

A woman wearing a pink headscarf and light blue scrubs is shown in profile, holding a young child. The child has a white bandage over their right eye and is wrapped in a patterned blanket. The background is a blurred hospital hallway.

“The great challenges are to be part of setting up structures that will go on when each one of our individual biological lives no longer exist.”

Kiwi eye surgeon, Fred Hollows

# PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017 SUMMARY

**25** YEARS  
RESTORING  
SIGHT



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ

# FOREWORDS



## 'Kua hinga te kauri o te wao nui a Tāne'

(The kauri has fallen in the sacred forest of Tāne)

In 1993, Jim Bolger was Prime Minister, Helen Clark toppled Mike Moore for leadership of the

New Zealand Labour Party and the fledgling Fred Hollows Foundation lost its namesake and hero. Celebrating 25 years since The Foundation was established and commemorating the passing of Fred, is filled with stories of past triumphs and commitments. As Fred so famously said, "Don't ever do half a job. Don't ever compromise."

In 1992, realising that Fred's life was to be cut cruelly short, his mates gathered around his kitchen table in Sydney and asked: "How do we keep Fred's vision alive of a world where no one is needlessly blind?"

Having heard of plans in Australia to establish a Foundation in Fred's name, Dr Paul Butler, Asmeron Yoseph and Bruce Arroll visited Fred and his wife, Gabi, to investigate establishing a Foundation in New Zealand. Fred agreed and The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ was established on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1992.

Fred, the boy from Dunedin and recipient of the Australian of the Year Award in 1990, died on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1993.

Throughout the 25 years since, thousands of Kiwis have agreed with Fred that it's "obscene to let people go blind when they don't need to". Many have faithfully donated \$25 a month, while others have been able to give larger amounts. Some have remembered The Foundation in their wills, and corporates have given goods and services pro-bono. Thousands have combined their efforts to keep alive the vision of Professor Fred Hollows – eye surgeon, humanitarian and "down to earth" Kiwi bloke. As a result, more than two million people worldwide have had their sight restored. More than 60,000 of them live in the Pacific region where the New Zealand Foundation focusses its attention.

I must also make special mention of Gabi, our longest serving Patron, who amazes us all with her tireless enthusiasm for the work of The Foundation. Gabi constantly reminds us that while eliminating avoidable blindness is no easy task, it is possible within our lifetimes. It's expensive, which is why the first task of The Foundation was to drive down the cost of the intraocular lens by building factories in Eritrea and Nepal. Both are success stories to this day. Combined with our efforts to train a Pacific workforce, eliminating avoidable blindness within the Pacific is fast becoming a reality for all. Fortuitously, the forest never comprises of only one kauri.

**Craig Fisher**  
Board Chair



The miracle of eliminating avoidable blindness needs five essential ingredients.

1. Highly specialised eye doctors. So we're recruiting the best Pacific doctors and providing them with specialist eye health training.
2. Specialist eye nurses. So we offer postgraduate eye care training to nurses.
3. Eye care medical equipment. So we assist local Ministries of Health, providing the essentials to run a comprehensive eye care service.
4. Patients. So we send outreach teams to remote islands, run the Mobile Eye Clinic across Fiji, and send text blasts across mobile networks. We use any means we can to get the message out about our eye care services.
5. And of course, none of this would be remotely possible without our donors.

Sometimes, for the miracle to happen, a sixth ingredient is needed: a world-class eye clinic facility. Undertaking a large capital outlay is a challenge for a charity with no fixed assets or ability to borrow money we need. So we work alongside our donors to raise the money we need, sometimes years in advance of the start of building. This way we don't put The Foundation, its staff, or patients at any risk of the project not being completed.

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, we launched the Future Fund, dedicated to enabling us to ring fence resources for major projects in the future. The first project is the desperately needed renovation and extension of the eye clinic in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Future Fund has been instrumental in raising the required \$2.1 million to start renovating the clinic in 2018.

Infrastructure and equipment is by no means the only challenge. The scourge that is diabetes is arguably the greatest health challenge facing Pacific governments. It's a complex illness, exacerbated by poverty and limited food choices.

Fred said, "It is our job to do something about the disparity between nations. We discover our own humanity by helping others. Don't ever forget that this is what it is all about." So we cannot ignore diabetes, not only because it has such a devastating and avoidable impact on a patient's eye sight, but because it's affecting the working age population which will have a catastrophic economic impact on these fragile economies. For 25 years we've been growing a team of Pacific eye care professionals. To tackle this issue they need our support for 25 more. The Future Fund is exactly the mechanism we intend to use to achieve this. We invite you to stand with us to keep Fred's vision, of a world where no one is needlessly blind, alive.

