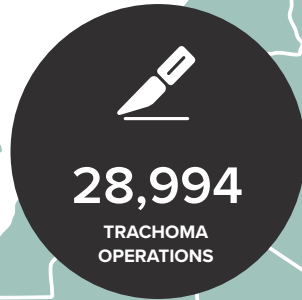
- Larrakia Elder Carol with her younger brother Don

Carol and Don both had their sight restored at a cataract surgery intensive in Darwin supported by The Fred Hollows Foundation.



WATCH

2023 GLOBAL RESULTS



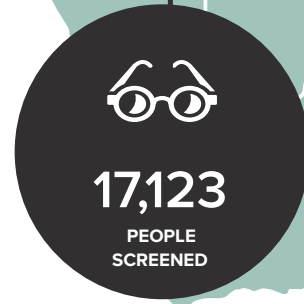
PALESTINE

ETHIOPIA


UGANDA


RWANDA

CAMEROON





 4,435,157 PEOPLE SCREENED

 612,376 EYE OPERATIONS AND TREATMENTS PERFORMED

 6,866,281 PEOPLE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS FOR TRACHOMA

 154,476 PAIRS OF GLASSES DISTRIBUTED

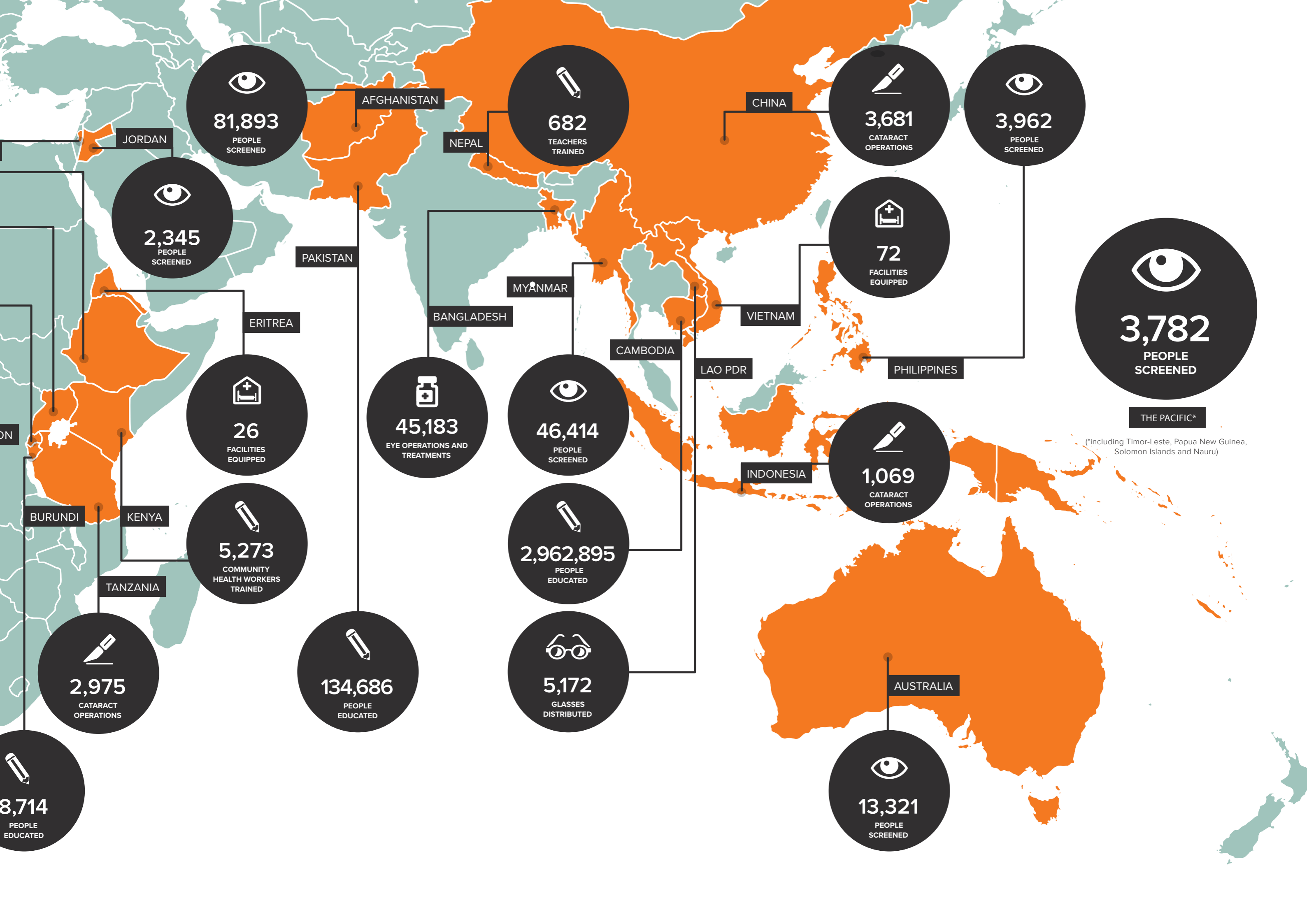
 36,804 PEOPLE TRAINED INCLUDING SURGEONS, NURSES AND TEACHERS

 1,951 MEDICAL FACILITIES, TRAINING CENTRES AND SCHOOLS BUILT, RENOVATED OR EQUIPPED

 5,899,610 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED IN EYE HEALTH AND SANITATION



“WE WILL HAVE MODELS OF SUSTAINABLE BLINDNESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES ON EARTH...” – PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



THE PACIFIC*

(*Including Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru)



The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program. The aim of the Australian aid program is to promote Australia's national interests through contributing to international growth and poverty reduction. In 2023, the Australian Government contributed funding towards The Fred Hollows Foundation's programs in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Nauru, Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu and Vietnam, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and other Australian Aid programs.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a committed signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

More information on the Code, including how to make a complaint, can be obtained

from ACFID by visiting www.acfid.asn.au or emailing code@acfid.asn.au. The Foundation also has its own process for handling complaints which can be activated by phoning The Foundation's head office on 02 8741 1900, and asking to speak with the complaints officer, or emailing complaints@hollows.org. Whistleblower complaints can be sent to The Foundation's Whistleblower Protection Officer at speak-up@hollows.org or +61 418 814 609.

We believe reconciliation is an organisational as well as individual responsibility and our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) outlines our collective commitments in promoting the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians.

Our journey in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a fundamental principle underpinning our work through the Indigenous Australia Strategy. It is why we accepted the invitation of the Uluru Statement of the Heart, issued in 2017, and have actively supported its calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth ever since.

It represents a historical opportunity to reimagine and reconcile our nation, and The Foundation gladly accepted the invitation to walk with them, and people across the

country in this movement for a better future.

To support that, and in consultation with leaders of the Uluru Dialogue and Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition, The Foundation co-founded and co-convened Allies for Uluru with Oxfam Australia, Australian Council for Social Services and ANTA.

Our work is far from complete. The Foundation will continue to champion health and justice reform in Australia, and globally, elevating the voices of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples to advance eye health equity. In doing so, we honour and continue the indelible legacy of Fred Hollows.

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Front cover, inside front cover and page 3 photos: Michael Amendolia

This publication may contain images of persons who have passed away. The Fred Hollows Foundation would like to acknowledge these persons and pay our respects to them and their families.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



ACFID
MEMBER

ABOUT US



WHO WE ARE

The Fred Hollows Foundation is an international development organisation which has worked in some of the world's most remote and under-served communities for more than 30 years. We are independent, not-for-profit, politically unaligned and secular.

We were founded by Professor Fred Hollows AC and Gabi Hollows AO who, with a small group of friends, conceived the idea to continue Fred's legacy through a not-for-profit.



OUR VISION

A world in which no person is needlessly blind or vision impaired.



OUR PURPOSE

Deliver bold eye health solutions that transform lives.



OUR VALUES

Our values of integrity, collaboration, action, resourceful and empowerment (I CARE) underpin every aspect of our work both in Australia and around the globe.

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SCAN FOR MORE

We don't do our work alone. Your support has made the stories in this report possible – and there are many more not told in these pages. Don't forget to scan the QR codes in this report to see the lives you have helped transform.





GABI HOLLOWS AO

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

One year on from our 30th anniversary of restoring sight to the most disadvantaged communities around the world, Fred’s legacy continues to be carried on in The Foundation’s work.

We have not stopped in our fight to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment and make eye health a global priority. This is because people have not stopped supporting us.

I cannot overstate my gratitude for the unwavering support of The Foundation by everyday people, despite the profound challenges of 2023.

We would not be where we are today without their support, and that of our partners, staff and corporate donors. It’s that very championing of our cause that has seen The Foundation support programs in more than 25 countries.

Our work has helped train and empower local eye doctors, nurses, and health workers to create a sustainable system of care in the communities that need it most. We have also been able to bring quality eye care to tens of thousands of women in countries like Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Pakistan.

In October, I was honoured to travel to Vietnam and reunite with Giap, the Vietnamese boy in the photo of Fred that’s instantly recognisable to so many people. It was his 10-year-old son Minh who made a huge impact on me during this trip. Minh talked openly about how much he valued good eyesight and the opportunities that had opened up for his father once his sight was restored. He represents the gift of sight come full circle.

Only days after returning from Vietnam, I was at the finish line for the Sydney Harbour Hike, watching hundreds of people come through after completing a 34km walk from Bondi to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This was the second year of the Sydney Harbour Hike and it was wonderful to see fundraising initiatives like this grow and unite people in our cause.

Last year we also commemorated Professor Gordon Briscoe AO, who passed away in June. Gordon was a Foundation life member, former Board Director, prominent Aboriginal activist and academic. More than that though, he was a life-long friend. He was Fred’s best man at our wedding and godfather to our daughter Rosa. He had an incredible influence on our family, and his passing marks a huge loss to The Foundation and sector. We will always remember his contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and the community.

In a year of mixed emotions, it was an honour to be a part of the 2023 Fred and Humanity Awards, the first time The Foundation has combined these two major awards.

Held at Government House Sydney, with patrons Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC and her husband Mr Dennis Wilson, we named Suzie Ratcliffe from Victoria the Fred Hollows 2023 Humanitarian of the Year.

The recipient of an award that reflects Fred’s values of kindness, compassion and integrity, Suzie has dedicated her life to helping families of missing people, after her sister Joanne Ratcliffe was abducted from Adelaide Oval 50 years ago and never seen again.

