

# THE FUTURE FUND 2023 PROJECTS



“The essence of the human being is our capacity to help others.”

Professor Fred Hollows



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ

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# WELCOME



We are firmly focused on ending avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific. Our aim is a future where the Pacific has resilient and sustainable quality eye health systems that are locally-led. We call that long-term strategy 'Future Fred'.

Our Pacific partners will continue to be reliant on the generous contributions of supporters like yourself, through The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ to train eye care specialists, provide clinics for screening and surgery, and provide essential research for many years after they take over the local leadership.

Future Fred is our commitment to work with Pacific governments and other partners to design, lead, and strengthen their own respective eye health systems.

Avoidable blindness and vision impairment is an increasing problem in the Pacific due to a growing elderly population and the lack of access to affordable eye care. Furthermore, amongst its challenges, the Pacific region has some of the highest rates of non-communicable diseases in the world, including diabetes; six out of the 10 countries with the highest rates of diabetes are in the Pacific. Diabetic retinopathy, a complication of diabetes, is known to be a major

cause of avoidable blindness and disproportionately affects the working age population. While there have been limited studies on diabetic retinopathy prevalence, it has been estimated that in some countries in the Pacific up to 69% of people with diabetes have a form of retinopathy, which is more than double the global rate.

Collectively, these pressures create an even greater challenge for health systems, as well as wider impacts on sustainable development in a region with increasingly complex geo-politics. There are unacceptably high rates of blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific, with approximately 90% being preventable or treatable. While reliable eye health data in Pacific islands is limited, recent studies show the significance of the problem. For example, a national survey in Papua New Guinea found that 5.6% of the population

aged 50 years and older are living with blindness; 60% of which is experienced by women, reflecting global gender disparities in eye health. These are among the highest rates globally.

This brochure suggests some of the ways your support can help those who are needlessly blind right now and also summarises some of our larger, long-term projects that need investment to support sustainable quality eye care to become a reality for all Pacific people.

**Your investment in the Future Fund directly provides the tools our Pacific teams need now to continue restoring sight, develop the local eye care workforce, and support those on the front lines to change the lives of thousands of people for many years to come.**

**Dr Audrey Aumua**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

# SIGNIFICANT FUTURE PROJECTS

Here is an overview of three transformational projects that require significant investment. We are working on them with local Partners to deliver long-term, sustainable eye-care in the Pacific as part of Future Fred.

## Papua New Guinea Eye-Care Expansion Programme

Providing access to eye care is a critical step in enabling social and economic development.

According to the World Health Organisation, Papua New Guinea needs 90 eye doctors to respond to the enormous eye care challenges in the Country; currently they have 12 active eye doctors.

In partnership with The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and other partners the Foundation are establishing a Centre for Eye Health in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The Centre will build a quality eye health workforce, deliver quality eye care and foster strong national and subnational eye health leadership, coordination and planning.

Funding required  
**\$25–\$30 million**  
over 7 years

## Fiji Refraction Clinic

Globally, uncorrected refractive error is the second most common cause of blindness and the number one cause of moderate to severe visual impairment.

The Pacific Eye Institute in Suva supports a tertiary training centre run collaboratively by Fiji National University with Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services to deliver training to ophthalmology residents and eye care nurses.

A purpose-built Refraction Centre would allow for an expansion of refraction related specialty areas, including space to teach low vision skills to selected graduates. This will allow for low vision services to be provided and expanded in Fiji and beyond. It will also provide a training space for optical dispensing, to allow for alternative supply options for custom-made spectacles.

Funding required  
**\$1.5 million**  
over 2 years

## The Pacific State of Eye Health Research Programme

The goal of the State of Eye Health research programme is to provide the evidence that Pacific governments and decision makers require to invest in eye health plans and policies to strengthen and sustain their eye health programmes for the long term.

With the Pacific Islands covering an estimated 640 inhabited islands spread over an area equal to 15% of the globe's surface, the challenge of gathering accurate, timely and relevant data is immense.

The research will be undertaken by the University of Auckland in three phases over five years, in partnership with local leadership. This eye health research programme will deliver prevalence surveys and eye health system studies, comprehensive reports, publications, and policy briefs.

Funding required  
**\$800,000**  
over 5 years

**Please contact us if you would like more information on any of these projects and to discuss how your support could make a transformational difference to long-term eye-care in the Pacific.**

# RESTORING SIGHT



It is estimated that at least 2.2 billion people around the world have a vision impairment, of whom at least 1.1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed. Our Pacific neighbours have some of the highest rates of avoidable blindness and the significant environmental challenges, as well as the pandemic disruption, have only seen eye care needs increase.