**Andrew Bell**  
Executive Director

# OUR VISION

A world where no one is needlessly blind.

# OUR GOAL

To restore sight to the needlessly blind through the provision of sight-saving surgeries and treatments, and by training local eye health specialists to deliver eye care services in their own communities.



# WHAT WE DO



## Restore and preserve sight

We perform thousands of sight-restoring surgeries and sight-preserving diabetes eye care treatments, and distribute thousands of pairs of new spectacles at our clinics and through our surgical outreach programme.

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## Train and support the regional eye care workforce

Training local eye doctors and nurses is the only way to eliminate avoidable blindness in a sustainable way. We support the Pacific eye care workforce by providing specialist medical training and ongoing professional development so that eye care graduates can take over from visiting surgical teams.

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## Strengthen local health sector

We work to integrate eye care into existing health systems, collaborating with local health ministries and advocating for universal access to quality eye care through the recognition of specialist qualifications.

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## Drive innovation and research

Our approach is tested and effective, using appropriate data systems to better understand current and future eye care needs. We're committed to adopting innovative solutions, ensuring that our eye care programmes are locally appropriate and meet international best practice.

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# SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

The positive difference we made in 2017 with your support.



## Restore and preserve sight

**114,352** consultations

**7,137** sight-saving surgeries - **39%** on outreach

**2,157** laser treatments for diabetic eye disease

**15,754** new spectacles dispensed to patients and over **6,000** more provided to Pacific eye nurses to distribute to patients



## Train and support the regional eye care workforce

**29** eye care qualifications awarded

**60%** of graduates in 2017 were female

Kiribati's main clinic was **renovated**

**32** eye care doctors and nurses received workforce support visits from local senior clinicians



## Strengthen local health sector

The Pacific Eye Care Society hosted a **conference addressing regional challenges** in eye care

**81%** increase in new diabetic patient walk-ins following health promotion TV adverts in Fiji

Train the trainer workshops in **5 countries** empowered eye nurses to educate primary health carers in basic eye care

We advocated for action to **address non-communicable diseases** at the Pacific Leaders Forum



## Drive innovation and research

Low-cost **retinal screening devices** were trialled in Fiji

We supported a population-based survey which found **5.6%** of adults over 50 in Papua New Guinea are blind