Alongside her recognition, we named six Junior Ambassadors from across Australia as part of the Humanity Award. It recognises Year 6 students who follow in Fred’s footsteps by making a positive difference in their community.

These students were Victorian Harlow Cooper, West Australian Fay Rendell, Queenslander Rose Wilson, Zakrya Swade from NSW, Jorja Zelle from the Northern Territory, and the ACT’s Elizabeth (Lizzie) Banks, each of whom has contributed greatly to their own community.

It’s youngsters like these, and like Giap’s son Minh, who teach me afresh about the world. Fred would be astonished at how people from across the cultural, age and political divide join us year after year, campaigning tirelessly for the right to sight in their own ways.

There is not a lot I would want to predict about the future given the volatility of life, but one thing’s for sure – we will continue our work providing high-quality, affordable eye care to those who need it most.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we can continue to make a difference in eye health.



Gabi Hollows AO



READ

JANE MADDEN

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am thrilled to share the strides we made in 2023, a year marked by inspiring developments in eye health. Fred's vision continues to be our north star. His perspectives on inequality and humanity shape The Foundation's values, cascading all the way to practical approaches to eye care.

I saw no better example of this than when I travelled to Kenya, Cambodia and Vietnam in the last quarter of 2023 to visit our country teams and meet valued partners and patients. It was an experience that brought into sharp focus the transformative impact of our work. It carried a humble reminder that many people in low and middle income countries fight incredible odds just to make it to an eye hospital.

The Foundation is doing what we can to make it possible for people, no matter where they live, to access good quality eye care. And to do that, we rely on those who truly understand the unique challenges of each community – our country teams. They make 'sight' happen on the ground. Every day they are building relationships with local partners - governments, schools, hospitals, community groups and other NGOs – in an effort to help more patients and advocate for eye health. It was a true privilege to see the difference they are making.

The Foundation recognises that eye care is not an isolated issue – it sits in the broader context of health, social and economic wellbeing. Fred once said "disequity diminishes us all" and we hold fast to this principle.

In Australia, we have been steadfast allies to First Nations people and supporters of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. Although the majority of Australians voted 'no' in the referendum, this does not change our position of solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We will continue to fight for justice and self-determination, and ensure our own decision-making processes respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.

Despite cost of living challenges, The Foundation's wonderful supporters have continued to give generously. In 2023, we raised a remarkable \$116 million. We know that every dollar is precious, so we cannot overstate our gratitude for everyone who placed their trust and dollars in our work.

I am pleased to report that we remain in a strong position financially thanks in large part to this generosity. This means we can continue to provide essential eye care services and invest in sustainable solutions. In a year defined by economic pressures, this is an achievement and testament to the prudent management of our resources and the unwavering support of our donors and partners.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to unveil our new five-year strategy. This forward-thinking plan takes up the challenge of providing eye care to the growing number of people in need. We will retain our focus on eyes, but we'll be providing a greater continuum of care and building health workforces around the world. For too long, eye care has been treated as a less critical issue. We are supercharging Fred's vision and stepping up to make a bolder impact.

Our achievements would not have been possible without our 'Fred family', which includes our supporters, partners, staff, Board Directors and volunteers. On behalf of the Board, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your belief and loyalty to our purpose. Your contributions, provided in so many different ways, have been instrumental in enabling us to carry out our work.

I have been Chair of The Foundation for three years and it feels like just yesterday that I took the reins. If the past three years have taught me anything, it is that every week and day counts. We have but a little time to make a difference in the world. I invite you to join us as we step into a new era of making a difference. Fred's mark was indelible and I know that by continuing his work, we will transform not just eye health – but lives, minds and hearts.



With Gabi at Chaktomuk Primary School in Cambodia, where teachers have been trained to conduct basic eye checks on students.



Gabi



IAN WISHART

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It's been another hugely memorable year for The Fred Hollows Foundation, one where we continued to grow and reach even more people with our sight-saving work.

As well as laying the building blocks for future success by preparing our 2024-2028 strategy, we also delivered strong results for our beneficiaries.

In 2023, we restored sight to **612,376** people. On top of that, we trained **36,804** health workers, supported the distribution of more than **6.86 million** of doses of antibiotics for trachoma and distributed almost **154,476** pairs of glasses.

Thanks to world-first research by The Foundation, we know that cataract surgery provides one of the largest investment returns of any disease intervention – a staggering US\$20.50 for every dollar spent. The research, launched with Victoria University in June 2023, gives good insight into the true impact of our work. It demonstrates that restoring sight is a good investment and not only helps the individual but can also lift entire communities out of poverty.

Last year also brought its share of challenges, some of which continue to weigh on us all.

Our thoughts are with our friends and partners in Palestine who continue to work tirelessly amidst the horrors of the conflict in the Gaza strip.

In Australia, there was profound sadness following the Voice to Parliament referendum result. It was not the outcome that we wanted, or fought for, and our hearts go out to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Regardless of the result, The Foundation remains steadfast allies with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our programs will continue to work with Aboriginal community-controlled health services and we will double down on practical efforts to close the gap in eye health, an area where there has been significant progress.

We also were saddened by the loss of Elizabeth 'Betty' Hounslow AM, who made a tremendous difference to our work over the years. Betty was a former Deputy CEO of The Foundation and prominent human rights campaigner who worked for almost 40 years in community-based advocacy and service delivery organisations. She joined The Foundation in 2003 as General Manager (Operations) and became Deputy CEO in February 2004, a role she maintained until she retired in June 2014. She was an exceptional advocate who we miss dearly.

Despite the challenges throughout the year, The Foundation continued its work bringing eye care to the most marginalised people around the world. We

launched a new three-year pilot program in Jordan which, in partnership with the Institute for Family Health, will deliver eye care to 10,000 vulnerable school children, including Syrian refugees.

We also continued to shine a light on gender inequity, joining with UN Women to launch a policy brief that called for urgent action to address the gender gap in eye health.

Towards the end of the year we welcomed news that our social enterprise Alina Vision had secured significant financial backing from TVM Capital Healthcare. Alina Vision, which launched in 2018, has grown to become a major player in the eye care sector, operating two hospitals in Vietnam which now have more than 80 staff.

The aim for Alina Vision was always to prepare the organisation for future growth by sourcing external capital, so we are thrilled to have TVM Capital Healthcare on board. This investment has meant the business can be scaled and The Foundation has reduced our stake, knowing the model we helped set up has proven successful.

So, what lies ahead this year? I believe 2024 will be a great year as we set to work implementing our new strategy.

The challenge we face is a global health crisis. The number of people with severe vision impairment is expected to double by 2050 to an estimated 1.7 billion.

Our 2024-2028 strategy puts the focus squarely on sustainable eye solutions. It needs us to be bold, to be agile, and for us to work collectively as one team.

It's an exciting time and I'm confident this new direction will ensure we are well set up to multiply our impact over the next five years.



SEEING OUR IMPACT

Fred knew how important it was to treat eye health problems from a systems level. He once said his work wasn't just about sending eye doctors to disadvantaged communities – it was about helping people help themselves.

The Foundation measures the value of our work beyond the number of people we have restored sight to. Long-term, we look at the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries and their communities. Improved productivity, better educational outcomes and gaps in equity closed – that's real impact and transformation.

As a result of The Fred Hollows Foundation's activities in 2023:



228,000 people had their sight improved or protected



We saved 1.85 million years of sight.

These are The Foundation's highest impact numbers to date, showing that we continue to take lasting strides in ending avoidable blindness.



More than 58% of these outcomes were for women and girls.

It's a positive sign that we are continuing to make progress on closing the gender gap in eye health and removing barriers for women.

In 2023, 40% of The Foundation's health gains were in Africa, where we drove more than 735,000 years of sight saved. This was mostly achieved through cataract surgery, which helped save 580,000 years of sight.

Just under 20% of the total years of sight saved in Africa came from surgeries to treat trachoma (128,000 years of sight saved). These results emphasise the importance of our work eliminating trachoma as the leading infectious cause of blindness around the world.

Finally, simple solutions like a pair of glasses can make a big impact. More than 30% of the people whose sight we improved or protected received glasses to treat a refractive error (which refers to common eye conditions like short-sightedness).

This led to 120,000 years of sight saved and has helped address the wave of short-sightedness in regions like Southeast Asia.

Nurse Ayu embraces Ayi, 77, after returning to her Indonesian village following successful cataract surgery. Ayi said: "Cataract cut my main income source, and it had an impact on me and my family." She is just one of the 228,000 people who had their sight restored.

WHAT'S A YEAR OF SIGHT SAVED?

1 year of sight saved
= A person living for 1 year with full sight, when they would otherwise have been needlessly blind.



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLA

HEALTHY AGEING

In 2023, The Fred Hollows Foundation launched a series of innovative projects focused on healthy ageing in Vietnam, China, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. It further conducted research in Vietnam to better understand the preferences of older people regarding interventions to foster healthy ageing.

Healthy ageing is the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age.

Designed to improve access to eye care services and integrated care for older people, The Foundation's projects build on our long-term work which has restored sight to more than 3 million people, including many older people.

73% of people living with avoidable vision loss are aged 50 or over, amounting to 800 million people globally.

A new report, released on World Sight Day 2023 by

CASE STUDY: VIETNAM

DEN'S STORY

82-year-old Den from Vietnam's Quang Nam province received cataract surgery after a vision screening organised by The Fred Hollows Foundation, Quang Nam Eye Hospital and the Association of Older People.

Initially fearful of the surgery, Den was elated after her sight was restored.

"My eye is clearer now. I'm very happy with my surgery," Den said. "Now I'd like to visit my neighbours and my grandchildren – and I can live alone in my home."

The Fred Hollows Foundation and the International Federation of Ageing, showed that while many eye conditions become more prevalent as people age, blindness is not inevitable in later life.

It highlighted inequities in healthcare access, particularly for older women and people with limited income or education, and called for close collaboration between the eye health and ageing sectors.

The Foundation is contributing to the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) and aiming to address the impacts of vision impairment in older people, including the impact on caregivers.

FIVE YEARS OF GROWTH

The Fred Hollows Foundation's 2019-2023 Strategy sought to prevent blindness and restore sight through four impact goals focused on four eye conditions: cataract, trachoma, refractive error and diabetic retinopathy. As we launch a new five-year strategy in 2024, we would like to reflect on our biggest achievements over the past half decade.

Over the past five years, we saved 7.14 million years of sight.

Committed our biggest ever investment (\$40 million) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health with the launch of the Indigenous Australia Program five-year Country Strategy.