Our Pacific teams and partners have identified the following support for 2023 to ensure that eye care remains accessible to their local communities.

## **Fiji** Diabetes Clinic

A contribution towards diabetic retinopathy nurses who will be conducting at least 58 screening outreaches this year.

**Funding required**  
**\$13,000**

## **Fiji** Mobile Eye Clinic

Since 2015, the Mobile Eye Clinic has revolutionised access to eye care services. With a full range of medical equipment aboard, it is a one-stop-shop for free eye checks, spectacles, cataract surgery, and services for a range of other eye conditions. This means it can stay in a location for longer than our outreach team, giving patients in remote areas better access to free high-quality eye care.

**Funding required**  
**\$13,800 per week**

## **Fiji** Pacific Eye Institute

Fiji has one of the most developed economies in the Pacific. Despite this, many people in Fiji live in rural areas with limited access to eye health care services. Support is needed to fund eye doctors, nurses, clinical staff and the supplies they need to do surgeries and screenings.

**Funding required**  
**\$14,000 per week**

## **Solomon Islands**

Ridged with mountainous landscapes and surrounded by coral reefs, much of the population is geographically isolated from health care services. A contribution is required for one outreach during 2023.

**Funding required**  
**\$5,660**

## **Papua New Guinea**

Papua New Guinea is one of the least urbanised countries in the world. Just 13% of the population live in urban areas, and close to 40% live below the poverty line. Support is needed to fund eye doctors, nurses, clinical staff and the supplies they need to do surgeries and screenings.

**Funding required**  
**\$8,500 per week**

# GRADUATE PROGRAMME AND HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT



The eye care workforce in the Pacific is still small, stretched and geographically spread. The Foundation continues to support eye care specialists across the Pacific with professional development, equipment and mentorship. With nearly everyone needing eye care at some point in their lives, ongoing support is critical to ensure care is available to all who call the Pacific home.

The equipment below will be sent directly to eye doctors and nurses in the Pacific, to give them tools to help the growing number of people needing their care.

## Solomon Islands

The team at the Regional Eye Clinic require some additional diagnostic equipment for comprehensive patient screening to ensure early detection of any eye conditions.

Funding required  
**\$15,830**

## Fiji

As one of the first eye clinics in the Pacific, some of the eye care equipment is needed to be upgraded or replaced to ensure the teams can continue to provide quality eye care to patients over the coming years.

Funding required  
**\$34,465**

## Papua New Guinea

Essential equipment is needed to support our team in Papua New Guinea.

