

# Eye Health Delivery by ACCHSs

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) in NSW are upgrading their Eye Health service delivery capability.

Seven regional Eye Health Coordinators based in ACCHSs across NSW, together with another five Aboriginal Health Workers and two Eye Health Coordinators from Katherine in the NT, completed a 5-day professional development in-service program with Vision CRC and the International Centre for Eye Education (ICEE) at University of New South Wales, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

The program provided the latest technical information as well as practical activities for a thorough knowledge and skill enhancement opportunity for all involved.

The program was led by Professor Brian Layland, who has for years been actively working to promote ACCHS involvement in Aboriginal eye health services.

To see the program, [click here](#).

Regional Eye Health Coordinators and ACCHSs are an important building block in the system of eye health care for Aboriginal people in NSW.

- ❖ They provide eye health screening to Aboriginal children, adolescents and adults
- ❖ They arrange for those with eye and vision problems to be seen by the GP or the Optometrist, usually within the AMS.
- ❖ They are key front line workers in enabling Aboriginal people to access free spectacles provided by VisionCare, the NSW State Government's autonomous agency.

The AH&MRC Aboriginal Health College, the AH&MRC Workforce Development Officer, and Vision CRC are collaborating to develop three Eye Health Care competency-based training modules that will be linked to the new national competency standards for Aboriginal Health Workers.

The aim is to deliver the training modules to Aboriginal Health Workers during 2006. This will widen and deepen the human resource capacity of ACCHSs to respond to eye health needs, including for clients who have diabetes.

The three modules will be finalised at a workshop with regional Eye Health Coordinators in November ready for roll out in early 2006 – as soon as the new national competency standards have been signed off.