



The **Fred Hollows**  
Foundation NZ

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Annual Report 2014

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# Forewords

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Photo: Michael Bradley

Our ambition to rid the Pacific of avoidable blindness came closer to reality in 2014.

It was a milestone year for The Foundation, thanks to the dedicated support of our generous New Zealand donors, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We initiated three significant infrastructure developments, of which we're very proud.

- First, the long overdue construction of a new theatre complex - largely financed by a generous bequest - in Madang, Papua New Guinea. This and a renovation of the existing clinic will have a significant impact for the country, where there remains a large population who are cataract blind.
- This was followed by the completion of the Pacific's first mobile eye clinic to serve rural Fiji, a fantastic example of New Zealand innovation funded entirely by our public supporters. The clinic is now underway and seeing large numbers of patients who need something as simple as a pair of eyeglasses, through to treatment for diabetes-related eye disease.
- Our final and most ambitious development was made possible with the support of the New Zealand Aid Programme who committed NZD\$4 million for the construction of a Regional Eye Centre for Honiara, Solomon Islands.

This investment in infrastructure demonstrates our commitment to providing our eye care graduates with the world-class facilities they need to carry out their critical sight-saving work. Already the results have far surpassed our expectations, allowing hundreds (and soon to be thousands) more patients to reap the benefits of a life with sight.

In addition to these clinical projects, donations from the New Zealand public allowed us to continue expanding the breadth and depth of our work through our training and outreach programs.

During the year I stepped down as chair of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ following a serious health scare. I am extremely grateful to Craig Fisher for taking over the role at short notice. He is a highly qualified chairman and I have every confidence The Foundation will strengthen under his leadership. My thanks to fellow trustees, present and past, for their support and wise counsel; to the outstanding, high performance team under Andrew Bell's leadership and finally to our growing family of generous donors without whom nothing would be possible.

It has been a great privilege to follow in Fred's giant footsteps in his quest to beat the ogre of avoidable blindness.

**Rob Fenwick** CNZM Chair



Photo: Leith Campbell

You are exceptional, and this report shows exactly why. In 2014, because of your support, we were able to employ powerful and critical initiatives that will have a radical impact upon avoidable blindness in the Pacific. I want to thank you for the thousands who will benefit from these momentous achievements. Because of your dedicated support, 2014 is one of our golden years.

We have opened the doors to infrastructure that will have a large, long-term impact in the future. The new clinic in Papua New Guinea, the mobile eye clinic in Fiji and the Regional Eye Centre in Solomon Islands are three massive initiatives that will bring eye care to thousands more.

Timely access to quality, affordable health care remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Through your support, and with our dedicated eye doctors and nurses at the helm, the days of avoidable blindness in the Pacific are numbered.

Your impact in the Pacific is measured literally in the eyes of thousands. On the ground, blindness is always confronting. Patients are led to waiting rooms, stumbling to their seat – unable to even see waving hands. Each patient's transformation takes me by surprise. Jo Leimana from Vanuatu in particular was a delight. After her bandages came off, she was grinning from ear to ear, and I asked her if she could see my nose. She reached out and grabbed it first go!

The developments we make for people who are blind in the Pacific relies on people like you. With you beside us, we can continue to face challenges and be genuine catalysts for change.

From all the men, women and children whose lives you have helped transform, and all of us at The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, thank you for your continued compassion, commitment and support.

**Andrew Bell** Executive Director



Photo: Topic / James Ensing-Trussell

# Vision

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The Fred Hollows Foundation works for a world where no one is needlessly blind.

# Goal

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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

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### 1. Restore sight

We perform thousands of sight-restoring surgeries and treatments every year at our clinics and through our surgical outreach program into underserved communities.

### 2. Train doctors and nurses

Training local eye doctors and nurses is the only way to eliminate avoidable blindness in a sustainable way. We provide specialist medical training to local doctors and nurses so they can take over the sight-restoring work carried out by visiting surgical teams.

### 3. Build local eye care systems

Our graduates often return home to work in challenging and professionally isolating environments. We provide ongoing logistical and technical support so they can deliver high quality eye care while continuing to improve their skills.

