



# RURAL HEALTH WEST

## Visiting Optometrists Scheme

### Aim

Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS) aims to improve the eye health of people in regional, rural and remote locations by improving coordination and integration of new and existing eye health services, and increasing access to optometry services.

### Objectives

The objectives of VOS are to:

- increase optometry services in areas of identified need;
- improve the coordination and integration of eye health services and the quality of ongoing patient care; and
- enhance communication between visiting optometrists, local health providers and other visiting health professionals.

### Eligible locations

Services funded through VOS can be delivered in areas classified as RA2-RA5, with the emphasis on services in areas classified as RA3-RA5.

Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients may be provided in RA1 if an unmet need is identified.

### Support offered

Funding is able to provide reimbursement for the following:

- travel, accommodation and meals;
- facility fees and administrative support at the outreach location;
- lost business opportunity due to time spent travelling to outreach locations;
- upskilling;
- professional support;
- locum support at the principle practice; and
- lease and transport of equipment.

### Eligible services

Services eligible for funding through VOS:

- optometry services
- optometry students (supervised by an optometrist)

### Ineligible services

Services ineligible for funding through VOS:

- Support for an accompanying optical dispenser
- Salaries for other accompanying staff

*The Outreach programs are delivered by Rural Health West on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health.*