

Non government organisations

Introduction

Vision 2020 Australia

Vision 2020 Australia is part of *Vision 2020: The Right to Sight*, a global initiative of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Vision 2020 Australia and a sample of its membership were involved in the stocktake to inform the contribution of the non government sector to implementation of the National Framework. Thirty non government organisations (NGOs) were consulted as part of the stocktake.

A significant amount of NGOs' activity was outside the scope of the National Framework, as it is centred on providing community-based service delivery including diagnostic services, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Capture of activity

In many cases the priority actions under the National Framework influenced by the activity of NGOs was a consequence but not necessarily the intent of that activity. For example, the influence of establishing a community-based eye health service primarily concerned with supporting quality of diagnosis and improving access to services, may also result in establishing new referral pathways that improve early detection for people with low vision or eye disease, promoting shared care and training of the primary health care workforce.

Current eye health and vision care activity

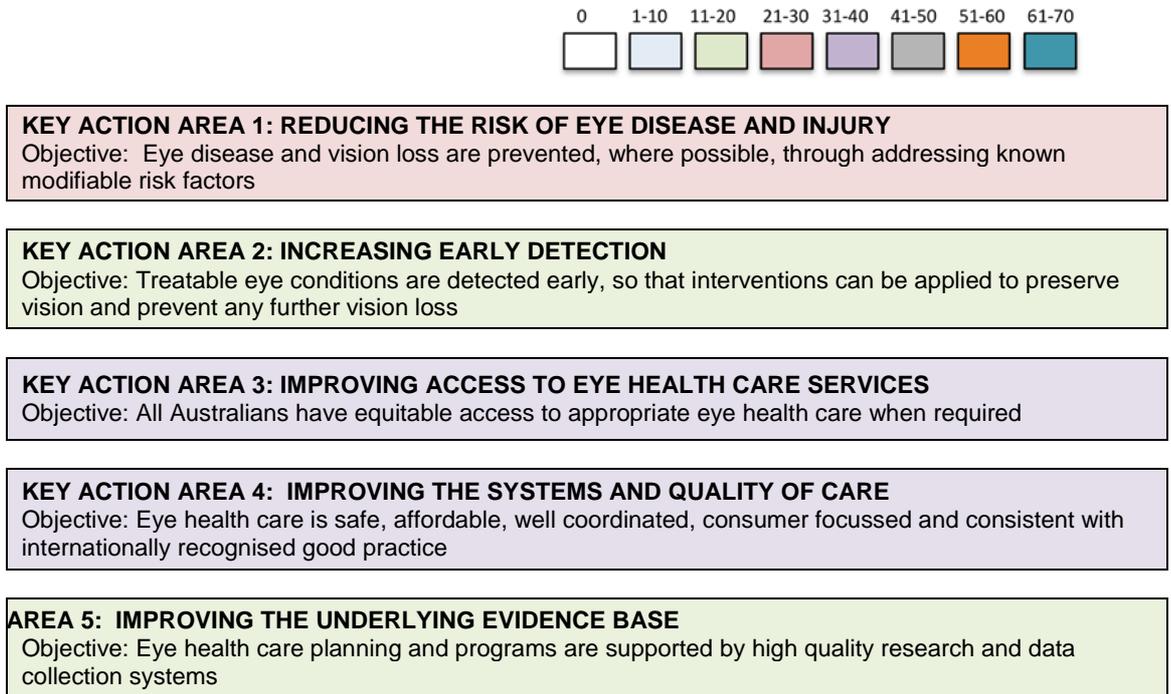
Consistent with the diversity of NGOs in the sector, activities related to the National Framework utilised a range of strategies, partnering arrangements and infrastructure targeted at support for the general public and specific population groups. Population groups included children and adults with vision impairment and blindness, eye health professionals, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, disadvantaged and marginalised groups, the primary health care workforce, researchers, persons with or at high risk of specific eye health conditions and rural and remote communities.

Activities ranged from supporting a segment of the workforce to complex services involving dedicated training and education infrastructure, national research, provision of eye care services, support for clinical infrastructure, generating financial resources and public awareness raising.

