



Partnership and Allyship Statement: Our Commitment Not to Compete

The Fred Hollows Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program (IAP) is committed to walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and leaders in ways that strengthen self-determination, community control and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in eye health.

As part of this commitment, we will not compete with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, or other Aboriginal-led organisations for government funding. We have not, do not, and will not seek government funding opportunities where doing so would place us in direct competition with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations.

This position reflects our role as an ally and accountable partner. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations have the right to lead the decisions, services, systems and funding priorities that affect their health and wellbeing. Our role is not to take up space that should be held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership. It is to use our position, influence, relationships and resources to strengthen that leadership and add value where invited.

This commitment is grounded in IAP's Ways of Working:

1. We listen first.
2. We only work where we are invited.
3. We respect community authority, cultural protocols and local priorities.
4. We work in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations wherever possible.
5. Where culturally appropriate, we support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to lead and apply for funding, rather than competing against them.

Our approach also reflects IAP's long-term strategy to support self-determination and full community control for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health. This means backing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led governance, strengthening community-controlled services, supporting the First Nations Eye Health Alliance and other peak bodies, and advocating for resources to flow directly to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health sector.

Living Our Values

Our commitment to partnership, allyship and the non-compete principle reflects both The Fred Hollows Foundation's ICARE values and IAP's Ways of Working.

We demonstrate:

- **Integrity** by being transparent and accountable, honouring our commitment to self-determination, and ensuring our actions do not undermine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.
- **Collaboration** by working alongside ACCHOs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, governments and partners to achieve shared goals rather than competing for the same opportunities.





- **Action** by using our influence to advocate for policy reform, systems change and generational investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led eye health solutions.
- **Resourcefulness** by mobilising philanthropic, corporate and donor investment to complement government funding and support partner-led innovation, capability strengthening and strategic initiatives.
- **Energised** by championing equitable eye health outcomes, building trusted relationships and bringing partners together to create meaningful and lasting change.

This approach also reflects our Ways of Working Principles. We listen first, build respectful relationships, act as a true ally, support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, and ensure our work strengthens community control and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led services rather than duplicating or competing with them.

Rather than competing for government funding, IAP works alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations where invited, with leadership and decision-making remaining with partners. We can add value by:

Our Role

- Partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, with leadership and decision-making remaining with partners.
- Supporting community-led priorities, advocacy and systems change.
- Amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, leadership and solutions.
- Bringing evidence, technical expertise and connections to the table where these are invited and add value.
- Mobilising additional resources and investment to grow the overall pool available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.
- Influencing governments and decision-makers to increase investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.
- Supporting funding and resources to flow to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations.

Why Philanthropic, Corporate and Donor Investment Matters

Philanthropic, corporate and donor investment enables IAP to support partner-led priorities and help grow the overall pool of resources available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.

Where invited, IAP can bring the Foundation's relationships, reach, evidence, technical expertise and convening power to support innovation, policy and advocacy, sector capability, coordination and emerging opportunities. This contribution should complement partner leadership and government-funded services, not displace funding that could appropriately flow directly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

This investment helps IAP use its platform responsibly: to back Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, strengthen community-controlled systems and advocate for structural change that supports equitable eye health outcomes.





Our Commitment

Our non-compete principle is more than a funding position. It defines how we work and the role we choose to play.

By standing alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations rather than competing with them, we uphold our values, honour IAP's Principles and Ways of Working, strengthen trust and partnerships, and contribute to sustainable improvements in eye health outcomes.

Our commitment is clear: We will not compete with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations for government funding. Instead, where invited, we will use our voice, influence, relationships, evidence, technical expertise and philanthropic, corporate and donor support to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, increase the resources available to the sector, advocate for change and work together toward equitable eye health outcomes.