2019



2020

Pivoted during one of the world's most challenging years and deployed eye health workers to supporting the COVID-19 emergency response.

Implemented a global response program to manage the impact of COVID-19 and provide eye care services safely.

Backed the call for a Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

2021



2022

Celebrated 30 years of The Fred Hollows Foundation with events around the world.

Launched Nijgadh project in Nepal, in partnership with the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, for a new community eye hospital. It was the pilot for our first environmental sustainability policy.

Eliminated trachoma in Vanuatu.

Helped secure significant external investment for Alina Vision in Vietnam, ensuring the next stage of its growth journey.

2023



ELIMINATING THE EYE HEALTH GAP IN AUSTRALIA

The Fred Hollows Foundation's work and legacy in Australia has always been grounded in a deep and unwavering commitment to upholding the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to sight, good health and self-determination.

Fred knew our work was cut out for us. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are three times more likely to be blind or vision impaired than other Australians. The solutions lie in culturally safe services, a strong workforce and sustained funding – and above all, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and involvement.

In 2023, The Foundation continued to co-lead the Allies for Uluru in accepting the asks of the Uluru Statement from the Heart (Voice, Treaty, Truth) and to call, as a significant first step, for a Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution. The Allies grew to more than 300 organisations, representing diverse sectors and hundreds of thousands of staff and public supporters.

Following the unsuccessful referendum, The Foundation and Allies for Uluru have reaffirmed our commitment to standing in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as they forge the path forward to Voice, Treaty and Truth through justice and self-determination.

Restoring sight continues to be the crux of our work in Australia, in partnership with community controlled organisations.

CASE STUDY: INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

GWEN'S STORY

Warlpiri Elder Gwen Brown loves to be active. She was on the police force for 10 years, leading night patrol, and enjoyed hunting with other women from Ali Curung, a community in the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory.

Nowadays, Gwen likes to read and collect bush medicine. But poor vision was making the task of finding special medicines difficult.

In 2023, Gwen travelled five hours from Tennant Creek to Alice Springs Hospital to undergo cataract surgery at an eye intensive supported by The Fred Hollows Foundation in partnership with Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation.

She was looking forward to collecting bush medicine again.

"I can't sit and do nothing you know. I'm always moving around," Gwen said.





PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA

CASE STUDY: LIONS EYE INSTITUTE OPHTHALMOLOGY FELLOW

NOUR'S STORY

Nour Barakat is a senior doctor and Fred Hollows Foundation Fellow who started a “medical odyssey” into 28 remote communities of Western Australia in January 2023.

Travelling in a specialist mobile ophthalmology van, Dr Barakat described the journey as unpredictable and multifaceted. She dealt not just with eye health issues but a wide range of medical conditions that required her to be adaptable and resourceful – skills that transcended what was typically needed in a conventional clinic.

“Establishing trust and building relationships... was crucial to tapping into these communities and improving healthcare outcomes,” Dr Barakat said.

“Communication was a complex task, often hindered by language and socioeconomic barriers, and requiring cultural sensitivity.

“The camaraderie across the team and with patients provided relief from the challenge of being away from my family, my kids, and my support system.

“My experiences were not only a testament to my resilience but also a window into the diverse and often underserved aspects of Indigenous healthcare.”



**“THERE MUST BE ACTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT,
USING THE COMMUNITY’S OWN STRUCTURES, IN EVERY
ASPECT OF DISEASE CONTROL AND PROGRAMS.”**

– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



“Working out remote – a lot of people rely on you.”

– Cliff Plumber

CASE STUDY: INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

CLIFF'S STORY

In remote Warumungu Country in the Northern Territory, patients rely on Cliff Plumber to manage their health needs. As a Senior Aboriginal Health Practitioner with the Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, Cliff manages patient care, inserts cannulas and stitches wounds.

Three years ago, Cliff's vision started getting blurry and he struggled to read the fine detail on prescriptions. When ophthalmologist Dr Tim Henderson made one of his regular visits to Tennant Creek, Cliff was screened and diagnosed with cataract.

He underwent surgery at Alice Springs Hospital at an eye intensive supported by The Foundation in partnership with Cliff's employer Anyinginyi.

The Foundation, Anyinginyi and the hospital work together to deliver culturally-safe eye care that includes transport, accommodation and a care plan for each patient. This approach is vital to help close the eye health gap.

The next day, Cliff was looking forward to returning to work and enjoying the simple pleasure of seeing a clear sunrise.

“I love the mornings – waking up and seeing the stars, but they've been glassy and blurry ... so that's what I'm looking forward to,” Cliff said.

OUR RESULTS IN AUSTRALIA

In 2023, The Foundation supported various partners, including Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to deliver eye care services within their communities.

We also helped develop a more culturally literate health workforce so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients are better placed to access the care they need, when they need it.

The Foundation remained staunchly supportive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination through advocating at the local, state, and federal level, seeking to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and decision-making.



IN 2023 IN AUSTRALIA, WE SCREENED **13,321 PEOPLE**



WE PERFORMED **3,095 EYE OPERATIONS AND TREATMENTS**, INCLUDING **179 CATARACT OPERATIONS** AND **2,785 DIABETIC RETINOPATHY TREATMENTS**



WE DISTRIBUTED **2,034 PAIRS OF GLASSES**



WE TRAINED **159 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**



WE EDUCATED **1,201 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS** IN EYE HEALTH AND SANITATION

PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA

“ABORIGINAL PEOPLE... SHOULD BE IN FACT MAKING DECISIONS AND BEING CONSULTED EFFECTIVELY.”

– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



HELPING HER SEE


Women and girls face significant cultural barriers and gender discrimination almost everywhere in the world, which means they are less likely to receive services or treatment on an equitable basis with men.

Unfortunately, this means they are more likely to live with vision impairment. Women and girls account for 55% of those living with avoidable blindness globally, a statistic we know Fred would decry.


This inequity has far-reaching implications for women, their families and communities. The Fred Hollows Foundation takes a systemic approach to our work. We do this through identifying and addressing access barriers to eye health for women and girls, whilst also calling for greater voice, leadership, representation and rights-based policies to accelerate gender equity in eye health.


By reducing discrimination and marginalisation in all areas – including gender, socioeconomic status, disability and indigeneity – we can live Fred’s approach of ensuring no person misses out.

IN 2023:

 **54%** OF THE EYE OPERATIONS AND TREATMENTS PERFORMED WERE ON WOMEN OR GIRLS

 **73%** OF SURGERIES TO TREAT TRACHOMA WERE ON WOMEN OR GIRLS

 **51%** OF PEOPLE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS FOR TRACHOMA WERE WOMEN OR GIRLS

 **58%** OF TEACHERS TRAINED WERE WOMEN

 **54%** OF GLASSES DISTRIBUTED WERE TO WOMEN OR GIRLS



“TO HELP SOMEONE TO SEE IS A TREMENDOUS FEELING.”
– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES

CASE STUDY: BANGLADESH

TAMANNA'S STORY

Tamanna is a 10-year-old girl living in Barisal, Bangladesh. She enjoys playing with her two goats, studying and helping her mother around the house.

When she started having trouble seeing, straightforward actions like climbing a set of stairs became harder. She stopped playing with her friends because she couldn't throw or run as fast.

"I started sitting close to the TV in order to see the programs I wanted to watch," Tamanna said.

One day, her life was transformed when a doctor came to her school to screen students' eyes. He found that Tamanna's vision was impaired and recommended she go to a local hospital, where The Fred Hollows Foundation and Noor Dubai Foundation were providing free eye care.

At the hospital, an ophthalmologist diagnosed Tamanna with myopia, also known as short sightedness (a form of uncorrected refractive error).

She was one of thousands of students who were given a pair of glasses and no longer have trouble seeing.

"I felt happy in the hospital because the doctor and medical staff took such great care of me," Tamanna said. "After getting my first pair of glasses, I feel confident because I see a lot better with them."


The Fred Hollows Foundation and Noor Dubai Foundation have been supporting a comprehensive eye care program in Barisal since 2021, which has opened up access to treatment for students like Tamanna.


A pair of glasses is a simple but effective solution to ensure students can continue reading, learning and enjoying their childhood.


IN 2023 IN BANGLADESH:

 **52%** OF THE EYE OPERATIONS AND TREATMENTS PERFORMED WERE ON WOMEN OR GIRLS

 **53%** OF PEOPLE SCREENED WERE WOMEN OR GIRLS

 **89%** OF CLINICAL SUPPORT STAFF TRAINED WERE WOMEN

 **81%** OF TEACHERS TRAINED WERE WOMEN

 **90%** OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL EDUCATION SESSIONS WERE GIRLS

 **56%** OF GLASSES DISTRIBUTED WERE TO WOMEN OR GIRLS



PHOTOS: KM ASAD

USING OUR PLATFORM FOR CHANGE

Fred knew the value of using one's platform to speak out about the things that matter. The Fred Hollows Foundation continues to use our platform as a respected global NGO to advocate for vision. We do this by building the case to invest in eye health and other areas like women's leadership that can truly transform health systems.





“Now is the time to step up our investment in eye health.”

– CEO Ian Wishart

CASE STUDY

AN INVESTMENT CASE FOR EYE HEALTH

The Foundation released groundbreaking research in June 2023 which found that cataract surgery provides one of the largest investment returns of any disease intervention.

The analysis with Victoria University found that, on average, every dollar invested in cataract treatment returns \$20.50 USD.

The study also found that cataract surgery can provide more than double the return on investment compared to programs aimed at cardiovascular disease, adolescent health, and maternal and child health.

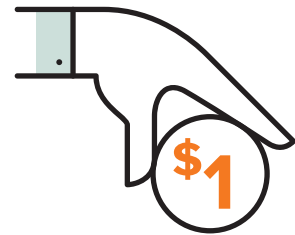
It examined 19 countries across Oceania, Asia, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East that collectively account for nearly 40% of the global disease burden from common eye problems.

“The findings bolster the case for greater collective investment from government, non-government, philanthropy and the private sector to meet the 2030 global eye care targets,” The Foundation’s Senior Global Health Economist Jack Hennessy said.

KEY FINDINGS:

On average,

- Every **\$1 USD** invested in treating cataract delivers an economic return of **\$20.50 USD**.
- Every **\$1 USD** invested in treating myopia delivers an economic return of **\$10.80 USD**.
- Every **\$1 USD** invested in tackling the two leading causes of blindness in the world delivers an economic return of **\$9.40 USD**.