### 4. Ensure our approach is tested and effective

We aim to have the greatest possible impact on avoidable blindness with the resources we have. We are committed to ensuring our eye care programs are locally appropriate and meet international best practice.

# Your impact in 2014

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The following results are a snapshot of what you have helped to achieve for the people of the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.



## Restoring sight

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A staggering **6,307** sight-restoring surgeries were performed across the Pacific.

Eye care workers (that you helped to train) carried out **59,936** patient consultations.

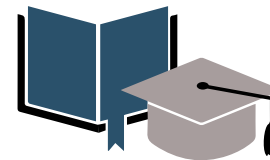
A massive **12,279** people can now see clearly after receiving a pair of spectacles.



## Spectacular number of outreaches

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**39** surgical outreaches took place in just one year. Our eye doctors and nurses travelled across ocean and land to help people in the most remote, isolated locations across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.



## Sustainability through training

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We celebrate the graduation of **27** trained local eye care workers, who will return to their communities to help needlessly blind people see. Thanks to you, these graduates will be part of a growing, powerful and locally-based sustainable eye care system.



## Tackling diabetic retinopathy

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Meeting the challenge of diabetic retinopathy, your support enabled an incredible **1,498** diabetes laser treatment sessions to save the sight of people going blind from this condition.



# Country highlights

## Timor-Leste



**1,160 sight-restoring surgeries** performed



**13 outreaches** to rural locations

## Papua New Guinea

### Graduate success in Papua New Guinea (PNG)



People across PNG are desperately in need of more eye care professionals, so we are excited that due to your support, a further **8 eye nurses graduated** from the training program in Madang



**992 people** can now see again after receiving **sight-restoring surgeries**

## Solomon Islands



**57 surgeries** performed on **1 outreach**



**1,046 surgeries** performed by Foundation-trained graduates

## Kiribati

### Kiribati welcomes first local eye doctor



Foundation-trained Dr Rabebe Tekearoi returns to her native Kiribati to be the sole eye doctor for the country. Her presence will revolutionise eye care for her people.



**2 surgical outreaches** were sent to Kiribati, resulting in **298 surgeries** and **44 diabetes laser treatment sessions**

## Samoa



**265 eye surgeries** performed on **2 outreaches**

## Tonga



**214 surgeries** performed on **2 outreaches**

## Vanuatu



**398 surgeries** and **23 diabetes laser sessions** performed on **4 outreaches**



## Fiji



**1,779 surgeries** and **1,419 diabetes laser treatment sessions** performed



**4 training outreaches**



**19 students** from across the Pacific region **graduated** from our Suva-based Pacific Eye Institute

# Bibiane's story

"Now I can see clearly. I am thankful for the doctor and the work he did. I can cook, go to the river, bathe, go to the toilet. That's what makes me happy."

Bibiane is a brave and determined woman from a remote village in Papua New Guinea. She's unsure of her age, but remembers soldiers visiting her village during World War II. Cataracts in both her eyes meant that Bibiane was forced to leave her home village and go to live hours away with her daughter. She was no longer able to grow her own food, move around, or take care of herself, making her completely dependent on her family.

"I feel sorry for my family and grandchildren having to

look after me. My family do things like bringing me to the toilet and staying with me until I sleep. Before, when I could still see, it wasn't like this. I think, what's wrong with me?"

"When I tried to cook food on the fire, the food got burned, because I couldn't see anymore. I couldn't see the house, the road, nothing."

"The priest told me 'If you go to the doctor, they can

clean your eyes so you can see again.' So I dressed up in my best clothes and I went."

Bibiane felt the first stirrings of hope that her sight could be restored.

When the eye doctor peeled back her patches, Bibiane was transformed! Returning home a different woman, able to look after herself again, contribute to her household and share the songs and stories of her village with her grandchildren. She was overjoyed.