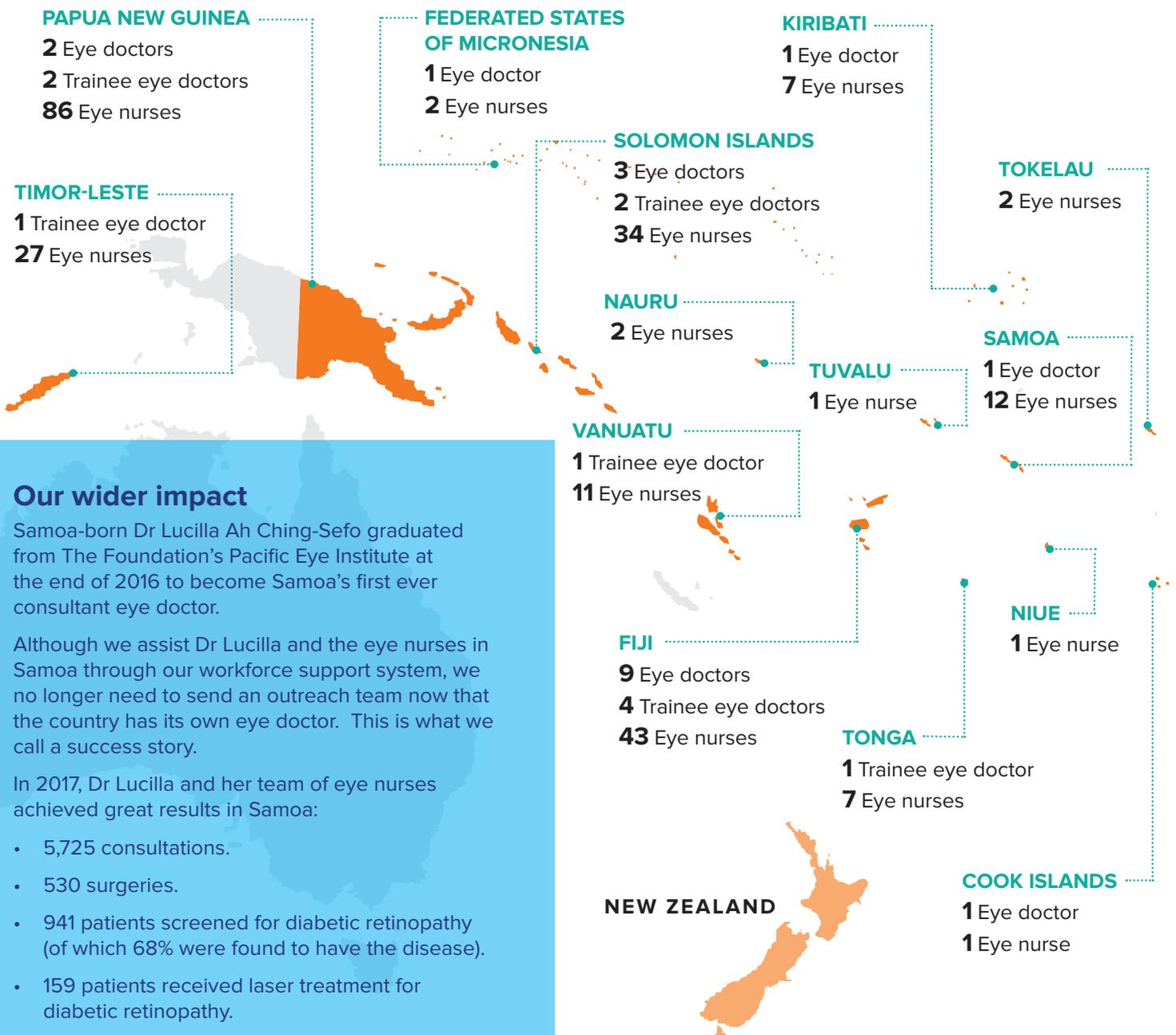
**3** Pacific Island eye care clinicians attended International Diabetes Federation Congress in Abu Dhabi

The Foundation contributed to **7 journal articles** on Pacific Island eye care

# EYE CARE GRADUATES

Training local eye doctors and nurses is the only way to eliminate avoidable blindness in a sustainable way. As Fred said, **“You have to impart skills and technology and help them help themselves.”**

Since we began training in the Pacific in 2006, a total of 277 eye care professionals have graduated from our programmes. Over **85%** of these graduates are employed locally, providing eye care through their public health system. The map below illustrates the countries where some of these eye care professionals are working.



## Our wider impact

Samoa-born Dr Lucilla Ah Ching-Sefo graduated from The Foundation’s Pacific Eye Institute at the end of 2016 to become Samoa’s first ever consultant eye doctor.

Although we assist Dr Lucilla and the eye nurses in Samoa through our workforce support system, we no longer need to send an outreach team now that the country has its own eye doctor. This is what we call a success story.

In 2017, Dr Lucilla and her team of eye nurses achieved great results in Samoa:

- 5,725 consultations.
- 530 surgeries.
- 941 patients screened for diabetic retinopathy (of which 68% were found to have the disease).
- 159 patients received laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy.

# DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel was a happy-go-lucky, cheeky four-year-old. But he was playing with a broom that broke. The end hit him in his left eye, tearing the retina.

His family rushed him to hospital. But with no eye doctor living in Tonga, they had to see if an eye doctor from Fiji could come over and help.

Dr Duke Mataka was asked to make the four hour flight from Fiji to Tonga. Fortunately, he got there in time to treat Daniel that day. It was scary for Daniel and his family but Dr Duke dealt with the crisis and Daniel was able to go home.

Even so, Dr Duke worried about Daniel. Children who suffer eye trauma like this often develop cataracts soon after. The clinic monitored his eyes over the next few months, and sure enough his left eye went cloudy and he started to lose his vision.

This was terrible for him. Every day his sight got

worse. He couldn't do his work at school and the other kids teased him about his eye.

Luckily the outreach team came to Tonga six months after Dr Duke first helped Daniel. When Daniel arrived at the outreach clinic, he was very withdrawn. Within half-an-hour, everything had changed. Dr Duke removed the cataract and put in a new lens. Within a few minutes Daniel could see again.

