



PACIFIC
EYE INSTITUTE

an initiative of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

Annual Report 2014

Message from Dr Biu Sikivou

The Pacific Eye Institute



2014 marked a year of consolidation and change at the Pacific Eye Institute. Our Founding Director Dr John Szetu moved to Solomon Islands at the end of 2013, after eight very full years here in Fiji.

Eighteen nurses graduated during the year from our postgraduate programmes, bringing the total number of eye nurses that the Institute has trained to 125. Our nurse education programmes are world-class qualifications with input from international practitioners.

At the end of the year all nursing students sat the US-based Certified Ophthalmic Certificate and Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant exams, all candidates gaining both qualifications.

Eight doctors are in training to become ophthalmologists, with Dr Rabebe Tekeraoi returning to her native Kiribati as our fifth doctor graduate. The Masters in Medicine training programme benefited from seven visiting subspecialists, and visiting examiners at the final examinations commended the Institute on its high standards.

We're proud of our steadily-expanding diabetes services, which have resulted in an extensive outreach program to health centres in the communities around Suva.

As always, our dedicated Pacific Outreach Team continued to create positive change across the vast Pacific. In 2015, they made 16 outreaches and performed 1,659 eye operations. These visits not only provide remote countries access to much-needed eye care services, but they also provide valuable training opportunities for our Pacific eye care graduates, some of whom travel specially to take part.

This outreach work, combined with our extensive training program, is the best way to prevent and treat avoidable blindness.



Dr Biu Sikivou
Director
Pacific Eye Institute

Message from the Executive Director

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ



At times, how we tell the story of eliminating avoidable blindness makes it sound all too easy. The procedure takes 20 minutes and patient recovery takes 24 hours. The next day, a blind patient sees again. Our intention is not to diminish the dexterity with which the doctors and nurses perform the surgery nor take lightly the huge commitment they show to travel to out-of-the-way places to perform 'the miracle'. Rather we are trying as best we can to allow our faithful supporters to actively participate in the work that they so generously support.

As the number of graduates from our training programs increases each year, so we have been faced with another challenge. If they are to perform this delicate surgery in high volumes and within nascent eye health care systems, they will require the specialist facilities to do so.

Looking ahead the major event for 2015 will be the arrival of the new mobile eye clinic in Fiji. Built in New Zealand, drawing on a mixture of experience and innovation, the clinic will allow the Institute to expand into many areas of Fiji in need of quality eye care services.

Without the generous support of our donors and professionals who often give their expertise at heavily discounted rates, we would never be able to provide the training required to grow our eye doctors and nurses into healthcare leaders. Thank you for helping to achieve Fred's vision of a world where no-one is needlessly blind. I am proud to present to you, through this Annual Report, the progress we made in 2014.

Andrew Bell
Executive Director
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ
Director, PEI Ltd

Our vision

The Pacific Eye Institute works for a world where no one is needlessly blind, and where individuals and communities are able to exercise their right to good health, particularly eye health.

Who we are

The Pacific Eye Institute is a non-profit eye care services and training facility, founded by The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in 2006. Based in Suva, Fiji, we aim to eliminate avoidable blindness across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste by delivering quality eye care and training eye care professionals from across the Pacific region.

The CWM Hospital is a key partner, and much of our eye care is delivered from the Hospital Eye Centre, where we have been operating since 2010.





What we do

Our state-of-the-art eye centre delivers eye care services and provides postgraduate training of doctors, nurses and vision technicians from the Pacific Islands, including Fiji. When our students graduate, they are equipped with the tools and support they need to restore sight in their own communities.

We are dedicated to providing the highest standard of eye care and training in the Pacific region, with all seven of our courses accredited by the Fiji National University.

Impact report

In 2014, we're proud to have achieved the following results for the people of Fiji and beyond.



Restoring sight

1,779

Sight-restoring surgeries were performed

27,179

patient consultations with our eye care teams at PEI

29,575

in Fiji in total including outreaches and Health Promotion event screenings



Fighting diabetic retinopathy

1,419

diabetes laser treatments

8,480

diabetes consultations

3

diabetes-focused outreaches in Fiji



Outreach

12

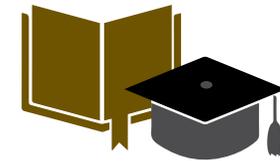
surgical outreaches performed across the Pacific

4

local training outreaches around Fiji

3

diabetes outreaches around Fiji



Training

19

eye health students graduated, including 18 eye health nurses and one eye doctor

Outreach

The Pacific Eye Institute has made enormous strides in serving the people of Fiji over the past nine years through its permanent Suva-based eye clinic.