# Caring for the eyes of diabetes sufferers

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We are increasingly seeing patients with sight loss or blindness caused by diabetes in the Pacific. There is enormous concern about the level of diabetes globally, with nine out of ten of the world's worst incidence rates found in the region. With this in mind, we have taken the lead by equipping and training personnel to treat the most common diabetes-related eye disease, known as **diabetic retinopathy**.

## What is diabetic retinopathy?

Diabetic retinopathy affects approximately one-third of people with diabetes. The delicate retinal blood vessels multiply or 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. This form of sight loss is irreversible but can be arrested and sight preserved with laser treatment.

How the world appears to someone with diabetic retinopathy

Normal vision



Vision with diabetic retinopathy

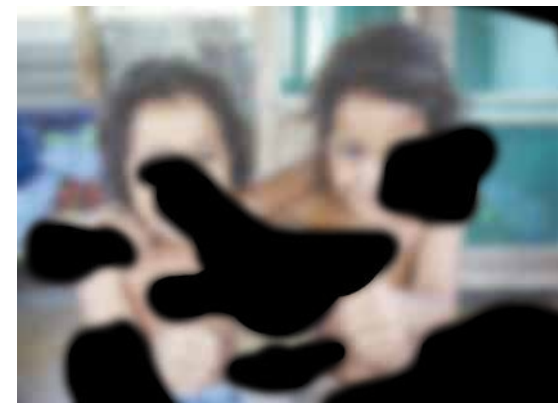


Photo: Michael Bradley

Your support is helping preserve the sight of people that would otherwise go blind.

- 1,419 laser treatment sessions for diabetes sufferers were performed at our Suva-based diabetes eye clinic.
- Fortnightly eye screening outreaches for patients took place at health centres around Suva, detecting eye disease and preserving sight.
- A diabetic retinopathy specialist accompanied our outreach team treating patients across the Pacific.
- A new diabetes eye clinic and training facility opens at the Regional Eye Centre in Honiara in 2015.



# Building foundations for local eye care

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## Thousands to regain sight With Papua New Guinea's new operating theatre

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has one of the most acute shortages of eye health workers in the Pacific. The sheer backlog of people needing treatment, limited resources, and the scattered population have previously restricted the effectiveness of our work. Your dedication, and a generous bequest, meant that we could build this world-class new operating theatre in Madang. Situated in one of the most populated areas in PNG, this freshly constructed clinic will double the number of people who can regain their sight in this region. We aim to restore sight to over 1000 people in the first year alone.



## Cutting-edge solution: Mobile eye clinic serves remote Fiji

Access to eye care can be difficult, especially for people in isolated areas. People often lack money for travel. Blind people are unable to travel independently, and distance becomes an insurmountable barrier. Your support has built and shipped the Pacific's first ever mobile eye clinic. This fully functional clinic is operational in remote locations of Fiji, taking eye care directly to the people. The travelling doctors and nurses offer free eye checks, cataract surgery, dispense spectacles and treat diabetic retinopathy. Your support will help clear the backlog of avoidable blindness and provide patients with a second chance at life, and our thanks go out to Action Manufacturing who designed and built the clinic.



## Regional Eye Centre Solomon Islands opens doors

There is a desperate need to improve eye care services in Solomon Islands. Limited access to a few, poorly equipped clinics has not met the demand of the needlessly blind. We developed and promoted access to first-class facilities, and by partnering with the governments of Solomon Islands and New Zealand, established a Regional Eye Centre in Honiara. Opening in 2015, this solar-powered, fully-equipped facility will also act as a training ground for nurses and doctors in the Pacific region. As a result, many thousands of people will have their sight restored and will go on to live independent lives.

Thanks go to Timber Constructions Solutions, Bossley Architects, Boyd Visuals, Trapes Transformation Company and Optimed for making the Centre a reality. We also want to thank What Power Crisis and Flocon for all their hard work on the Centre.



# Taking eyecare to the people – ‘outreach’

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Every year you help send eye doctors and nurses to remote Pacific communities, on eye health missions called ‘outreaches’. These bring eye treatments to places where limited or no services exist.

Your generosity helped fund **39 outreaches** to **9 island nations** spread across the vast Pacific. Our dedicated eye health professionals provided **11,698 consultations**, performed **2,569 surgeries** and dispensed **4,097 pairs of spectacles** to grateful patients.