INVESTED IN CATARACT TREATMENT



IN ECONOMIC RETURN

“WHAT WE ARE DOING IS REVOLUTIONARY...WHAT WE ARE DOING IS GIVING THESE PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO HELP THEMSELVES.”

– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

In September 2023, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, The Foundation and UN Women joined forces to launch a landmark policy brief that called for urgent action to address the gender gap in eye health.

The joint policy brief, *No Woman Left Behind: Closing the Gender and Inclusion Gap in Eye Health*, was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The brief provides clear evidence of gender disparities in eye health and highlights the barriers women face in accessing eye care. It makes key recommendations, such as ensuring women who are blind or vision impaired participate meaningfully at all levels of decision-making.

The brief was the result of consulting with more than 170 participants, including women with vision impairment, women's and girls' rights grassroots organisations, disability rights NGOs, and national eye health NGOs.

Together, their resourceful and innovative suggestions enabled a needs-based, localised eye health care support and services policy brief with women and girls' voices being at the heart of the calls for change.



L – R: Sarah Hendricks (UN Women); Besma Essoussi (IBSAR); Jennifer Gersbeck and Dr Ciku Mathenge (The Fred Hollows Foundation); Dr Stephanie Williams (Australian Government); Dr Sabina Rashid (BRAC School of Public Health).

READ

“I have undergone a lot of challenges and had to prove to my community that I can perform and operate better than the male surgeons.”

– Dr Caren

CASE STUDY: KENYA

DR CAREN'S STORY

Kenyan ophthalmologist Dr Caren remembers the moment she decided to become an eye doctor.

One day, she realised her mother's eye had a visible white spot in it. Her mother told her that she was pricked by poisonous grass and, since there was no hospital nearby, community members administered local first aid by putting breast milk into the eye to neutralise the poison.

After a few months, her mother's eye turned white and she lost her sight. It would take a year before she was able to get to Kapenguria County Referral Hospital for surgery, but unfortunately doctors could not restore her vision.

This experience inspired Dr Caren to develop a deep interest in eye care and treatment. In 2016, she enrolled at the Kenya Medical Training College with support from The Fred Hollows Foundation.

She was posted to one of the busiest eye clinics, where she has become a leader and inspiration for women in Kenya.

She told her story at an event in Nairobi to acknowledge eye health workers from West Pokot County, which was attended by visiting Board Directors from The Foundation.

“As a female surgeon I have undergone a lot of challenges and had to prove to my community that I can perform and operate better than the male surgeons, since most men here preferred male doctors,” Dr Caren said.

The Foundation's work in Kenya is supported by the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA


“TEACHING THE CRAFT OF EYE CARE NEEDS PATIENTS, PEOPLE WHO NEED EYE CARE; IT NEEDS SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS WHAT TO DO AND IT NEEDS AN APPRENTICE.” – PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES





OUR GLOBAL RESULTS


Restoring sight is about more than just helping people see. It's about investing in the lives, values and skills to build a more humanitarian world – a world like the one Fred envisioned. In 2023, we worked side by side with our partners to champion everybody's right to eye health. We screened, treated and trained, all in an effort to maximise the resilience of health systems around the world.


WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2023


- 
4,435,157 PEOPLE SCREENED


- 
612,376 EYE OPERATIONS AND TREATMENTS PERFORMED, INCLUDING:
 - **147,764** CATARACT OPERATIONS
 - **30,814** SURGERIES TO TREAT TRACHOMA
 - **9,401** DIABETIC RETINOPATHY TREATMENTS
 - **424,397** OTHER SIGHT SAVING OR IMPROVING INTERVENTIONS

- 
6,866,281 PEOPLE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS FOR TRACHOMA

- 
154,476 PAIRS OF GLASSES DISTRIBUTED

- 
36,804 PEOPLE TRAINED, INCLUDING:
 - **27,127** COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
 - **4,202** TEACHERS
 - **232** SURGEONS

- 
5,899,610 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED IN EYE HEALTH AND SANITATION

- 
1,951 MEDICAL FACILITIES, TRAINING CENTRES AND SCHOOLS BUILT, RENOVATED OR EQUIPPED

CASE STUDY: CAMBODIA

SOK'S STORY

Life could have been very different for Sok. The 10-year-old boy, from Preah Sihanouk on Cambodia's coastline, was born with cataract in both eyes, which could lead to permanent blindness if not treated early.

Unable to attend school, Sok would go to work with his mother Chea La. He would sit patiently on the side of a busy road, waiting for his mother to finish her job as a street cleaner.

"I love and feel pity for this child more than his siblings due to his blindness," Chea Lea said. "He really wants to play but he can't."

Despite struggling to earn enough to support their three children, Chea Lea and her husband sought help from many general doctors who diagnosed different eye conditions. In one instance, a local practitioner prescribed weekly medication that cost US\$600 – almost three times the family's monthly wage.

Chea La sold their land to pay for the treatment, which did nothing to help Sok's vision and, tragically, the family realised they had been scammed.

It was one of the darkest moments of Chea La's life. She had almost given up hope when a local not-for-profit led her to Dr Yan Titsarat, an eye doctor trained by The Fred Hollows Foundation. Dr Titsarat explained that surgery might be able to restore her son's sight.

Chea La and Sok made an anxious 230km journey to Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital in Phnom Penh. They were helped by Cambodia's first two female doctors, Dr Ouk Soleaphy and Dr Sok Kheng, trained by The Foundation.

Chea La's final effort paid off and the surgery was a success. She hugged her son tightly when his eye patches were removed.

When The Foundation followed up with Sok and Chea La in October 2023, they talked about how the boy's life had been transformed.

"When I was blind, I had no friends who would play with me," Sok said. "So today, I am very happy that I can do everything by myself, especially that I can play with my friends on the ground and [in] the sea."

Chea La said the difference it had made to their lives was boundless and her son could now study by himself and take care of his siblings. She is grateful to people who support The Foundation, enabling her son to see again.

"Thank you for helping my family and especially for giving Sok sight. I wish you a long and happy life."

The Foundation's work in Cambodia is supported by the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



WATCH

PHOTO: SIMON TOFFANELLO



“GOOD HONEST WORK... HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THAT?”
– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



2023 REGION HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA

Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and Cameroon

In Africa, we screened **2,242,407** people.

We performed **364,658** eye operations and treatments, including **49,777** cataract operations, **30,814** surgeries to treat trachoma, **1,738** diabetic retinopathy treatments and **282,329** other sight saving or improving interventions.

We treated **6,866,243** people with antibiotics for trachoma.

We distributed **33,072** pairs of glasses.

We trained **24,207** people, including **19,805** community health workers, **44** surgeons and **541** teachers.

We educated **2,056,781** school children and community members in eye health and sanitation.

We built, equipped or renovated **695** facilities.

SOUTH ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Jordan and Afghanistan

In South Asia and the Middle East, we screened **1,035,570** people.

We performed **137,047** eye operations and treatments, including **81,228** cataract operations, **2,400** diabetic retinopathy treatments and **53,419** other sight saving or improving interventions.

We distributed **44,732** pairs of glasses.

We trained **3,292** people, including **1,565** community health workers, **13** surgeons, **24** clinic support staff and **1,690** teachers.

We educated **134,786** school children and community members in eye health and sanitation.

We built, equipped or renovated **450** facilities.

EAST ASIA

Lao PDR, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia

In East Asia, we screened **1,081,786** people.

We performed **106,050** eye operations and treatments, including **15,080** cataract operations, **2,452** diabetic retinopathy treatments and **88,518** other sight saving or improving interventions.

We distributed **72,687** pairs of glasses.

We trained **8,781** people, including **5,478** community health workers, **45** surgeons, **504** clinic support staff and **1,943** teachers.

We educated **3,701,619** school children and community members in eye health and sanitation.

We built, equipped or renovated **804** facilities.

Through Alina Vision in Vietnam, we screened **58,291** people, performed **1,434** cataract operations and distributed **1,951** pairs of glasses.

AUSTRALASIA

Australia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru

In Australasia, we screened **17,103** people.

We performed **3,187** eye operations and treatments, including **245** cataract operations, **2,811** diabetic retinopathy treatments and **131** other sight saving or improving interventions.

We treated **38** people with antibiotics for trachoma.

We distributed **2,034** pairs of glasses.

We trained **450** people, including **279** community health workers and **2** clinic support staff.

We educated **4,983** school children and community members in eye health and sanitation.



"I STAND FOR SPREADING THE BENEFITS OF MODERN MEDICINE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AND IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS." – PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA

CASE STUDY: ETHIOPIA

BASHADU'S STORY

Bashadu (pictured centre left) lives alone in the centre of the bustling township of Dedo in Ethiopia's Oromia province. A grandmother and much-loved member of the community, she used to earn a living collecting wood from the forest, carrying it for up to five kilometres through rough terrain.

"Being independent is important to me," Bashadu said.

Bashadu stopped working three years ago after contracting malaria. While recovering, she noticed her vision getting worse and, after visiting a hospital, was diagnosed with cataract.

Despite knowing about her condition, she could not afford the treatment she needed. As a result, Bashadu spent most of her time inside her home and relied on visits from her daughter Semira and the generosity of neighbours to help her navigate the uneven and sometimes muddy pathways.

Semira said cataract surgery would help her mother immensely.

"She used to be very independent and take care of herself. Once she gets surgery, she will be able to move around again," she said.

Older people like Bashadu face significant barriers in accessing eye care in Oromia province, where roads are in poor condition and travelling to larger cities for treatment is costly. This makes it hard to prioritise eye health.

Thanks to support from The Fred Hollows Foundation and the University of Jimma, locals are benefiting from outreach visits led by the Oromia Regional Health Bureau. It's part of a four-year comprehensive project which is training local eye surgeons and workers and improving surgical quality.

With the help of a neighbour, Bashadu walked to the local hospital at Dedo to attend the cataract camp. Happily, her surgery was a success.

Bashadu glowed when talking about the impact of restored sight on her life.

"I am very well. I am happy today. What is more exciting than this? There is nothing better in this world for me than having my sight back," Bashadu said.



BRINGING EYE CARE TO THE REGIONS

With 1.1 billion people living with some form of avoidable vision loss, The Fred Hollows Foundation's commitment to creating comprehensive, sustainable eye health systems has never been more focused.

To strengthen health systems, The Foundation's work in 2023 placed an emphasis on addressing critical workforce shortages and improving access in remote regions.