However, there remains an ongoing challenge in providing eye care services to remote communities, both in-country and right across the Pacific region.

Limited infrastructure, vast distances over open seas, costly transport options and the daunting task for patients of travelling when you're blind mean that many people in isolated areas still suffer from avoidable blindness.

To reach these people, staff and graduates of the Pacific Eye Institute successfully undertook 16 outreaches in 2014: 4 in Fiji across Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Ba and Labasa, and 12 in the Pacific region, in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Federated States of Micronesia.

All year long, the outreach teams loaded and unloaded delicate microscopes, boxes of equipment, consumable and all the necessary items for surgery in makeshift eye clinic. Travelling in vans on bumpy roads, boats on rough seas and planes on grass runways, the Institute's team showed incredible determination in their efforts to restore sight to people in need.



Fiji outreaches: 329 sight-restoring surgeries performed 1,330 patient consultations with our eye care teams.
Regional outreaches: 1,330 sight-restoring surgeries performed. 3,836 patient consultations with our eye care teams.

Diabetes

Diabetes is one of the most challenging health problems of the twenty-first century.

Of the ten countries with the highest prevalence of diabetes in the world, nine are located within the Pacific.

Diabetic retinopathy affects people with diabetes whose delicate retinal blood vessels are more likely to weaken and expand, leak or bleed, resulting in scarring in and about the retina (the 'seeing' layer of the eye). This results in the gradual and painless loss of vision in one or both eyes.

Sight loss from diabetic retinopathy cannot be reversed, but regular eye examinations, timely laser treatments and closely managed blood sugar levels can prevent the situation worsening. Early detection, treatment and intervention will allow thousands of patients to preserve their vision.



How we're tackling diabetic retinopathy

- Screening and treating patients in the Diabetes Eye Clinic at the Institute. Last year, there were 7,427 diabetes-related patient consultations and 1,419 diabetes laser treatment sessions.
- Fortnightly screening outreaches in health centres around Suva, detecting problems before they threatened to rob patients' sight. 1,053 consultations during these outreaches.
- 40% of those screened were found to have diabetic retinopathy.
- 3 diabetes-focused outreaches provided patients with specialist laser treatment to preserve their existing sight.
- Training specialist staff from across the Pacific region to help people in their own communities. In 2014, six trainees graduated with a postgraduate certificate in diabetes eye care.
- From 2015, the mobile eye clinic will deliver diabetes eye services in rural communities around Fiji.
- Diabetic retinopathy specialist Dr Harris Ansari accompanied the Pacific Outreach Team working in Kiribati and Vanuatu.
- In 2015, our newly appointed Pacific Diabetic Retinopathy Coordinator will be driving activities.

Education & Training

The key to solving avoidable blindness is making sure that every country has its own eye care services.

That is why we are committed to training eye doctors and nurses who can treat their own people, in their own country.

The total number of nurse graduates from the Institute is now 122, and 5 doctor graduates who are all distributed across 7 Pacific Island countries. In 2015, we have 19 more eye nurses and nine eye doctors in training. Every trained graduate represents thousands of patients able to have their sight restored.

Our unique and highly successful Workforce Support program ensures our graduates remain motivated and at the top of their game. We provide upskilling opportunities through workshops, one-on-one clinic visits and hands-on outreach experience, as well as providing essential equipment and health system strengthening support. Our team of graduate eye doctors and nurses are committed to staying at the forefront of eye health, so that patients receive the very best care possible.



Savelina Veamatahau

HEALTH EXTENSION OFFICER, TONGA

Savelina graduated to a standing ovation from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2010 with a Postgraduate Certificate in Diabetes Eye Care. Because there was no trained eye doctor in Nuku'alofa to deal with the heavy burden of diabetic eye disease, she received specialist training to deliver diabetes laser treatments. Savelina's dedication and knowledge have had a profound impact on the needlessly blind people in her community.

"I enjoy everything about eye care – it's great being able to concentrate on just one area and really doing it well. The most important part is that for those with blindness, they get the operation they need to improve. It makes me feel good."