For the first time, the Pacific Outreach Team provided services in the Federated States of Micronesia, where a busy two weeks changed the lives of more than 500 people. Meanwhile, three diabetic retinopathy outreaches in Fiji and the addition of diabetic retinopathy services on our regional outreaches increased our response to the rapidly growing demand for sight preserving laser treatment across the Pacific.

To meet this demand, our outreach teams face huge hurdles such as dengue, measles, floods and power cuts. With your support, we are determined to overcome these challenges and transform lives by restoring sight wherever help is needed most.



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“Patients who have received sight from previous outreaches advocate that no, cataracts are not a part of ageing. We don’t have to be blind during old age.” - Dr Mundi Qalo, Outreach Team Leader

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# Empowering through education and training

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Your support is helping to build local leadership. Through training eye doctors and nurses in the Pacific, your help ensures there are enough eye health professionals to sustain their communities for decades to come. In 2014, 27 eye health professionals graduated from our training programs.

But the story doesn't end at graduation. Our highly successful Workforce Support program provides essential ongoing support to our graduates, who often return home to isolated practices. We provide upskilling opportunities through workshops, one-on-one clinic visits and hands-on outreach experience, as well as necessary equipment. 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.



Photo: Hugh Rutherford



**Savelina Veamatahau**

**HEALTH EXTENSION OFFICER, TONGA**

Savelina is a nurse practitioner who graduated to a standing ovation from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2010 with a Post Graduate 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 very first eye doctor for the country of Kiribati. She graduated from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2014. Along with two local eye nurses she is building an eye care system from humble beginnings. Workforce support is key to their success.

"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."

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"To my mind, having a care and concern for others is the highest of the human qualities" - Professor Fred Hollows

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# Karae's story

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Karae RovoBoiBoi is a strong, proud man, a chief in a remote pygmy village in Vanuatu. But for three long years, cataracts robbed Karae of his ability to look after his people or provide for his children.

Karae heard our eye care team was coming to perform cataract surgery and restore sight to the people, but had to wait another year for our doctors and nurses to make it to his island.

When the time finally came to make the journey to our outreach clinic, Karae traveled through hills and dense jungle. A three-day walk turned into a week-long ordeal, while he relied on the support of his cousin (who was blind in one eye), to lead him safely through the terrain.

Every uncertain, barefoot step took the brave chief down steep mountains, over huge logs and branches

and around sharp rocks. Unable to see, at the end of his journey awaited the foreign mystery and fear of the surgery on his eyes.

When Karae arrived at the clinic, he was reserved and sat quietly waiting his turn. However, once the surgery was over and the bandages came off, his whole manner changed. He became a smiling, effusive man who wanted to share hugs and handshakes with everyone. He gazed in wonder at the jungle that had been hidden from him for so long, at the birds he could see sitting in the trees above. He was overjoyed to know that in just three days he could complete the return trek on his own, unaided.

He returned to his family and community a whole man, walking proudly.