Key Action Areas

Figure 1.16

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITY MAPPED AGAINST THE KEY ACTION AREAS OF THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK



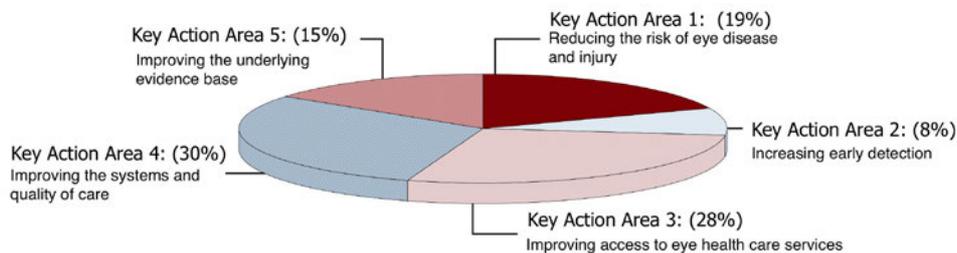
Source: The Allen Consulting Group 2011 based on non government organisation consultations

Figure 1.16 above maps the primary focus of NGO activities against the Key Action Areas of the National Framework. A total of 131 activities were reported.

Figure 1.17 below shows the proportion of non government activity across the Key Action Areas.

Figure 1.17

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITY ACROSS KEY ACTION AREAS OF THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK BY ALL NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS



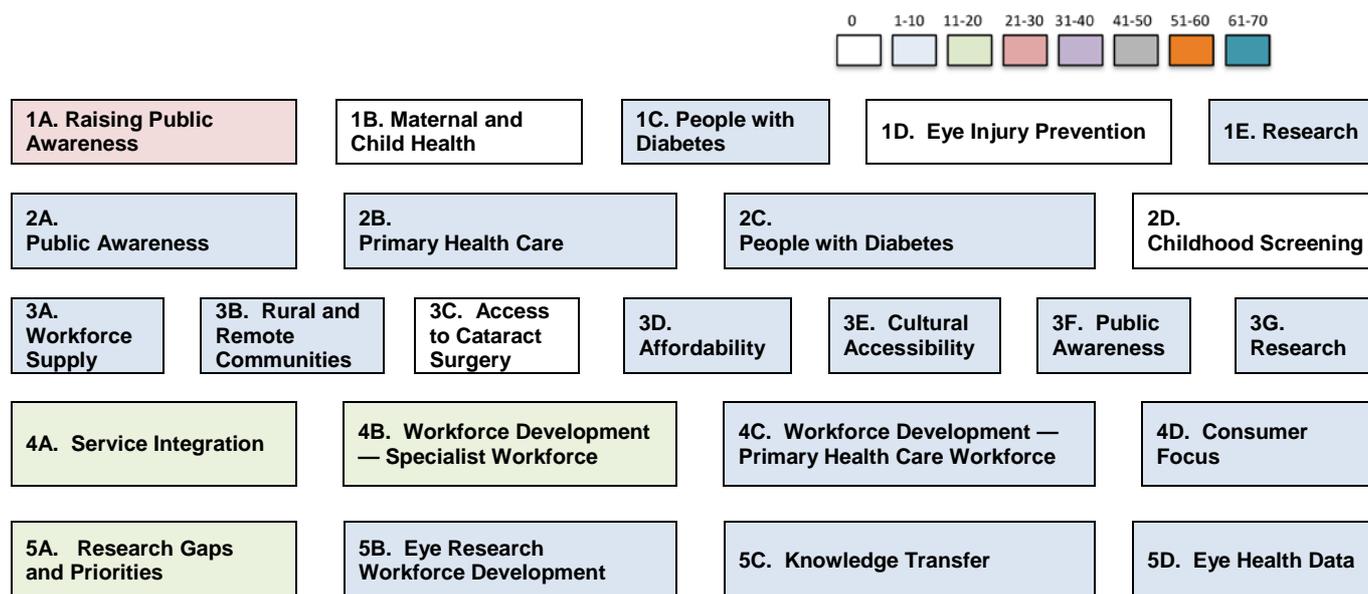
Source: The Allen Consulting Group 2011 based on non government organisation consultations

Collectively, the sample of NGOs contributed to all Key Action Areas with a particular emphasis on improving systems and quality of care and improving access to services. Activity in these areas made up just over half of all activity with a further one third concerned with risk reduction and building the evidence.

Primary Action Areas

Figure 1.18

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITY MAPPED AGAINST THE PRIMARY ACTION AREAS OF THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK



Source: The Allen Consulting Group 2011 based on non government organisation consultations

Figure 1.18 above indicates the extent to which activity contributed to the broad Action Areas under each of the Key Action Areas.

- The highest level of activity was recorded for raising public awareness to reduce the risk of eye disease and injury. This was followed by contributing to service integration to improve systems and quality of care, supporting the development of the specialist workforce and identifying research gaps and priorities in building the evidence base.
- Areas traditionally seen as the responsibility of governments were not identified as the primary focus of activity, such as maternal and child health.

Summary

Non government activity mapped against the National Framework from a sample of organisations suggests that the complementary nature of activity to that of government is extensive and overlapping.