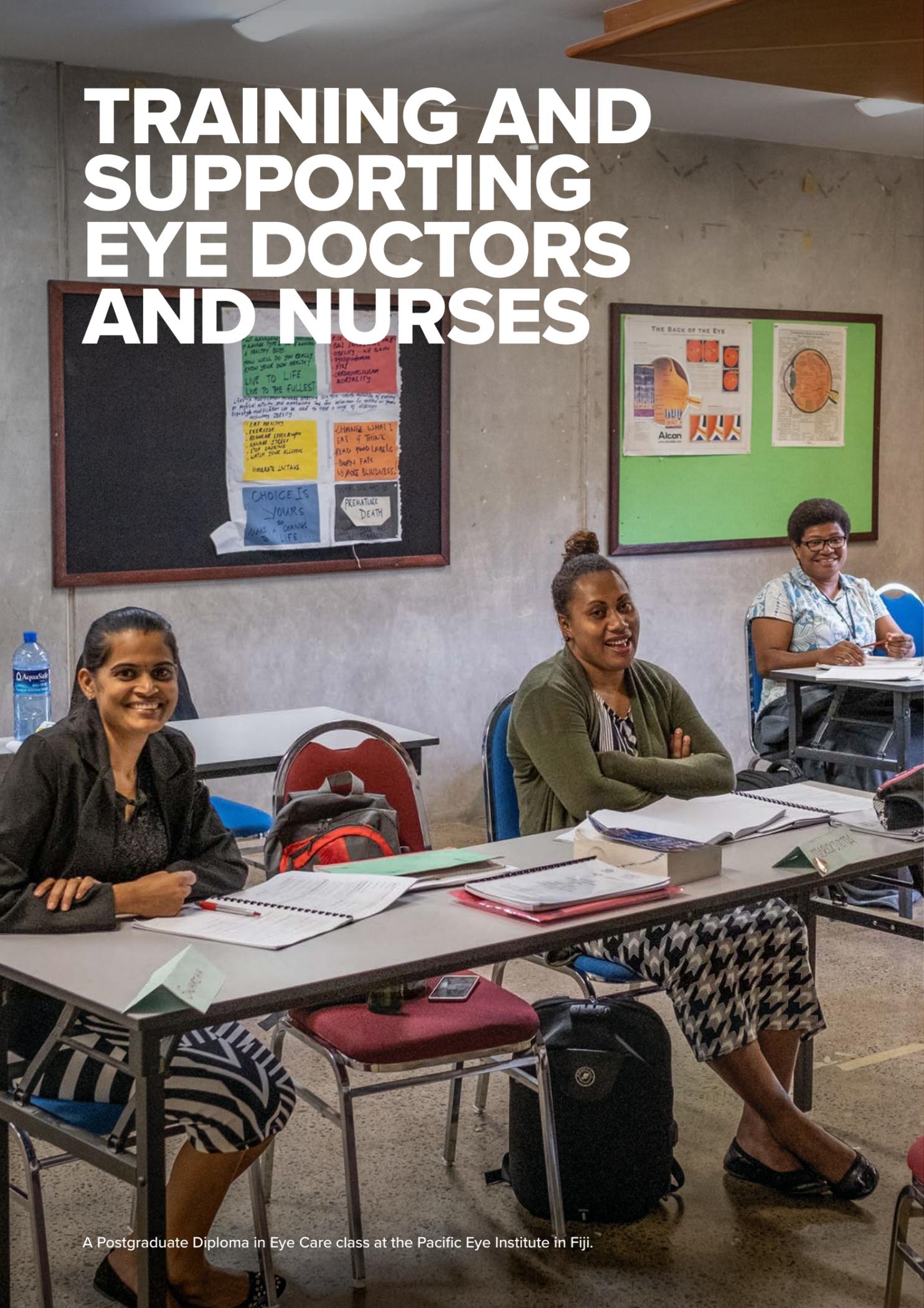
Funding required  
**\$78,700**

Please refer to the Glossary at the back for full details on each country's equipment requirements.



Paediatric Eye Surgical Week, Pacific Eye Institute, Fiji

# TRAINING AND SUPPORTING EYE DOCTORS AND NURSES



Fred recognised that building a local eye care workforce was the most powerful way to address avoidable blindness and, through 30 years of restoring sight, this is still central to The Foundation's work today. Our commitment to training local eye doctors and nurses with your support means that urgent and critical eye care can continue in the Pacific.

From community health workers to eye surgeons, developing local skills remains at the heart of our work.

## Papua New Guinea

With one of the highest rates of avoidable blindness in the world and the largest population in the Pacific region, Papua New Guinea currently has a large shortage of skilled eye care workers. Teaching equipment and books are essential items needed for the training of eye care nurses.

Funding required  
**\$3,200**

## Papua New Guinea

We require funding for eye specialists to make 10 visits to eye nurses throughout the region. Maintaining the skills of our trained nurses is vital for the ongoing provision of eye care.

Funding required  
**\$12,850**

## Fiji

Teaching equipment and books are required for the 10 students who have enrolled for the nurse training in Fiji.

Funding required  
**\$3,540**

## All

Essential items such as uniforms for non-clinical staff and scrubs for clinical teams (68 people) in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands require funding.

Funding required  
**\$12,600**



# GRADUATE PROGRAMME — EQUIPMENT GLOSSARY



## Stryker Bed

This operating bed is essential for cataract operations. It can be adjusted up and down, and forward and back.



## A-Scan

This A-Scan can take images of the eye using sound waves. It is useful to measure the distance between structures of the eye - which helps decide what intraocular lens power to use during cataract surgery. It is also useful in diagnosing certain conditions at the back of the eye when a patient has a dense cataract.



## Cataract Sets

This includes a variety of instruments to assist in intraocular lens implantation during cataract surgery.



## Bipolar Cautery

This machine uses heat to seal any leaking blood vessels. This is used to decrease bleeding that can happen during surgery (when blood vessels are cut).



## Auto Refractor & Keratometer

This machine has two functions, an auto refractor which takes a measurement of the refraction (what power a patient's spectacles need to be). The second is a keratometer, which takes a measurement of the curvature of the cornea (front clear window of the eye).



## Autoclave

The autoclave sterilises (kills the bacteria) on ophthalmic instruments using steam.



## Electronic Visual Acuity Chart

An LED screen with specialised built in charts that enable eyecare clinicians and optometrists to conduct a variety of basic vision tests.





# 30 YEARS OF RESTORING SIGHT

Doctors, nurses and technicians from Fiji.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these initiatives, please indicate your interest on the enclosed reply form or contact Stephne Vaughan directly on **09 217 4914** or email [svaughan@hollows.nz](mailto:svaughan@hollows.nz)

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