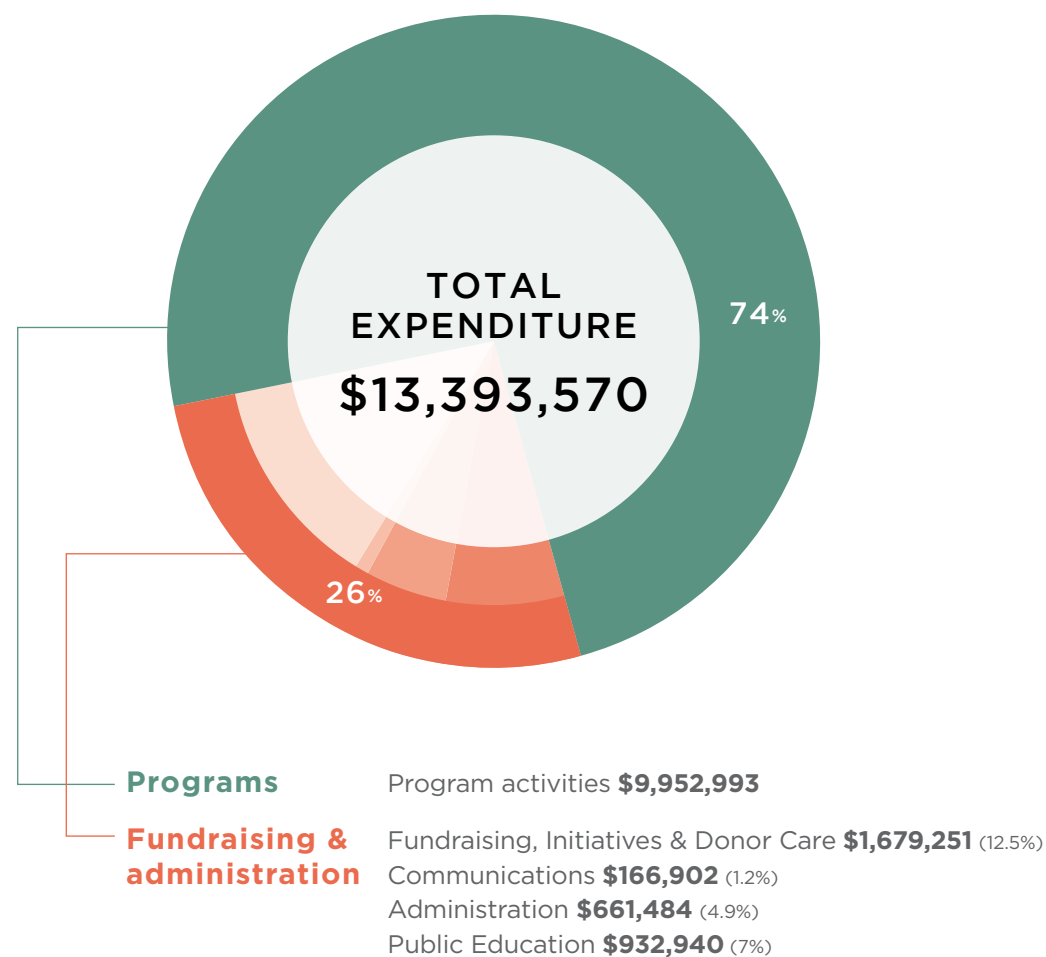
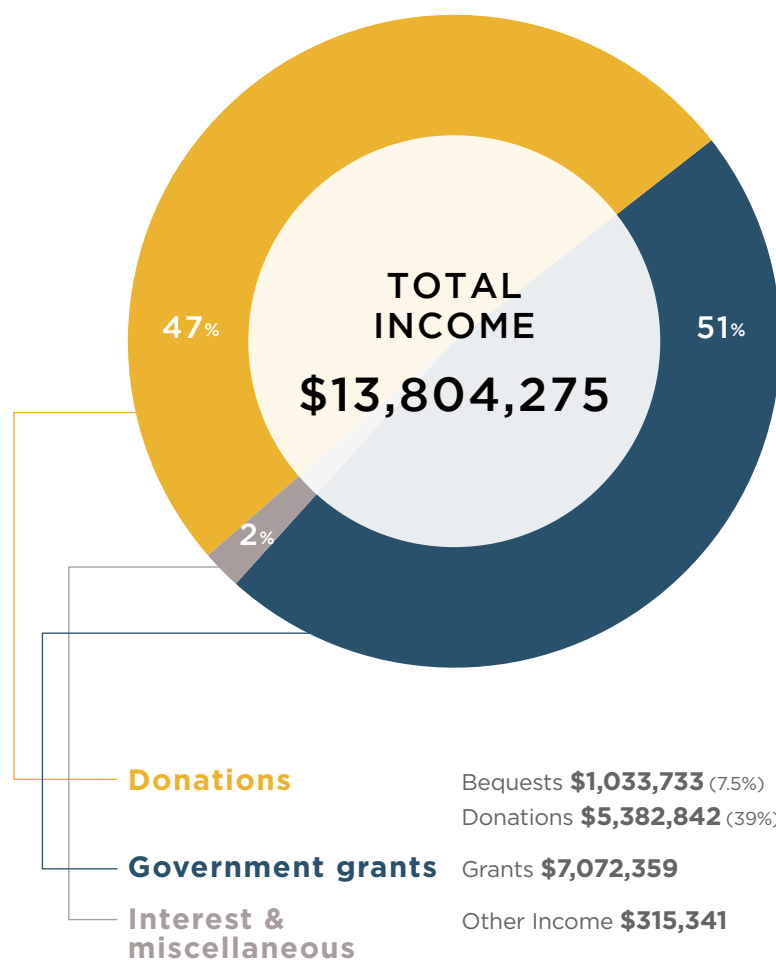
Karae's restored vision means he can see to lead his people confidently, rescued from the gnawing fear that he would never see again, that his life as a chief was over.