When Dr Duke went to see him at his home the next day, his vision was completely restored and he was back to being cheeky Daniel, singing and laughing and playing with his brothers!





Left to right: Nurse Melaia Mudu, Nurse Umesh Mudaliar, Dr Mundi Qalo (Pacific Outreach Team Leader), Nurse Amelia Rokobiau, Dr Salome Lolokabaira, Dr Duke Mataka

## OUR PACIFIC LEADERS

We're inspired by the 277 Pacific eye care specialists we have trained and the dedication they have to restoring sight throughout their region. We asked some members of our outreach team why they choose to do the work they do.

### **Nurse Melaia Mudu**

Hearing positive feedback from patients, especially the day after surgery, really inspires me. Like the patient recently who said, "Now I see again like an infant". That really motivates me and makes me love what I'm doing.

### **Nurse Umesh Mudaliar**

I've always had an interest in eye care services and I like working in this profession because of the satisfaction I see in my patients when they see again.

### **Dr Mundi Qalo, Pacific Outreach Team Leader**

Let the vision from our hearts give sight to the blind.

### **Nurse Amelia Rokobiau**

I'm inspired by the work that we do because we put smiles on the faces of the patients and their relatives when the eye pad is removed after surgery. I love what I do because I get to restore sight to those that need it yet have no access to getting eye care services in the Pacific region.

### **Dr Salome Lolokabaira**

I'm inspired by a smile and a thank you from the patients after surgery or treatment for whatever eye problems they come with. For me this is not just an occupation to earn a living, but a calling by God to serve Him and the people that need my help.

### **Dr Duke Mataka**

I always tell my patients when they thank me that the greatest joy is in serving others. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve others in such a life-changing way.

# CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

25 years ago, just months before he passed away, Fred sat down with Gabi and decided his vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind must continue.

Since then, more than two million people globally have had their sight restored. In the Pacific, The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ has restored sight to more than 50,000 people, trained 277 eye doctors, nurses and health workers and built seven clinics.

Here is a snapshot of how we celebrated this amazing anniversary.



**Remembering Fred with pride**

Students of Palmerston North Boys' High School celebrated Fred Hollows Day by donning cataract masks, to simulate sight loss. The boys also hosted a BBQ lunch to fundraise for The Foundation. Fred was an old boy of the school and remains a great source of pride.



**Keeping Fred's vision alive**

We keep Fred's vision alive thanks to our eye doctors and nurses who perform sight-saving surgeries across the Pacific. To celebrate our wonderful team of eye specialists and acknowledge the impact they've made over the years, we held an evening for our supporters in New Zealand to meet the doctors and nurses who've committed their careers to restoring sight in the Pacific.



**Broadcasting far and wide**

Our 25th anniversary received a lot of great coverage across TV, radio and print, including three separate news pieces on TV3 News with Michael Morrah, who travelled to Fiji to see first-hand the work we're doing.



**25th anniversary dinner**

Sir Rob Fenwick and Brent Impey, two of The Foundation's past Board Chairs, hosted a dinner at the The Northern Club in Auckland to commemorate the anniversary. Many Friends of Fred attended the dinner including original Trustees and supporters, current donors, journalists, artists, business people and philanthropists who all share and support Fred's vision.



**Off the Chart**

A unique feature of the celebrations was an art auction for a Dick Frizzell original, 'Off the Chart'. Dick Frizzell, one of New Zealand's most successful and high profile artists, painted a work inspired by an eye chart and a quote of Fred's, "Every eye is an eye. When you are doing surgery there, that is just as important as if you were doing eye surgery on the Prime Minister or King."