In partnership with the Government of Cambodia, The Foundation opened the Kong Pisey Vision Centre in the Kampong Speu province, 60km from Phnom Penh, to help more people in the region access eye care.

There was a great need for the facility, with the only other vision centre in Kampong Speu at least 25km away.

The Foundation has worked with the Government of Cambodia to establish 22 vision centres across 16 provinces that provide vision screening and eye health services.

The Foundation also provided a scholarship for health staff to undertake refractionist training to diagnose and treat refractive errors. They can also prescribe and dispense glasses.

This funding meant that ophthalmic nurse Thork Bunthoeun could upskill. The 30-year-old is now the only refractionist at the Kong Pisey Vision Centre and sees patients with the support of two ophthalmic nurses.

"I really enjoy my job. People around here are happy to have a vision centre because they don't need to go further away to a hospital. When patients are happy, that makes me happy," Thork said.

The Foundation's work in Cambodia is supported by the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



"THE GREAT CHALLENGES ARE NOT REALLY PERSONAL CHALLENGES: HOW MUCH CAN I DO? – THE GREAT CHALLENGES ARE WHAT STRUCTURES CAN I HELP SET IN PLACE THAT WILL ALTER THINGS?" – PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



“I’m looking forward to being able to read again.”

- Sen

CASE STUDY: CAMBODIA

SEN’S STORY

Sen was one of the many people who turned up to the Kong Pisey Vision Centre in October 2023.

The 53-year-old is a retired soldier who served in the Cambodian Army, having been recruited when he was 15. But when Sen lost his leg due to a landmine in 1990, he became a farmer in Boeung Ghuong village.

Awhile ago, Sen’s vision became blurry and he struggled to read or work on his farm. Fortunately, the new vision centre opened and was just 5km from his home.

Sen was diagnosed with myopia and given a pair of glasses.

With his new glasses, Sen will be able to help his wife and son more easily.

“I’m looking forward to being able to read again,” Sen said.

IMPROVING EYE CARE QUALITY THROUGH DATA


Recognising the profound impact data can have on driving positive change, The Fred Hollows Foundation has gone beyond making eye health services available to prioritising the quality of those services.

We know that eye health data can drive increases in efficiency, productivity and better insights. But historically, assessing the quality of care for eye conditions such as refractive error has proven challenging.

Globally, uncorrected refractive error remains the leading cause of vision impairment among children and adults, with at least 161 million people living with far-sightedness and 510 million living with short-sightedness.

To help bridge the data gap in refractive error, The Foundation developed the Quality Refractive Error Care initiative. The study assesses the quality of refractive error care in order to pinpoint gaps in clinical practice that need improvement.

The initiative, which was successfully trialled in three countries across Asia, has already revealed critical insights.

 **In Vietnam, just 44% of glasses prescribed were of optimal quality (with both good vision and comfort) for patients. In Cambodia, the figure stood at 35.1%, and in Pakistan, it was 42.7%.**

Research like this will play an important part in boosting the quality and scope of eye care services around the world.

The Quality of Refractive Error Care study was supported by the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



CASE STUDY: PAKISTAN

SPECTACLE DETECTIVES GO UNDERCOVER IN PAKISTAN

The Foundation's Quality of Refractive Error Care study trained 12 unannounced standardised patients to go 'undercover' in Punjab, Pakistan's second-largest province, and assess the quality of refractive error care provided by optical services.

The study found that, of the glasses dispensed to the undercover patients, less than half (42.7%) were optimal for their refractive error needs. There was also a stark contrast in quality across districts.

The results highlight the critical need for refining refraction and dispensing practices, improving skills, and enhancing communication capabilities among optical service providers in Pakistan.

Results from the study also showed:

- Patients with hyperopia (far-sightedness) were less likely to receive optimal glasses.
- Effective communication during consultations resulted in more optimal glasses.



“YOU WOULD EXPECT YOUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO PREVENT YOU GETTING DISEASES THAT YOU KNOW ARE AVOIDABLE.” – PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWS



KEY DONORS

- ACME Foundation
- ATscale
- Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)
- Bill and Eileen Doyle
- Blackwoods*
- CBM
- Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Consolidated Marketing Group
- IMC Foundation
- IshK Tolaram
- IZUMI Foundation
- JB Hi-Fi*
- Johnson & Johnson Foundation
- Lavelle Fund for the Blind
- National Institutes of Health
- Novartis Pharma AG
- Peterson Group Charity Foundation
- RTI International
- Sightsavers
- Specsavers Australia*
- St James’s Place Charitable Foundation
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- The END Fund
- The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation
- The Noor Dubai Foundation
- The Shine On Foundation*
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Wellcome Trust Fund

* Proudly supporting The Fred Hollows Foundation’s Indigenous Australia Program



CASE STUDY: PROVIDING HOPE IN SIGHT

The Foundation implemented the Hope In Sight project in three provinces across Vietnam to screen and educate people about eye health.

Provincial Eye Hospitals in Da Nang, Quang Nam and Tien Giang served as implementing partners for almost 24 months, screening people’s eyes to detect some of the most common conditions causing vision impairment.

Focusing on cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and refractive error, the Hope in Sight project screened 36,000 people, referring 9,750 for follow-up treatment, and supported 1,100 vulnerable people.

The project included an education program, raising awareness among specific audiences across the community, educating 1 million people in local areas through videos and infographics.

The project leveraged a range of significant days to raise the profile of eye care even further, including World Sight Day, International Children’s Day and International Diabetes Day.



PHOTO: HUE DAO



READ

GLOBAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES

The Fred Hollows Foundation is proud to have partnerships and alliances which play a strategic role in advancing our vision and mission.

On a global stage, these include:

- Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and member of the WHO Civil Society Commission and Global SPECS Network
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
- A member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and represented on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, the global peak body for eye health
- A member of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC)
- A member of the Neglected Tropical Disease NGO Network (NNN) and a member of the Executive Committee
- A member of the Uniting to Combat NTDs Consultative Forum Partnership
- A Supporting Member of the NCD Alliance
- A member of the Research for Development Impact committee
- A member of Women in Global Health Chapter Steering Committee, representing the Pacific Region
- A member of the Coalition for Clear Vision
- A member of EYEAlliance
- A signatory to Deliver for Good, a campaign initiated by Women Deliver and partners calling for better policies, programming and financial investments in girls and women
- A Member of Together 2030, a global civil society initiative engaging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- A member of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism of UHC 2030
- A Member of the Alliance for Gender Equality and Universal Health Coverage
- A member of the secretariat group for the United Nations Friends of Vision, a group of Member States seeking to advance eye health as a sustainable development issue
- A member of Vision for the Commonwealth, a coalition seeking to bring vision to everyone, everywhere in the Commonwealth
- Collaboration with Task Force for Global Health on the NTD safety program
- A partnership with UN Women
- A partnership with UN Development Program (UNDP)
- And a Strategic Organisational Partnership with Sightsavers and close collaboration with CBM.

In Australia, these include:

- A member of the Australian Council for International Development
- A member of Vision 2020 Australia and represented on the Board, the national peak body for eye health and vision care
- Australian Global Health Alliance
- A member of the Steering Committee for the Close the Gap campaign, which aims to overcome the difference in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- A member of the Campaign for Australian Aid
- A member of Diversity Council Australia, a not-for-profit workplace diversity advisor to businesses in Australia

CASE STUDY: BOOST FOR PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA HEALTH

A 10-member advisory committee including The Foundation backed funding from the Australian Government that will support health systems across the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Announced in February 2023, the Partnerships for a Healthy Region program will focus on strengthening health systems related to non-communicable diseases (like diabetes), sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equity and First Nations engagement.

The committee will play a key role in ensuring the program is responsive to local needs.

The initiative builds on The Foundation's Health Security in the Pacific and Investing in our Future research reports, submitted to the Australian Government in 2022.

- A member of Women in Global Health – Australia, holding the Deputy Chair position
- A signatory to the National Anti-Racism Strategy
- A founding member of the Allies for Uluru Coalition
- Centre for Eye Research Australia.

Others include:

- Vision Loss Expert Group
- International Council of Ophthalmology
- Eye Care Foundation
- Tropical Data
- The George Institute for Global Health
- University of Auckland
- And FHF (UK) is a member of Bond, the UK membership body for non-governmental organisations working in international development

THANK YOU IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

AFGHANISTAN

HealthNet TPO.

AUSTRALIA

Kirby Institute (UNSW); London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Central Australia Aboriginal Congress; Health Habitat – Trachoma; Alina Vision Eye Hospital; Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association; Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Co-Operative Ltd; Brien Holden Foundation; Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation; Nganampa Health Council Inc; Lions Eye Institute Ltd; Central Australia Health Service; Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Ltd; CheckUP Australia; South Eastern Sydney Local Health District; NSW Rural Doctors Network Ltd; Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory; Deadly Enterprises; Northern Territory Government Department of Health; University of Western Australia; First Nations Eye Health Alliance.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Jatio Andha Kallayan Samity; Mazharul Haque BNSB Eye Hospital Chandpur; Cox's Bazar Baitush Sharaf Hospital, Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital; Nizam Hasina Foundation Hospital; Grameen GC Eye Hospital; Khulna BNSB Eye Hospital; Dristidan Eye Hospital; Dr. K. Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital, Paribar Kallayan Samity, Jessore, Moulvibazar BNSB Eye Hospital.

BURUNDI

Hôpital de 3ème Référence de Karusi/Karusi Hospital; Hôpital Ngozi/Ngozi Hospital; Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Lutte contre le SIDA(MSPLS)/Ministry of the Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

CAMBODIA

National Program for Eye Health; Provincial Health Departments

of: Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Preah Sihanouk, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Rattanak Kiri, Siem Reap, Kratie, Tboung Khmum; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Women Affairs, University of Health Science.

CHINA

Huangshan Weigongyi Volunteer Association; Xuancheng City Central Hospital; Guoyang County Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine; The People's Hospital of Funan County; The First Affiliated Hospital of University of Science and Technology of China/Anhui Provincial Hospital; Guanyang County Public Hospital Group; The People's Hospital of Ping Guo County; Maternal and Child Care Centre of Rongxian County; First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University; Quanzhou County Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital; Cenxi City People's Hospital; Guilin Medical College Affiliated Hospital Second People's Hospital of Yunnan Province/Affiliated Hospital of Yunnan University, The People's Hospital of Lu Liang County; Xundian County People's Hospital; Jie Shou City People's Hospital; Chao Ju (Inner Mongolia) Ophthalmology Hospital Ltd.; Xiangyun County People's Hospital; Yunxian County People's Hospital; China Center for Health Development Studies – Peking University; National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness; National Institute of Hospital Administration, NHC; Beijing Tongren Hospital, CMU; Baotou Chao Ju (Inner Mongolia) Ophthalmology Hospital Ltd.; Siziwang Banner People's Hospital; Wuchuan County Hospital.