"I can see many things!" he said. "I'm so glad that I can see. The eye doctors are incredible. Thank you to the people of New Zealand! Thank you so much. Now I can be chief to my people again."

Restoring Karae's sight gave him back his dignity, his freedom, and his purpose in life.



# 2014 Financial report



Independent audit report: The information in this report has been summarised from the annual accounts of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ for the year ending 31 December 2014. The full audit statement is available at [hollows.org.nz](http://hollows.org.nz) or by emailing [info@hollows.org.nz](mailto:info@hollows.org.nz).

# Looking forward

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The Fred Hollows Foundation is committed to ending avoidable blindness.



## Supporting our graduates

Providing access to quality eye care to eliminate avoidable blindness is the singular task of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

Your support is helping increase the numbers of eye doctors and nurses who return to their communities and help people see again.

These dedicated eye doctors and nurses are steadily clearing the backlog of cataract blindness, using our world-class eye care centres and the mobile eye clinic you have made possible.



## Focus on changing needs

Your ongoing support makes a crucial difference in creating change. It allows us to focus on the growing challenges to eyesight such as the rising rate of diabetic retinopathy. If not arrested early, the devastating sight loss from diabetes could threaten to overwhelm local health care systems.

Your help along with our partnerships with the World Diabetes Fund and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust will equip facilities, implement training programs and provide essential equipment.

Your support is key. Thank you.

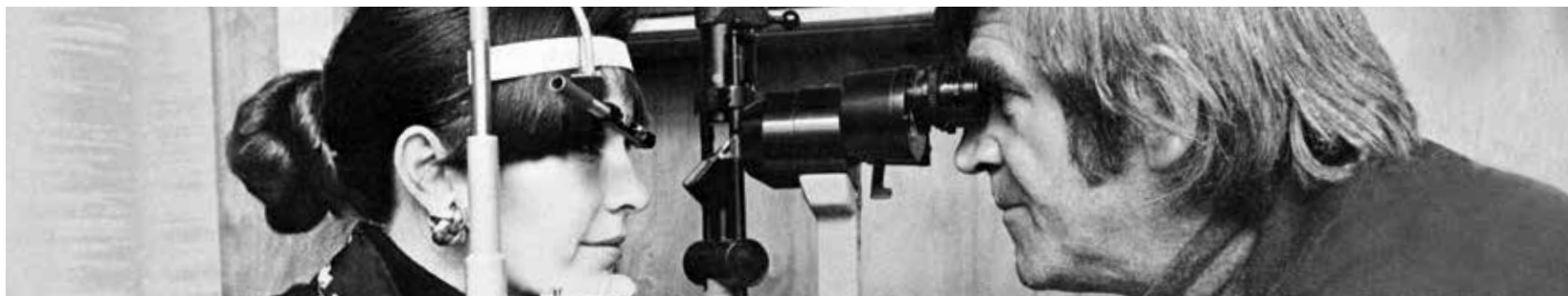


## Child protection policy

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is pleased to begin aligning its existing child protection practices with the standards set out in New Zealand's new Vulnerable Children Act 2014. A revised child protection policy was implemented during 2014, and a process is in place to ensure that all major contracts and funding arrangements recognise and protect children.

