

WHO Global Eye Health Targets

The 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) has endorsed the following global eye health targets to be achieved by 2030 -

1. A 40-percentage point increase in effective coverage of refractive error by 2030:

- countries with a baseline effective coverage rate of 60% or higher should strive for universal coverage;
- countries should aim to achieve an equal increase in effective coverage of near and distance refractive error in all relevant population subgroups, independent of baseline estimates.

2. A 30-percentage point increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery by 2030:

- countries with a baseline effective coverage rate of 70% or higher should strive for universal coverage;
- countries should aim to achieve an equal increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery in all relevant population subgroups, independent of baseline estimates.

Based on the unmet need for care associated with unoperated cataract and uncorrected refractive error, coupled with the fact that highly cost-effective interventions exist, it was agreed that effective cataract surgical coverage and effective refractive error coverage serve as ideal proxy indicators to track changes in the availability, accessibility and quality of eye care services at the global level.

All participating countries will be asked to periodically report on these targets. In Australia, National Eye Health Surveys are the key source of data for these measures with 2016 data suggesting that:

- Refractive error coverage is currently 82% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and 94% for other Australians;
- Cataract surgery coverage is currently 59% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and 89% for other Australians.

Vision 2020 Australia members are actively working on strategies to address cataract surgery coverage rates, particularly in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples