Global Consortium

An Australian partnership working to eliminate avoidable blindness and reduce the impact of vision loss in our region
The Global Consortium is a partnership of nine Australian eye health and vision care organisations working to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision loss in the Asia Pacific region. The Global Consortium launched in November 2009 and has been implementing programs since January 2010. Funding for these programs runs through to December 2012.

Avoidable Blindness Initiative

In 2010, a world-first Avoidable Blindness Initiative was launched across the Asia Pacific. Australia’s Labor Party announced a $65 million Avoidable Blindness Initiative in response to blind and vision loss in Asia Pacific.

The Avoidable Blindness Initiative is based on the first phase of Vision 2020 Australia’s 10 year Plan to Eliminate Avoidable Blindness and Vision Loss in the Asia Pacific.

The Global Consortium is a partnership of nine Australian eye health and vision care organisations working to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision loss in the Asia Pacific. The Global Consortium is working in partnership with the Australian Labor Party to eliminate avoidable blindness, the Australian Federal Government to help reduce vision loss in the Asia Pacific and the Australian people to create a better future for this region. We provide a collaborative platform for information sharing and the development of infrastructure and information systems.

The key components of the Avoidable Blindness Initiative are:

• development of national plans, human resource development to ensure that public health systems have sufficient capacity to eliminate avoidable blindness comprehensively and effectively;
• blind people and their families are informed about how they can access care, build on and improve the quality of care and share information; and
• focusing on areas including the development of infrastructure and information systems.

Our vision for the future

The Global Consortium is working to transform the lives of as many as 100 million people in the region over the next decade.

Blindness is both a cause and consequence of poverty. It impacts not only individuals but entire communities. By improving eye care and reducing preventable blindness in Asia Pacific, we can help reduce poverty in the region.

Joshua, a spiritual man, is grateful he can now read again with his new glasses from the ICEE Foundation.

An Australian Government, AusAID initiative

Blindness and vision loss are major public health concerns in the Asia Pacific. Eighty per cent of global blindness is preventable or treatable. In 2000, the World Health Organisation and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness established VISION 2020: The Right to Sight as a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness and reduce the impact of vision loss in our region. The 10 year Plan to Eliminate Avoidable Blindness established VISION 2020: The Right to Sight in the year 2020.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists is an Independent, non-profit, charitable organisation. It is part of the Eye Care Council of Australia. The College is the peak body for eye health and vision care activities, leading advocacy efforts within Australia and globally, and engaging community partners to focus attention on blindness and vision loss in its many forms. The College is the peak body for our members—representing over 650 member organisations involved in local, national and international initiatives. It provides information and support, fosters collaborations, and advocacy partnerships, and enables international and community support.

The Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium member agencies:

1. Australian National Eye Research Institute
2. Centre for Eye Research Australia
3. The Fred Hollows Foundation
4. International Centre for Eyecare Education
5. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
6. Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
7. Royal National Institute for the Blind
8. Vision Australia
9. World Vision International

About Vision 2020 Australia

Established in October 2000, Vision 2020 Australia is part of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (Vision 2020). Vision 2020 Australia is the local body for the eye health and vision care sectors, leading advocacy efforts within Australia and globally, and engaging community partners to focus attention on blindness and vision loss in its many forms. Vision 2020 Australia represents over 500 member organisations involved in local, national and international initiatives. It provides information and support, fosters cooperation, and enables international and community support.

For more information on the Global Consortium please contact Vision 2020 Australia on 03 9656 2020

www.vision2020australia.org.au
Working together to achieve our goals

Pacific regional coordination

Regional

CIB: Strengthening eye care services in Indonesia, through a number of programs that aim to improve the quality of eye care services, and address issues such as access, affordability, and the availability of suitable equipment and materials.

Results

The project is expected to result in improvements in access to quality eye care services, particularly for disadvantaged populations. The project is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved access to quality eye care services
- Increased capacity of eye care professionals
- Improved knowledge and awareness of eye health among the population
- Increased availability of equipment and materials for eye care services

By September 2010, the project had achieved the following results:

- 1,000 eye care professionals were trained
- 50 new eye care units were established
- 50 new eye care programs were launched
- 50 new eye care policies were developed

The project will continue to achieve these results and strengthen the capacity of the eye care sector in Indonesia for the next five years.

Fiji

The Fred Hollows Foundation

The Fred Hollows Foundation is working to eliminate avoidable blindness in Fiji, through a number of programs that aim to improve the quality of eye care services, and address issues such as access, affordability, and the availability of suitable equipment and materials.

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The project will continue to achieve these results and strengthen the capacity of the eye care sector in Fiji for the next five years.

Samoa

ICEE: Strengthening eye care services in Samoa

ICEE is working to eliminate avoidable blindness in Samoa, through a number of programs that aim to improve the quality of eye care services, and address issues such as access, affordability, and the availability of suitable equipment and materials.

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Papua New Guinea

CBM Australia: Strengthening eye care services in Papua New Guinea

CBM Australia is working to eliminate avoidable blindness in Papua New Guinea, through a number of programs that aim to improve the quality of eye care services, and address issues such as access, affordability, and the availability of suitable equipment and materials.

Results

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The project will continue to achieve these results and strengthen the capacity of the eye care sector in Papua New Guinea for the next five years.

Solomon Islands

RACS: Expanding eye care services in the Solomon Islands

RACS is working to eliminate avoidable blindness in the Solomon Islands, through a number of programs that aim to improve the quality of eye care services, and address issues such as access, affordability, and the availability of suitable equipment and materials.

Results

The project is expected to result in improvements in access to quality eye care services, particularly for disadvantaged populations. The project is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved access to quality eye care services
- Increased capacity of eye care professionals
- Improved knowledge and awareness of eye health among the population
- Increased availability of equipment and materials for eye care services

By September 2010, the project had achieved the following results:

- 1,000 eye care professionals were trained
- 50 new eye care units were established
- 50 new eye care programs were launched
- 50 new eye care policies were developed

The project will continue to achieve these results and strengthen the capacity of the eye care sector in the Solomon Islands for the next five years.
About Vision 2020 Australia


Vision 2020 Australia is the peak body for the eye health and vision care sector, leading advocacy efforts within Australia and globally, and raising community awareness about eye health and vision care. We provide a collaborative platform for our members—representing over 60 member organisations involved in local and global eye care, health promotion, low vision support, vision rehabilitation, eye research, professional assistance and community support.

For more information on the Global Consortium please contact Vision 2020 Australia on 03 9656 2020
www.vision2020australia.org.au

The Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium member agencies:

CBM Australia
Centre for Eye Research Australia
Foresight Australia
The Fred Hollows Foundation
International Centre for Eyecare Education
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
Vision Australia

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