ETHIOPIA

Adama Comprehensive Specialized

Hospital; Arsi University Asella Referral and Teaching Hospital; Jimma University Hospital; Ambo Hospital; Mada Walabu University Goba Referral Hospital; Oromia Regional Health Bureau; SNV Netherlands Development Organisation; Caritas Switzerland; Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia; Zonal Health Offices of: East Wollega, West Hararghe, Kelem Wollega, West Wollega, Jimma, Arsi, East Shewa, West Shewa, Bale, West Arsi, East Hararghe, North Shewa, Guji, Buno Bedele, South West Shewa, Borena, East Bale, Horo Guduru Wollega, Ilu Ababora, Oromia Special, West Guji; Ambo general hospital, Saint Paul Specialized Hospital, Babul keyer bego adragot dirjit.

ERITREA

Ministry of Health Eritrea; Orotta College; UNICEF.

FIJI

World Health Organization, Department of Pacific Technical Support, Suva; International Planned Parenthood Federation.

INDONESIA

West Nusa Tenggara Provincial Health Office; Cicendo National Eye Hospital.

KENYA

Department of Health – Kilifi County/Country Referral Hospital, Taita Taveta County/Moi Voi Referral Hospital, Busia County/Busia County Referral Hospital, Homa Bay County/Homabay District Hospital, Tharaka Nithi County/Chuka County Referral Hospital, Kisumu County/Kisumu District Hospital, Kitui County/Kitui County Referral Hospital, Makueni County/Makueni District Hospital, Siaya County/Siaya County Referral Hospital, Turkana County/Lodwar County Referral Hospital, West Pokot County/Kapenguria

County Referral Hospital, Meru County/Meru County Referral Hospital, Baringo County/Baringo County Referral Hospital, Embu County/Embu County Referral Hospital; Innovation Eye Centre TA Kisii Eye Hospital; Kwale Eye Center; Sabatia Eye Hospital; City Eye Hospital; Ruma Women Development Group; Global Communications Institute – GLOBCOM; Dongruok Doho Youth Group; Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Ophthalmic Services Unit – Ministry of health.

KIRIBATI

Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

LAO PDR

Bokeo Provincial Hospital and PHD; Lao Women Union; Luangprabang Provincial Hospital and PHD; National Health Insurance Bureau; Oudomxay Provincial Hospital and PHD; Vientiane Provincial Hospital and PHD; Xayabouly Provincial Hospital and PHD, Department of Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Health, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MYANMAR

E.T Health Foundation; Rammavaddy Tipitaka Cakkhupala Association; Shwe Yatu Tipitaka Cakkhupala Eye Hospital; Beik Mam Shin Local Charity Organisation.

NAURU

Ministry of Health and Medical Services; Department of Health

and Medical Services-Nauru, Pacific Eye Unit (based in Fiji, implementing in Nauru).

NEPAL

Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology (TIO).

NEW ZEALAND

The Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand.

PAKISTAN

Comprehensive Eye Care Cell, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre; Al-Ibrahim Eye Hospital; Eye Department, Nishtar Medical College Multan; Al-Ehsan Welfare Eye Hospital, Lahore; Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust; Khyber Eye Foundation; Comprehensive Health and Education Forum International; College of Ophthalmology and Allied Vision Sciences (Lahore Punjab); Sind Institute of Vision Sciences (Hyderabad Sindh); Provincial Blindness Control Program Baluchistan, Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Health Ministries of Government of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. National Committee for Eye Health.

PALESTINE

St John Eye Hospital Group.

PHILIPPINES

Provincial Governments of: Antique, Negros Oriental, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea (PNG) National

Department of Health; Project HEAVEN (Fiji), PNG Eye Care.

RWANDA

Rwanda Ministry of Health (MoH).

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services; Kirby Institute (UNSW).

TIMOR-LESTE

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

TANZANIA

Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology.

UGANDA

Christian Blind Mission (CBM).

VANUATU

Ministry of Health Vanuatu.

VIETNAM

Quang Nam Older People Association; Departments of Education and Training of Da Nang; Hai Duong; Tien Giang; Quang Nam and Ben Tre; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Departments of Health of Da Nang and Binh Dinh; Binh Dinh Eye Hospital; Da Nang Eye Hospital; Departments of Health of Ben Tre, Dak Nong and Hoa Binh; Viet Nam Eye Hospital; Department of Health of Phu Yen; Phu Yen Eye Hospital.

“TO MY MIND, HAVING A CARE AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS IS THE HIGHEST OF HUMAN QUALITIES.”

– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



GOVERNANCE

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Foundation is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and governed by a voluntary board.

The Constitution specifies a minimum of five and a maximum of 13 directors, and there were 11 as at 31 December 2023. Of these 11, the majority are directly elected by The Foundation's members at the Annual General Meeting. Up to five may be appointed by the Board itself and there was one appointed director as at 31 December 2023. The Board also appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair(s) from among the existing directors. As at 31 December 2023 there were two Deputy Chairs. Except for Gabi Hollows, who occupies a special position as 'Founding Director', directors are appointed or elected for up to three-year terms and the Constitution sets limits on the maximum consecutive period people may serve on the Board.

At the 2020 AGM the Constitution was amended to embed the benefit The Foundation has had for decades of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander director on our Board. As at 31 December 2023 that position was filled by Wiradjuri woman and 2020 ACT Australian of the Year and 2023 Canberra Citizen of the Year Katrina Fanning AO PSM.

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board is responsible to uphold the public trust vested in them to protect and fulfil the founding spirit and vision of The Foundation and is responsible for its good governance. It operates in accordance with principles and practices set out in its Corporate Governance Charter which is available at www.hollows.org

The Board meets at least quarterly and:

- Sets strategic direction and policies.
- Approves and monitors budgets and ensures appropriate financial and risk management strategies.
- Oversees and protects the broader resource base of the organisation.
- Ensures appropriate risk management and compliance with relevant standards, regulations and reporting requirements.
- Provides accountability to members and stakeholders.
- Appoints, supports and monitors the performance of the CEO who is charged with the executive management of The Foundation.

COMMITTEES

The Board has established three committees, which report directly to it:

- The Governance, People and Culture Committee supports the Board of The Foundation on governance, people, culture, corporate compliance, safeguarding and membership, providing technical expertise and oversight to allow the regular review and monitoring of The Foundation's policies, systems and controls in support of these thematic areas.
- The Finance and Audit Committee assists and advises the Board on key financial, audit, financial systems, financial compliance matters and risk management.
- The Programs and Partnerships Committee provides advice to the Board on the efficacy of its programs, partnerships, advocacy and initiatives, to achieve The Foundation's strategic objectives, and on the management of substantive programmatic risks.

MEMBERS

The Foundation is a membership-based organisation. The goal is to have a diverse membership to reflect the democratic spirit of Fred who attracted the support of people from all walks of life. Our members are generous in sharing their wide range of skills and experience with the Board and staff. They form the inner circle of The Foundation's family. The Corporate Governance Charter requires directors to acknowledge the special trust placed in them by members and their right to hold the Board to account.

Life members

- Howard Davies
- Dr Graham Fraenkel
- Gabi Hollows AO
- Ray Martin AM
- Nigel Milan AM
- Michael Johnson AM

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

At the end of 2023, The Foundation had 418 paid staff, including 232 in-country staff based in our 20 overseas offices. During the year, around 20 people were regular volunteers, and 9 university students completed their internship with The Foundation in our offices in Australia and overseas (Sydney, Dubai, Kenya, Rwanda) and many more gave valuable help on an as-needs basis, including volunteering for business administration and for fundraising events such as the Sydney Harbour Hike.

As of end of December 2023, the Executive Leadership Team was comprised of: Ian Wishart – Chief Executive Officer; Jennifer Bell – People and

Organisational Development Director; Lee Chung – Strategy and Planning Director; Jon Crail – Programs Executive Director; Jennifer Gersbeck – Global Advocacy Executive Director; Nicola Stewart – Public Affairs Executive Director; Kelvin Storey – Director of Global Program Implementation; Claire Yule – Business Operations Executive Director and Alison Hill – Brand and Communications Director.

The Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 requires all Australian non-public sector employers with 100 or more employees to submit a report to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency for the period 1 April – 31 March each year. The Foundation lodges its report to the Agency as soon as practicable after the reporting period ends and data is collated:

<https://data.wgea.gov.au/organisations>

REPRESENTATION AND LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

Internationally The Foundation empowers through the use of locally established but globally aligned Fred Hollows entities to evolve our governance structures and reflect the aspiration of a global organisation.

As at 31 December 2023, The Foundation had related entities in Hong Kong, Kenya, Singapore, UK, US and Vietnam as set out in Annexure 1 of the Corporate Governance Charter. Due to a successful capital raising, on 10 January 2024 The Foundation moved from majority to minority shareholder status for the Singaporean entity Alina Vision Pte. Ltd. and its Vietnam hospital subsidiary Alina Eye Hospital Social Enterprise Company Limited.

The Foundation enters into formal Trade Mark Licence Agreements with a number of those related entities and other Fred Hollows entities with which The Foundation has a shared history. These include The Fred Hollows Foundation (NZ) and the two Fred Hollows Intraocular Lens (IOL) Laboratories in Eritrea and Nepal.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

In line with our commitment to continuous improvement, The Foundation developed minimum standards to guide our practice, systems, and processes in monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning were rolled out mapping each country against the minimum standards. The minimum standards will improve on our rigorous monitoring processes that support the delivery of effective and sustainable programs, including conducting periodic evaluations to examine the quality and impact of projects.

In addition to improving data quality, The Foundation continued to pilot the Routine Data Quality Assessment

(RDQA) tool in Kenya, Vietnam and Nepal in 2023, aiming to expand into other countries.

With the resumption of face-to-face interactions after COVID-19, in 2023, 12 external evaluations were conducted across eight countries. As well as commissioning independent evaluations, The Foundation has a process of annual effectiveness review (AER) for all country programs, requiring analysis of how programs are tracking against strategic objectives. Country program results reports are discussed with technical advisors to identify key learnings and opportunities for ongoing improvement, then synthesized to identify common themes and strengths for organisational improvement. In 2023, 22 country program reviews were conducted.