# People

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## Patrons

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Photo: Jeremy Park

**Gabi Hollows**  
Founding Director  
and Patron



**Lt Gen The Rt  
Hon Sir Jerry  
Mateparae**  
The Governor-General  
of New Zealand

## Executive team

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**Andrew Bell**  
Executive Director

**Dr Neil Murray**  
Medical Director

**John McElhinney**  
General Manager  
Fundraising & Shared  
Services

**Marleen Nelisse**  
Regional Program Manager

## Board of trustees

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**Rob Fenwick CNZM (Chair)**  
Founding Director, Living Earth Ltd

**Franceska Banga**  
Chief Executive, NZ Venture Investment Ltd

**Craig Fisher**  
Chairman/Audit Director, RSM Hayes Audit

**Dr Nick Mantell**  
Ophthalmologist, Eye Institute

**Debbie Sorensen**  
Director Health Specialists Ltd, Chief Executive, PMA

**Kath Watson**  
CEO, OMD New Zealand

**Sir Maarten Wevers**  
Former Chief Executive, Department of the Prime Minister  
and Cabinet



# Thank you

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## Development partners

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The New Zealand Aid Programme, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Diabetes Foundation, University of Auckland, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Counties Manukau District Health Board and The Fred Hollows Foundation in Australia contribute significantly to our programs.

**In the Pacific Islands:** The Ministries of Health in Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga and Federated States of Micronesia; RANZCO; International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; World Health Organisation.

**In Fiji:** Ministry of Health; CWM Hospital; Fiji National University College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

**In Solomon Islands:** Ministry of Health and Medical Services, National Referral Hospital.

**In Papua New Guinea:** Papua New Guinea National Department of Health; Divine Word University; Modilon General Hospital and the National Prevention of Blindness Committee.

**In Timor-Leste:** Ministry of Health; Fo Naroman Timor-Leste; Guido Valadares National Hospital; Royal Australasian College of Surgeons/East Timor Eye Program; Waikato District Health Board.



## Corporate supporters

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The Foundation is delighted to have an on-going partnership with **Specsavers**, who supports our work across the Pacific through the Specsavers Community Program.

A huge thanks to **HealthPost** and their customers for choosing to help needlessly blind people. **Agility Logistics** freight essential medical equipment and supplies, at no cost, to our programs around the region. A special thanks to **DLA Piper**, for the invaluable pro-bono legal services. Our deepest gratitude to **FearFree Security and Safety Management** for training our staff to be safe no matter where they are working.

**Boyd Visuals, Alcon, FIJI Water Foundation, Mainfreight, Matson, Orca Communications Ltd** and the many other businesses that have supported The Foundation in 2014, thank you.



## Individual donors, trusts, foundations and community groups


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The Foundation is extremely fortunate to enjoy the support of many wonderful individuals who donate to our fundraising appeals, make one-off donations or contribute to our regular giving program, the Miracle Club. We sincerely thank each and every one of you, for sharing Fred's vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind.

Our deepest gratitude to all of the philanthropic trusts and foundations that support our vision and ensure that we are able to make a difference to the lives of thousands of people throughout the Pacific region each year. We were deeply saddened by the passing of David Ellison, one of The Foundation's original and very generous supporters, and the inspiration behind the David Ellison Charitable Trust.

Many amazing people made a lasting impact by remembering The Foundation in their Will. While we are rarely able to thank them personally, this unique gift leaves a lasting legacy.

Throughout the year a broad range of community supporters hosted a variety of fundraising activities. Thank you to all those inspirational individuals, generous groups, super schools and virtuous volunteers who ran, walked, knitted, read, sold sausages, baked cakes, chopped wood, waved flags, sang to strangers, danced across stages and opened their hearts to help needlessly blind people see once again.



Thank you,  
Vinaka Fa'afetai,  
Malo,  
Obrigado,  
Taggio Tumas,  
Tenk Yu Tumas!

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Cover page: Professor Fred Hollows holding the intraocular lens used in cataract surgery to restore eyesight. Photo: Anthony Weate/Newspix.