



Eye and Ear Surgical Support Service

Aim

The aim of Eye and Ear Surgical Support Service (EESS) is to increase access to surgical interventions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients with diagnosed eye and ear conditions, who have been placed on a waiting list for surgery.

Providing timely treatment for eye and ear conditions will improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with flow on effects to educational and employment outcomes.

Focus areas

- EESS services can support eye and ear surgery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients currently on a waiting list for surgery.
- Ear surgery is restricted to those individuals needing surgery to address acute or chronic otitis media and its direct outcomes.
- There is no age restriction for patients who require surgical intervention.
- Services are prioritised for people living in rural and remote locations.

Support offered

Funding is able to provide reimbursement to visiting health professionals for the following: travel, accommodation, meals, administration support, and facility fees.

In exceptional circumstances private health professionals can apply for an absence from practice allowance and/or workforce support payment. Public health professionals are able to apply for backfill. Where possible bulk billing is preferred through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), if MBS is utilised, workforce payment or backfill cannot be claimed.

In addition, consideration will be given for use of funds to transport patients and carers from RA4 and RA5 locations to larger, less remote centres for surgical treatment when it is not available in their home location. This includes accommodations, meals and incidentals for both the patient and carer (one carer per patient).