Dr Rabebe Tekeraoi

OPHTHALMOLOGIST, KIRIBATI

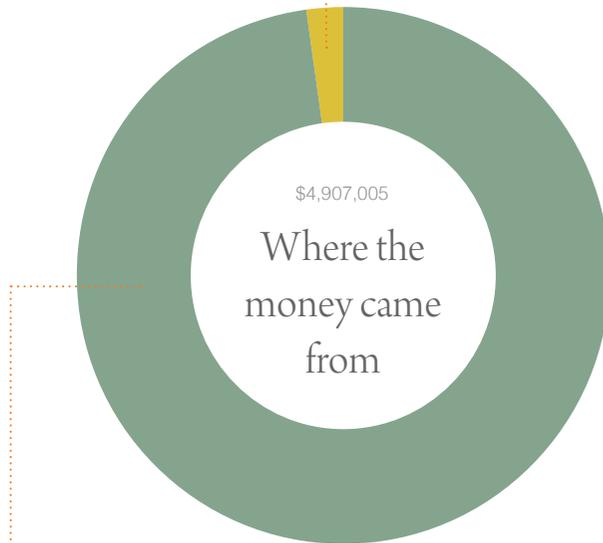
Dr Rabebe is the first ever eye doctor for Kiribati, having graduated from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2014. With limited resources in her home country, workforce support is key in helping Dr Rabebe to keep her skill set current. Along with two eye nurses, she is helping to build an eye care system from humble beginnings.

"Right now I'm excited and I know it will be a big challenge. It's something new, so things will take time. I love surgery. Sometimes I look at the patients waiting and think, if they can wait for this long, maybe I can wait for this long too. Because I know what they waited for, they want sight. That gives me hope."

Financial report

Other Funding 3%

\$147,183

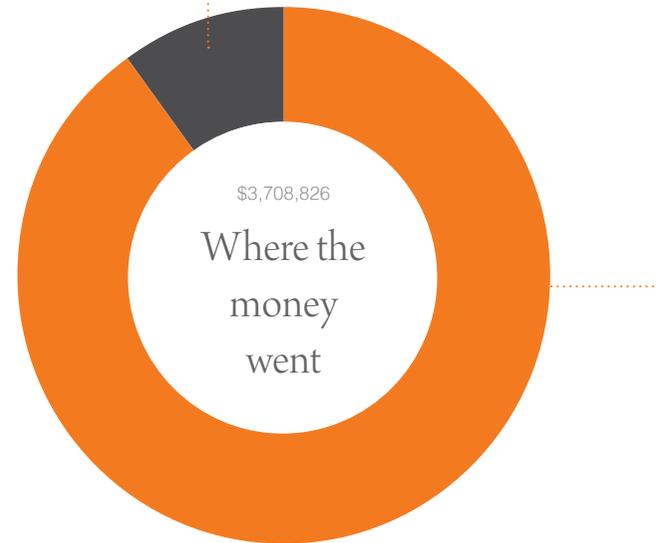


The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ funding 97%

\$4,759,822

Administration Expenses 12%

\$443,111



Surgical, Diabetes & Education Programs 88%

\$3,265,715

Independent audit report: The information in this report has been summarised from the annual accounts of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ Pacific Eye Institute Limited for the year ending 31 December 2014. The full audit statement is available at pacificeyinstitute.org or by emailing info@pacificeyinstitute.org.

Thank you

The Pacific Eye Institute's trustees and staff sincerely thank our supporters for their assistance and encouragement in 2014.



We wish to acknowledge The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ for their usual unfaltering support throughout the year. Without The Foundation's support, the Institute would never have come this far.

We also recognise the generous funding received from The New Zealand Aid Programme, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the World Diabetes Foundation and The Fred Hollows Foundation Australia.



Thank you to the New Zealand public who continue to give generously and assist us in our programs.

Our gratitude extends to the Fiji Ministry of Health, the CWM Hospital and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists for collaborating with us to improve eye health care across the Pacific.

The Institute shares an important partnership with the Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (formerly the Fiji School of Medicine) which confers degrees, diplomas and certificates to our graduates. We acknowledge the Dean, Professor Ian Rouse, Dr Elizabeth

Rodgers and the CMNHS Academic Office, who provided assistance and guidance throughout the year.

Thank you to the following donors, non-governmental organisations, service providers and partners:

- Pacific Building Solutions
- University of the South Pacific
- BDO
- Fiji Higher Education Commission
- Fiji Society for the Blind
- Fiji School for the Blind
- The FIJI Water Foundation
- SCSiP
- Munro Leys
- Project HEAVEN
- Air Pacific
- Solomon Airlines
- Lions Club Labasa
- Fulton Hogan Hiways



Photo: Zoomiji Photography