MODERN SLAVERY

The Foundation condemns all forms of modern slavery and takes a human rights-based approach to tackling modern slavery risks in its operations and supply chains. The Foundation will be publishing its annual Modern Slavery Statement, in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth), by June 2024, a copy of which can be found on our website. In 2023 we conducted Safeguarding People partner training, which incorporates modern slavery, which was attended by over 170 participants globally. We also started work on improving our engagements with suppliers on this issue which will continue into 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2023, The Foundation began work with an expert consultancy to prepare a baseline of our Greenhouse Gas Emissions, which we will use to develop an emissions reduction plan in 2024. We also began a pilot project assessing environmental sustainability capacities and gaps of partner facilities, starting with a key partner in Bangladesh. Environmental sustainability and action on climate change have also been integrated within The Foundation's new organisational strategy – with objectives on *Adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, and optimising the supply chain and reducing environmental and other costs of eye care consumables and equipment.*

A more detailed Environmental Sustainability Disclosure outlining our key activities in 2023 can be found on our website.



Read more: hollows.org/au/safeguarding-and-policies

**JANE MADDEN**

CHAIR

Jane joined the Board in 2021, having been a long-term supporter of The Foundation.

Jane is an accomplished non-executive director with over 15 years' experience as chair and member of boards and committees across government, business and the not-for-profit sector. She is currently on the boards of the National Foundation for Australian Women (President) and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), as well as serving on advisory committees for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, ACT Health and some start-ups. Jane held positions at the most senior levels of the Commonwealth Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Industry, and Prime Minister and Cabinet. She led a highly successful diplomatic career, including as Ambassador to UNESCO Paris, Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Tokyo and assignments in Asia, Africa and Pacific. In other public sector roles, she was the Deputy Secretary of Austrade and the Chief Operating Officer, Digital Transformation Office in the Prime Minister's Department. Jane is the founder and Principal of Canberra advisory firm Brickfielder Insights, specialising in strategy, capability and international business development, and also works as an executive coach to private and public sector leaders. Jane is the Chair of the Governance, People and Culture Committee (formerly the Governance and Nominations Committee).

**PROFESSOR HELEN EVANS AO**

DEPUTY CHAIR

Helen is an expert in public health, social policy and development with a special focus on infectious diseases. She has been

involved in a range of national and international health and development organisations. Based in Geneva from 2005 until her retirement in 2014, Helen was Deputy Executive Director at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria until 2009. She was Deputy CEO at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance until August 2014. In the early 1990s Helen managed the National Communicable Diseases Program in the Australian Government's Department of Health. For seven years, prior to taking up her position as deputy at The Global Fund, she headed up the Australian Government's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Helen is a member of the Technical Reference Group for the Australian Government's Partnerships for a Healthy Region. Helen is an honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne's Nossal Institute for Global Health, and a board member of the Burnet Institute, the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer and the Australian Global Health Alliance. Helen is the Chair of The Foundation Board's Programs and Partnerships Committee.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL JOHNSON AM**

DEPUTY CHAIR

Michael had a close relationship with Fred Hollows and was one of the team that set up

The Foundation. He has served The Foundation in various

governance roles since its establishment in 1992. Michael has extensive experience as a professional economist, educator, and researcher. He is an Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences at UNSW and a Life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. He is an editor of the research and policy journal, the Economic and Labour Relations Review published by Sage. In 2015, Michael was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the blind and vision impaired, to education, and the community. Michael serves as a member of the Board's Governance, People and Culture Committee and the Programs and Partnerships Committee, as well as Deputy Chair of The Foundation. He is also a Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation Kenya and The Fred Hollows Foundation (UK).

**NICKI ANDERSON FAICD**

Nicki joined the Board in May 2022 and also joined The Fred Hollows Foundation (USA) Board in May 2023. She has a strong link to The Foundation through her

uncle, an ophthalmic surgeon who knew Fred Hollows and specialised in cataract surgery and corneal grafting. Nicki has over 25 years' experience working in Oceania, Asia, Europe and America and has hands-on leadership experience in strategy, sales, fundraising, marketing, customer experience and innovation across multiple sectors. In addition to her significant leadership roles in the commercial sector, she was the Head of Major Donor Partnerships for over three years at Australian Red Cross and won the Persia Porter Scholarship to advance knowledge of the Red Cross throughout the world in 2018.

**RUWAN DE MEL**

Ruwan joined the Board in May 2019 after serving on the Programs and Partnerships Committee from 2017. He has over 21 years' experience in international aid and development. Ruwan is a Chartered

Accountant of the Institutes of England and Wales and of Australia and New Zealand and previously worked in audit, corporate advisory and investment banking fields in London and Sydney. From 2003 to 2014, Ruwan worked in the international development aid sector in Geneva, at the Global Fund (related to AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria). He was the Global Fund's Director of Strategy for several years. Now Sydney based, Ruwan continues to contribute to the international humanitarian and development sectors and consults to a number of international organisations.

**KATRINA FANNING AO PSM**

Katrina is a Wiradjuri woman with many years of leadership and public sector experience, and a strong commitment to making a difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander people. She is the CEO of Coolamon Advisors, an Indigenous consulting firm, Board member of the Family of League Foundation, Director at Callida Indigenous Consulting Pty Ltd and Chair of the Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council. A women's rugby league pioneer, Katrina played the inaugural Jillaroos test in 1995, retiring as the most capped female player after 26 appearances for Australia. Katrina was

the 2020 ACT Australian of the Year and has been awarded a Public Service Medal. She is a member of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee.



DR MICHELLE GAYER

Michelle joined the Board in January 2023, having served on its Programs and Partnerships Committee from July 2022. She is a global expert in public health, infectious

and humanitarian emergencies. Her career over the last 25 years has been devoted to ensuring evidence-based healthcare for vulnerable populations globally. She has worked domestically in Australia as a clinician, including in rural and indigenous communities, and internationally for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Michelle has published numerous WHO guidelines on infectious disease control in emergencies, deployed extensively to conflict and disaster settings to run operations and provided technical advice to governments and partners. She has also served as Vice Chair of WHO's Research Ethics Review Committee (ERC), as Associate Professor, University of NSW School of Population Health, and currently serves on the Funding Committee of Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC), as Associate at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, as Academic Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Studies, University of Geneva, and Special Advisor for Global Programmes at the Henri Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.



DR ANTHONY HALL

Anthony joined the Board in May 2019 and prior to this served as an independent member of the Programs and Partnerships Committee from 2018. Anthony completed

a Master of General Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe, where he won a medal for community medicine. He ran a small eye program in his birth country of Lesotho and spent 12 years in the UK training to be an ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon. From 2000 to 2011, Anthony was Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania, helping to train ophthalmologists and unifying standards across East Africa. He also established a vitreoretinal fellowship training program. Anthony is currently an ophthalmologist and Vitreoretinal surgeon in Newcastle and head of the department of ophthalmology at the John Hunter Hospital.



CHRISTINE HAWKINS AM

Christine was elected to the Board in 2015 after serving as an independent member of the Finance and Audit Committee from November 2010. Originally an economist

with the Reserve Bank of Australia, Christine spent her senior executive career as a corporate adviser in investment banking, specialising in capital markets and financial structuring. In 1997, she established Cinnabar International Pty Limited, which provides advice on effective governance for companies. Christine's reputation

in governance leadership is maintained through her position as Board and Governance Principal with Directors Australia, and a number of board roles. In addition, she holds several appointments as Chair and member of State government audit and risk committees and is Chair of a private higher education institute. Christine is a member of The Board's Finance and Audit Committee, a member of the Governance, People and Culture Committee and Chair of The Fred Hollows Foundation Kenya.



GABI HOLLOWS AO

Gabi is the Founding Director and has served on the Board since its establishment. She graduated as an orthoptist in 1972 and travelled with Fred Hollows for three years

on The Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists National Trachoma and Eye Health Program. In 2013, Gabi was invested as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her work as an advocate for the eradication of blindness, she was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International, and in 1998 was declared one of Australia's '100 Living National Treasures'. Gabi has been the recipient of numerous awards including: the Centenary Medal (2003), the Rotary International Inspirational Women Award (2011), an Honorary Doctorate in Health Science from Sydney University (2012), the Advance Australia Award for Community Service, the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Asia Medal (2014), the United Nations Association of Australia Peace Program Lifework Award (2017), the UN Australia Association Lifework Award (2017), the John Yu Medal by The George Institute for Global Health (2018) and she was the Impact 2025 Collaboration Award winner (2021). Gabi is the Patron of The Fred Hollows Foundation Regular Giving Program and undertakes extensive speaking engagements for The Foundation. She is a member of the Board's Governance, People and Culture Committee and the Programs and Partnerships Committee.

TINA WYER



Tina joined the Board in May 2022, and has over 25 years' experience in corporate, financial services and not-for-profit organisations. She has held several C-suite roles, responsible for driving major change

and transformation agendas across both the business and technology domains. Her international experience working in the US, Australia and Singapore has provided a unique perspective of the business functions, regulatory, controls and opportunity landscape across diverse disciplines, geographies, and cultures. Tina founded her own company Unbeatable You, with the vision to provide career inspiration, guidance, motivation and advice to the talent of the future. She is Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and also serves on a number of Boards, including Hume Bank.