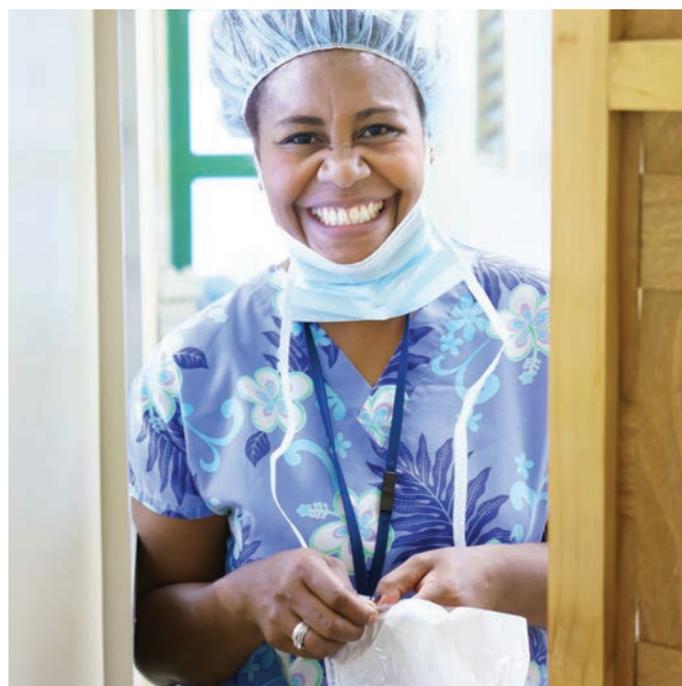
# LOOKING FORWARD

As we celebrate 25 years following Fred's ethos of not holding back, it's with his determination and sense of social justice, that as a Foundation we know our job isn't done and we need to look towards the next 25 years.

## So what are our plans for the future?

### Continuing our work

We'll continue to restore sight to the needlessly blind across the Pacific. Our eye care graduates are empowered to provide much needed eye services to their people. To help cure the backlog of cataract blindness, we work alongside them to strengthen local eye care systems through training, equipment and facilities.



### Tackling new causes of avoidable blindness - diabetic retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy, also known as diabetic eye disease, is at one of the highest rates in the world in the Pacific region, with devastating repercussions for those suffering from the disease.

Our teams in the Pacific are increasingly seeing scores of people turning up to our clinics with diabetic eye disease.

Although avoidable, it's any eye disease that can ultimately steal a person's vision, leaving them blind.

To help cater for the rapidly escalating number of diabetic eye disease patients, we're already implementing a number of activities in the Pacific. These include diabetic retinopathy training for nurses, increasing clinician knowledge of the disease through workshops, and raising public awareness with the public through health promotions such as television adverts. But there is so much more that needs to be done.

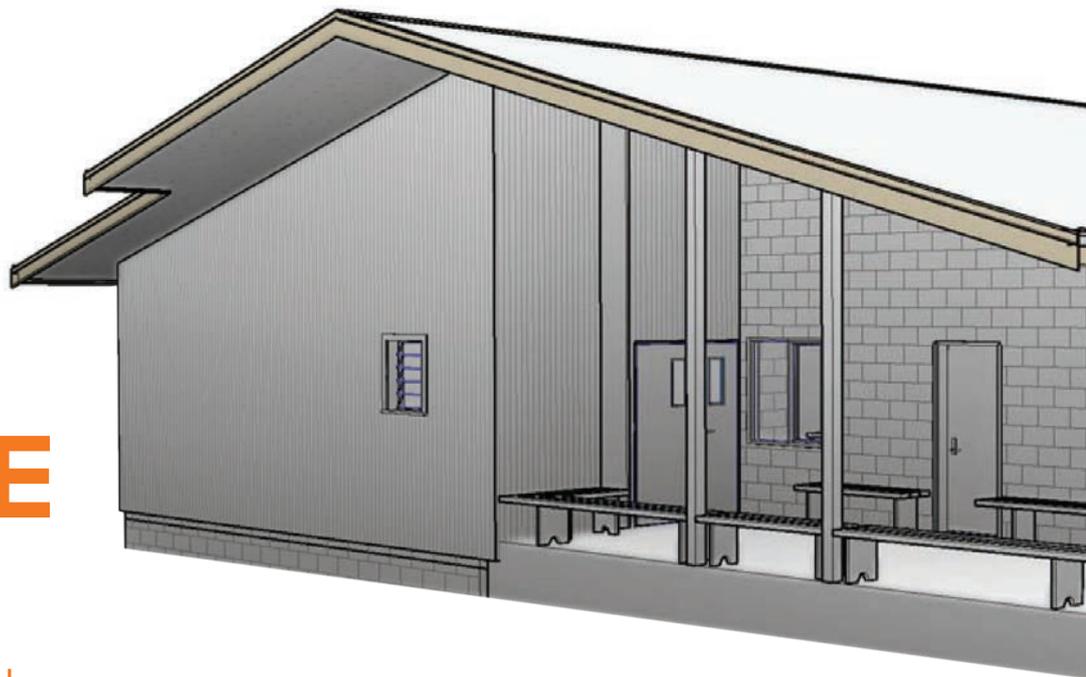
As Fred said, "It's obscene to let people go blind when they don't need to."

