

OUR VISION

We see a world in which no person is needlessly blind or vision impaired

THE CHALLENGE

Poor vision is the largest unaddressed disability in the world. Without significant investment in eye health services, blindness will increase from 43 to 61 million people in 2050 because of a growing and ageing population. At least 2.2 billion people struggle with some form of vision impairment – yet services are not keeping pace with growing need. Nine out of 10 people who are blind or vision impaired don't need to be, meaning their condition could have been prevented or can be treated with access to timely, quality eye care.



OUR PURPOSE

The Fred Hollows Foundation is determined to deliver our vision of preventing blindness and restoring sight. We work around the world so that no one is left behind, and in Australia we work tirelessly to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can always exercise their right to sight, good health and self determination.

Our priority is to work with communities to improve their own eye health. We do this through life-changing surgeries and treatments, training doctors and health workers, generating new ideas, and pushing for change at all levels – from local to global.

GLOBAL REACH, LOCAL ACTION

The Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, politically unaligned and secular international development organisation. Founded in 1992 to carry on the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows, world-renowned ophthalmologist and humanitarian, we implement sight-saving programs in over 25 countries. We're proud to have restored sight to over three million people over the past 30 years. Following Fred's approach, we only work in communities where we are welcome. We seek to build local capacity, ensuring communities will retain the expertise and skills needed to prevent blindness and restore sight long after The Foundation ceases to work there.

ESG @ THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation is built on our values of Integrity, Collaboration, Empowerment and Action. For us to remain strong and for our actions to be ethical, we must look to our values in our everyday work. The Foundation promotes sustainable development with the belief that economic and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and understand that our work impacts, and is impacted by, the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We acknowledge the impacts of climate change on disease burdens, health priorities and government spending and we will play our part in making impactful changes in our operations and supply chains. We acknowledge The Foundation's role in protecting human rights, health and safety, the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, disability rights and preventing any form of modern slavery, child labour and discrimination. We acknowledge the importance of strong governance and transparency to the success of our organisation.

The Foundation maintains and promotes compliance with our regulatory, sector and institutional donor obligations, including the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) [Australian NGO Cooperation Program](#) and the Australian Council For International Development's (ACFID) [Code of Conduct](#).



This summary of The Foundation's ESG position can be read in conjunction with other relevant principles and commitments included in our [detailed policies](#) on Safeguarding People, Human Rights, Equity & Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, Financial Crime, Procurement and Speak-Up.

ENVIRONMENT

The Foundation recognises that climate change, pollution and environmental degradation present major threats to global eye health and delivery of care. These threats risk undermining decades of progress in reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and vision impairment with women and girls, people living in poverty, people with disability and other marginalised groups most impacted.

The Foundation understands that eye health services, including our own operations and programs, have an impact on the environment by contributing to emissions, consumption of resources and production of healthcare and other waste.

The Foundation commits to:

- Identify negative environmental risks early and minimise and mitigate those risks where practicable.
- Reduce our waste, resource and energy usage and consumption.
- Consider environmental sustainability in procurement, giving preference to sustainable options.
- Strengthen environmental criteria in our risk screening, risk assessment and due diligence.
- Promote a culture of sustainability among staff.
- Establish targets and identify supporting action to reduce carbon emissions across our activities.
- Publishing [disclosures](#) on our actions and progress on environmental sustainability.



SOCIAL

The Foundation upholds the universal principles of human rights in achieving our vision, including as to race, ethnicity, nationality, indigeneity, cultural beliefs, religion, disability, age, displacement, caste, sex, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status.

The Foundation commits to:

- Focus on gender equity, disability inclusion and the rights of indigenous people.
- Implement our activities in a safe and productive environment which prevents harm including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and avoids negative impact on health and safety for all people, particularly children, people with a disability and others who are vulnerable in our community.
- Safeguard people and resources by encouraging a safeguarding culture and promoting compliance with laws and appropriate standards on child protection, SEAH, modern slavery ([see our Statement here](#)), discrimination, fraud, bribery and corruption. We will also encourage implementing partners and suppliers to do the same.
- Promote a safe, respectful and inclusive organisation where staff and partners are able to [Speak Up](#).

GOVERNANCE

The Foundation commits to ensuring good governance is embedded in our culture. The Directors of The Foundation agree to maintain the public trust vested in them to protect Fred's legacy and fulfil his vision. Our [Corporate Governance Charter](#) sets out more detail.

In our work The Foundation:

- Follows strong and accountable governance practices and encourages our partners to do the same.
- Collaborates only with businesses which respect humanitarian laws, and whose values and mission align with ours.
- Promotes integrity and transparency in governance reporting, including financial statements, by complying with laws, regulations and standards.
- Avoids or proactively manages actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest.
- Strengthens the capabilities of local organisations, especially Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations and indigenous groups more broadly.

The Foundation has a Global Governance Roadmap that supports our international entities by providing global services to empower locally.

Our Australian, Kenyan and UK boards are majority female. We have a 40:60 gender target.

The Foundation has benefitted from decades of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander voices on our board, so we have embedded that voice in our Constitution in a dedicated board director role. The Foundation strongly supports the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) and its call for a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