The full Directors' Report for 2023 is available on The Foundation's website [hollows.org](https://www.hollows.org) or upon request by emailing fred@hollows.org or phoning 02 8741 1900.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2023	2023	2022
	\$000	\$000
REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME		
Community and corporate support		
Donations and gifts	56,012	52,021
Bequests and legacies	24,294	20,415
Grants		
Revenue from contracts with donors	30,394	29,669
Investment income	2,856	606
Other Income	3,136	2,030
	116,692	104,741
EXPENDITURE		
<i>International aid and development programs expenditure</i>		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	50,301	44,089
Program support costs	20,751	17,149
Community education	9,409	8,187
Fundraising costs		
Public fundraising	20,286	17,471
Government, multilateral and private	205	176
Accountability and administration	6,233	5,237
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	107,185	92,309
<i>Domestic aid and development programs expenditure</i>		
Domestic programs	6,520	5,593
Community education	862	748
Fundraising costs	1,880	1,612
Accountability and administration	572	478
Total domestic aid and development programs expenditure	9,834	8,431
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	117,019	100,740
TOTAL (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(327)	4,001
Surplus for the year attributable to:		
Non-controlling interest	(88)	(120)
Members of the parent	(239)	4,121
TOTAL (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(327)	4,001

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	\$000	\$000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,000	47,705
Other interest bearing deposits	18,018	4,150
Trade and other receivables	8,342	4,593
Total current assets	44,360	56,448
Non-current assets		
Financial assets at fair value	23,545	7,988
Other receivable	92	101
Plant and equipment	1,590	1,699
Intangible assets	1	170
Right of use assets	1,468	1,549
Total non-current assets	26,696	11,507
TOTAL ASSETS	71,056	67,955
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	6,534	5,726
Deferred grants	13,846	11,299
Provisions	3,666	3,376
Lease liabilities	1,172	1,202
Total current liabilities	25,218	21,603
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	860	882
Other payables	1,413	1,527
Provisions	676	675
Lease liabilities	308	360
Total non-current liabilities	3,257	3,444
TOTAL LIABILITIES	28,475	25,047
NET ASSETS	42,581	42,908
Total Equity attributable to:		
Non-controlling interest	92	180
Members of the parent	42,489	42,728
TOTAL EQUITY	42,581	42,908

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Accumulated Surplus	Contingency Reserve	Non-Controlling Interest (i)	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance as at 1 January 2022	28,481	10,126	300	38,907
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,121	-	(120)	4,001
Movements in contingency reserves	(7)	7	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2022	32,595	10,133	180	42,908
Balance as at 1 January 2023	32,595	10,133	180	42,908
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(239)	-	(88)	(327)
Movements in contingency reserves	(1,404)	1,404	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2023	30,952	11,537	92	42,581

(i) The non-controlling interest represents the minority shareholders’ interest in Alina Vision Pte Limited.

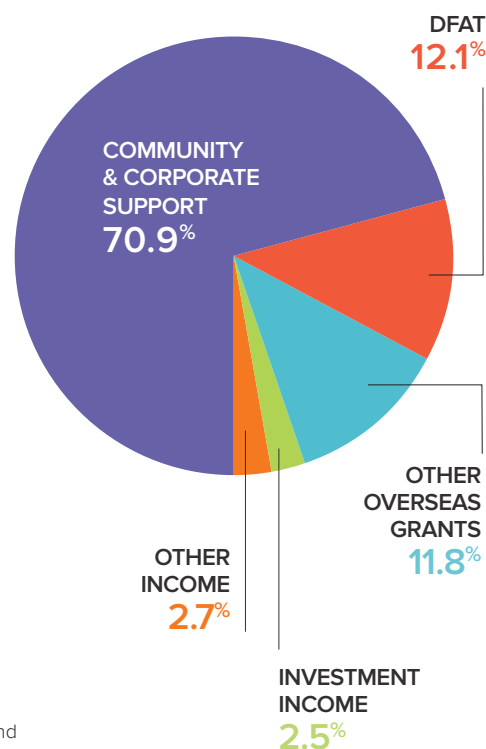
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Corporate Support <p>Income received from the public and corporations, in the form of public donations, project grants, fundraising and bequests</p>	82,755
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) <p>Grants received from the Australian Government’s overseas aid program</p>	14,153
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Overseas Grants <p>Grants received from Governments, Trusts & Foundations for international programs</p>	13,792
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Income 	2,856
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Income 	3,136
Total	116,692

\$000

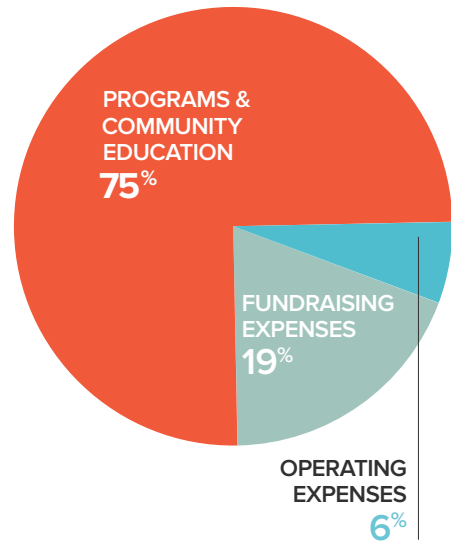
SOURCE OF INCOME



The Fred Hollows Foundation is in a sound financial position to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable. The maintenance of a contingency reserve protects

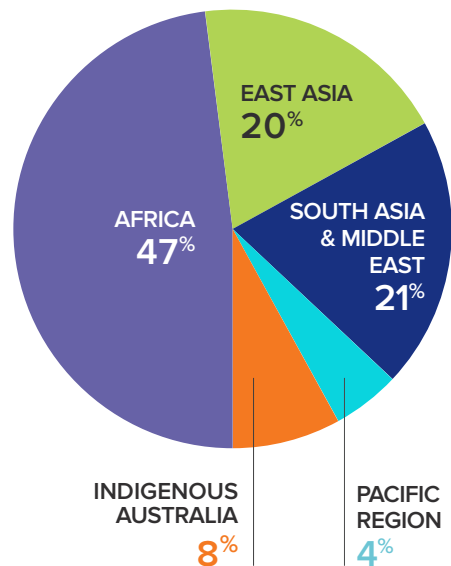
The Foundation from future unforeseen events to meet contractual, legal and ethical obligations to partners, suppliers of goods and services and staff.

HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT	\$000	\$000
● Programs & Community Education		87,844
Africa	36,582	
East Asia	15,023	
South Asia & the Middle East	16,365	
Pacific Region	3,081	
Indigenous Australia	6,520	
Community Education	10,272	
● Fundraising Expenses		22,370
Public & Government/Multilateral fundraising		
● Operating Expenses		6,805
Accountability and administration		
Total		117,019



WHERE THE PROGRAM MONEY WAS SPENT

● Africa	36,582
● East Asia	15,023
● South Asia & the Middle East	16,365
● Pacific Region	3,081
● Indigenous Australia	6,520
Total	77,571



“Programs” includes expenditure on our development work across both international and Indigenous programs, as well as a small amount of expenditure on emergency relief.

“Community Education” includes staff time and outlays involved in providing community information and raising awareness around eye and Indigenous health issues as well as broader international development issues.

“Fundraising Expenses” are the costs associated with attracting more support

through donations and sponsorships, and includes items such as advertising, mail-outs, the toll-free phone line and processing of donations.

“Operating Expenses” covers the administrative and other costs inherent in running an organisation, including staff time in areas such as finance, human resources, information technology and administration, insurance premiums, legal and professional fees, office supplies and other running costs.

AUDITOR'S LETTER



Tel: +61 2 9251 4100
Fax: +61 2 9240 9821

Level 11, 1 Margaret Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of The Fred Hollows Foundation

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the consolidated statement of income and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial report of The Fred Hollows Foundation (the Entity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 19 March 2024.

Responsibilities of management on the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with ACFID Code of Conduct.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd ABN 33 134 022 870 is a member of a national association of independent entities which are all members of BDO Australia Ltd ABN 77 050 110 275, an Australian company limited by guarantee. BDO Audit Pty Ltd and BDO Australia Ltd are members of BDO International Ltd, a UK company limited by guarantee, and form part of the international BDO network of independent member firms. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



Auditor's responsibilities on the Summary Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Leah Russell
Director

Sydney, 11 April 2024

An independent audit of The Fred Hollows Foundation's financial accounts for 2023 was conducted by:

Leah Russell (*Director*)
BDO Audit Pty Ltd
Level 11, 1 Margaret St
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

The Summary Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

The full Financial Report can be obtained at www.hollows.org/au/annual-reports

THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS

We'd like to thank our supporters who carry on Fred's legacy to give every person access to inexpensive and high-quality eye care, regardless of who they are and where they live. So many individuals, families, volunteers, corporations, workplaces and community organisations have helped us carry on Fred's legacy this year. Our work in more than 25 countries would not be possible without your generosity and support.

REGULAR GIVING

In 2023, another 18,333 Australians chose to become a Visionary and join Fred's team as regular givers supporting The Foundation's work to restore sight and change lives. Your monthly gifts allow us to plan ahead and develop strategic and targeted programs that tackle avoidable blindness and give the gift of sight to more people every month! Thank you. The results in this Annual Report demonstrate what we can achieve together with your generous support.

YOUR WILL – KEEPING FRED'S VISION ALIVE

To the families and friends of those who left a gift in their Will, and those who intend to, thank you. Fred always encouraged people to "leave the world a better place". A gift in your Will means you help his vision to live on. Over the years, The Foundation has been a grateful beneficiary of many gifts which have helped restore sight to millions of people in more than 25 countries. For more information, visit www.hollows.org/au/you-can-help/gift-in-your-will

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE INCREDIBLE LEGACIES OF THE ESTATES OF:

Brigitte Jakstins von Faber

John Denis Lister

Dr Daisy Tin

Elizabeth Harriet Mason

Robert George Curtis

Susan Wendy Cobham

...and the many more supporters whose legacies have helped transform the lives of people living with avoidable blindness

OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS 2023

Anthony Shields*

APA Group*

Barry Finch

D Hutchinson

Dallas and Margaret Finney

The Gita Bellin Legacy Foundation*

Global Mark

Goldburg Family Foundation

Good2Give

Harris Charitable Foundation

Henk and Debbie Verhagen

Henry and Ann Groman

John Davenport

Julie Hannaford*

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

L M Yager

L'Occitane Australia*

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Maple-Brown Family Foundation*

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI)

Muslims Around The World

National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation*

Northfield Christian Spiritualist Mission Inc

Orbis International

Rita Andre

Ryman Healthcare

Saywell Foundation*

Simply Helping*

Srjan Marjanovic

TechnologyOne

Terry and Caroline Bellair

The Electric Bicycle Co (TEBCO)

The Geoff Booth Foundation

The George Lewin Foundation

The HOYTS Group*

The Life You Can Save

The Logan Family Foundation*

The Sutters Foundation

Tony Karas

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

** Proudly supporting The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program*

"I THINK YOU SHOULD DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU."

– PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES



PHOTO: HUGH RUTHERFORD



WATCH

“DAVID IS NOW ABLE TO WRITE AND EVEN SEE THE WRITING ON THE BLACKBOARD.”

– David’s father Samuel



“YOU REALLY ONLY ACCOMPLISH YOURSELF WHEN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH OTHER PEOPLE’S WELFARE.”

– Professor Fred Hollows



The Fred Hollows Foundation