We're challenging ourselves to provide a solution and we're not holding back.



# THE FUTURE FUND

Not holding back



Fred never held back, and neither do we. That's why we've established the Future Fund to keep Fred's vision alive for the next 25 years.

The Future Fund identifies and funds significant projects that will build the long-term sustainability of eye care in the Pacific. It's about working with our community of donors, agencies, governments and health professionals so there's no holding back when it comes to getting the job done. Just like Fred.

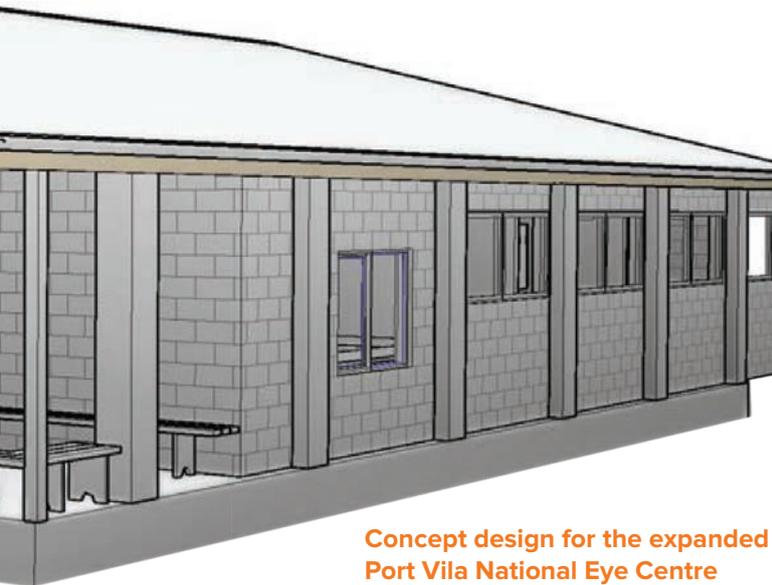
Our inaugural Future Fund project is the upgrade and extension of the Port Vila National Eye Centre. Along with the return of a Foundation-trained eye doctor, the Eye Centre will eventually increase Vanuatu's eye surgery capacity from 200 to 800 per annum. This will meet the country's needs as estimated by the World Health Organization.

The Future Fund was established thanks to a significant bequest from The Arthur and Pat Wood Family Trust.

Currently, the Port Vila National Eye Centre is run-down and the majority of the equipment is either defunct or broken. On top of that, it's not nearly large enough to cope with the high volume of patients needing treatment.

Our upgrade and extension will mean the Eye Centre is ready for the return of ni-Vanuatu Dr Johnson Kasso, who has been receiving specialist training supported by The Foundation.

It's an ambitious plan, but the only way to address a worsening problem in Vanuatu, and we're delighted the Future Fund has helped us to raise the required \$2.1 million to start expanding and renovating the centre in 2018. We



**Concept design for the expanded Port Vila National Eye Centre**

### The Port Vila project will include the following:

- Renovation of the current centre to provide dedicated diabetes treatment rooms
- New theatre complex with fully equipped theatre and procedure rooms
- Solar power
- Secure, clean water supply
- IT infrastructure to include safe storage of retinal images
- Multi-purpose facility to provide a teaching and meeting space



**Port Vila National Eye Centre as it is now**



are also thankful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand Aid Programme for contributing to the project, covering the cost of the new multi-purpose facility within the centre, as well as solar power for the entire centre.

We know this is an investment worth making. In 2015, we funded and built the \$4 million award-winning Regional Eye Centre in Solomon Islands. Since then, the number of patients seen has tripled and almost eight times the number of diabetic laser treatments have been performed.

**“Teach the teachers first, then the teachers can teach others.”**

Professor Fred Hollows

### What’s next for the Future Fund?

With the long-term sustainability of eye care in the Pacific at the forefront of our minds, we’re already looking towards the next significant Future Fund project. We envisage this will be the construction of a National Eye Centre in Papua New Guinea. This will be a Centre of Excellence, providing a full training facility for both eye doctors and nurses as well as offering the full range of eye services to the people of Papua New Guinea.



## MAKING A LEGACY OF SIGHT

We're extremely fortunate to have many individuals, trusts, foundations, organisations and community groups that support our sight-saving work in the Pacific. Without this, we simply couldn't do what we do.

One of the types of support we receive is through individuals leaving a bequest to us in their will, essentially helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of our programmes in the Pacific. Sheila is one individual who has pledged a bequest to us in her will.



**Sheila, Bequester to The Foundation**

Born in Scotland, Sheila visited New Zealand in her early twenties and has been here ever since.

Enjoying a passion for reading, she worked as a bookbinder for many years: "Books are one of the most important things to me, they open pathways and provide the ability to learn."

"I'm privileged. I know how lucky I am". But knowing there are many people in the Pacific living with cataract blindness, Sheila generously decided to leave a bequest to us in her will.

"There is a reward in knowing you're helping people. People who don't have any of the things that I have. Being able to give back, it doesn't need to be a huge amount to make a huge difference, to give someone their life back."

In her early seventies, Sheila's sight began to deteriorate, threatening her love of reading. However, with access to quality eye care in New Zealand, Sheila had her cataracts removed and was thrilled with a renewed quality of life.

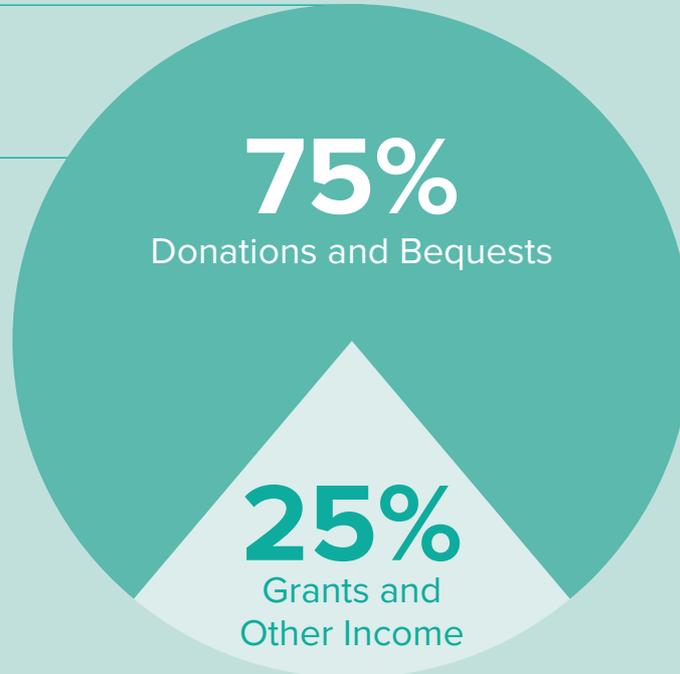
# 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Performance for the year ending 31 December 2017. The information in this report has been summarised from the audited consolidated annual financial statements of The Fred Hollows Foundation (NZ) for the year ending 31 December 2017. The full audited financial statements are available by emailing [info@hollows.nz](mailto:info@hollows.nz) or at [www.hollows.org.nz](http://www.hollows.org.nz) or on the Charities Services website - [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz).

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**TOTAL INCOME**  
**\$12,624,176**

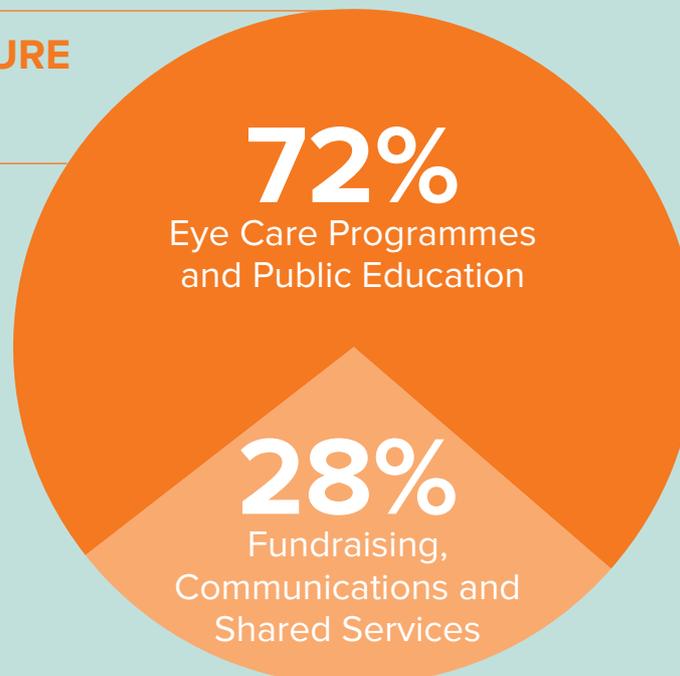
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**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  
**\$9,971,164**

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In 2017, an additional \$710,819 was invested in capital projects and equipment across the Pacific.

In 2018, we have made provision for a further \$2,800,000 investment in capital projects, equipment and the expansion and upgrade of the Port Vila National Eye Centre.

# OUR PEOPLE

## Patrons



**Gabi Hollows AO**  
Founding Director of  
The Fred Hollows Foundation



**The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy**  
GNZM, QSO Governor-General  
of New Zealand

## Entity Information

### Group Entity

The Fred Hollows Foundation (NZ)

### Nature of Business

Registered Charity

### Registered Office

Level 5  
The AIG Building  
41 Shortland Street  
Auckland Central  
Auckland

### Charities Commission Number

CC23722

### Date of Incorporation

19 October 1992

### Auditors

BDO  
Chartered Accountants

### Solicitors

DLA Piper New Zealand

## Executive Team

### Andrew Bell

Executive Director

### Dr Telaite Biu

Pacific Eye Institute Director

### Margi Mellsop

Fundraising, Marketing and  
Communications Director

### Dr Neil Murray

Medical Director

### Marleen Nelisse

Programme Director

### Sharon Orr

Finance and Operations  
Director

### Dr John Szetu

Programme Medical Director

## Board of Trustees

### Craig Fisher FCA (Board Chair)

Audit Partner, Chairman,  
RSM New Zealand Group Limited

### Martin Enright

Chief Operating Officer, Ngāti Paoa  
Group Investments Limited

### Dr Nick Mantell FRANZCO

Ophthalmologist, Director,  
Eye Institute Limited

### Gordon Sanderson

(deceased July 2017)  
Associate Professor of  
Ophthalmology, Dunedin School  
of Medicine

### Debbie Sorensen DCCT, CMInstD,

NZRPN, MNZIOD  
CEO, Pasifika Futures Limited  
Director, Health Specialists Limited

### Kath Watson

Director, WA Dennis 2015 Limited

### Sir Maarten Wevers KNZM

Former Chief Executive, Department  
of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing last year of a valued member of our Board of Trustees, Gordon Sanderson.

Gordon, an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Dunedin School of Medicine, joined the Board of our Foundation in 2016, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge, including extensive governance experience across the eye care sector.

**“Gordon endeared himself to everyone he met at The Fred Hollows Foundation. His immense knowledge, experience and wisdom were of considerable benefit to our Foundation; to our governance, our operations, and our future work. However, to everyone on the Board of The Foundation, perhaps what is most memorable was his humble and gentle manner, always delivering his input in such a respectful style, and often with his delightful cheeky grin or a witty comment following his wise counsel. He will be hugely missed.”**

Craig Fisher, Board Chair

# THANK YOU

The Trustees and staff sincerely thank you for your support and encouragement in 2017.

## Development partners

These organisations contribute significantly to our programmes in the Pacific. We're extremely grateful for their commitment to our sight-restoring programmes and simply couldn't achieve as much as we do without their support. We'd also like to thank all the health care organisations throughout the Pacific that help to enable our programme activities. Delivering eye care can't be done in isolation and we work with many organisations, including local Ministries of Health, to strengthen local eye care systems.



WORLD **DIABETES** FOUNDATION



**NEW ZEALAND**  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
Aid Programme

## Corporate partnerships

We're delighted to have on-going partnerships with many generous organisations who support our work in countless different ways. This invaluable support helps us reduce costs, operate more efficiently and work even harder to restore sight and change lives.



## Donations of goods and services

We'd like to sincerely thank the many organisations who support our sight-saving work in the Pacific through donations of goods and services.



**SHAPE**  
INTERIOR WORKSPACE SOLUTIONS



**MUNRO LEYS**



## Individual donors, trusts, foundations and community groups

We're extremely fortunate to enjoy the support of many individuals, trusts, foundations and community groups that contribute so generously to our work. We're deeply grateful to each and every one of you for sharing Fred's vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind.

### Key supporter

One of our key supporters is the HB Williams Turanga Trust, who has a strong commitment to making a difference in the Pacific. This family trust significantly contributed to the Future Fund's Port Vila National Eye Centre expansion project.





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