



# Forewords



I wish there was a way to capture the effervescence, colour and pageantry of the graduation ceremony at our Pacific Eye Institute in December 2015.

Four doctors gained a Masters of Ophthalmology, two had a Diploma of Ophthalmology conferred and 21 nurses graduated with a variety of post graduate qualifications including four with a Masters in Community Eye Care. In Papua New Guinea, the graduation of another eight specialist eye nurses was celebrated in similar fashion in March 2016.

This is Fred's vision made reality, what happens when thousands of selfless New Zealanders imagine a world where no one is needlessly blind. They give generously. Fred was determined the work of his team should build an eye care system for the future. He prioritised training local health professionals – 'indigenous surgeons' as Fred called them - to provide a high-calibre workforce to staff a sustainable system. 'Teach the teachers first' was Fred's directive and thus we were delighted when Fijian Dr Biu Sikivou, who has led the diabetes eye program for many years, agreed to become Director of the Pacific Eye Institute in May 2015.

The second priority for Fred was infrastructure. His famous lens factories in Eritrea and Nepal still produce high quality lenses to this day. We are confident he would be equally delighted to see the Regional Eye Centre which opened in Honiara, Solomon Islands in July 2015, built to international surgical standards. With power requirements provided by solar energy to ensure sustainability, staffed and led entirely by Solomon Islanders, this is also the realisation of a dream of founding director of the Pacific Eye Institute Dr John Szetu.

None of this would be possible without the long-term, consistent and overwhelmingly generous donations from all our supporters. We have no doubt Fred would be very proud of what we have accomplished together.

**Andrew Bell**  
Executive Director



Sometimes words are not enough and you need to see something to believe it.

When thinking of what words to use to sum up our achievements in 2015, this phrase seemed rather appropriate. Sight is so fundamental to our quality of life that mere words can fail to do it justice. Yet I have two small, yet very important and heartfelt words for everyone who has assisted The Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand to carry out our important work in the Pacific; thank you.

We know we've still got challenges ahead of us but thanks to the support of so many, 2015 has seen considerable further success and progress towards Fred's ultimate vision of eliminating avoidable blindness.

It's hard to pick out particular successes when there have been so many, large and small, to highlight and celebrate. Yet for me, attending the opening of the Regional Eye Centre in Honiara was a fantastic example of innovative sustainable success that has been created by the efforts of so many. The REC is a superb example of leading edge New Zealand sustainable design, building materials, technology and know-how, yet built utilizing a local workforce to truly bring it to life. This off the grid specialist eye centre has been funded by the New Zealand Government and supporters, yet is totally operated by Pacific Islanders, for Pacific Islanders, in the Pacific Islands. It's another important step in seeing Fred's vision become a reality.

Finally I'd like to pay particular thanks to our hardworking dedicated team and my fellow trustees. While the challenges are many, the commitment and dedication of this team is truly a sight to behold.

**Craig Fisher**  
Chairman





## What We Do

### Restore and preserve sight

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

### 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 a regional eye care workforce by providing specialist medical training and ongoing professional development through an active workforce support program, so that eye care graduates can take over the work of visiting surgical teams.

### 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.

### Drive innovation and research

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

## Our Vision

The Fred Hollows Foundation works for 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.



# Restore and preserve sight

You've helped thousands of people see again

This year we gave thousands of people throughout the Pacific their sight back – and with it, their dignity and independence.

For many, it was being able to receive desperately needed cataract surgery or diabetes eye care treatment at our clinics and through our outreach programs.

For others, it was something as simple as finally having a pair of properly prescribed spectacles that until now had been beyond their reach.

**We thank every single supporter for helping to make this happen. Our continued sight-restoring work wouldn't be possible without you.**

*"It's obscene to let people go blind when they don't have to."*

**Professor Fred Hollows**

**75,681** PATIENTS SCREENED

across the Pacific by **Foundation-trained eye care workers.**

**7,559** SIGHT-RESTORING AND SIGHT-SAVING

procedures performed. Cataract sufferers see again with **sight-restoring surgery.**

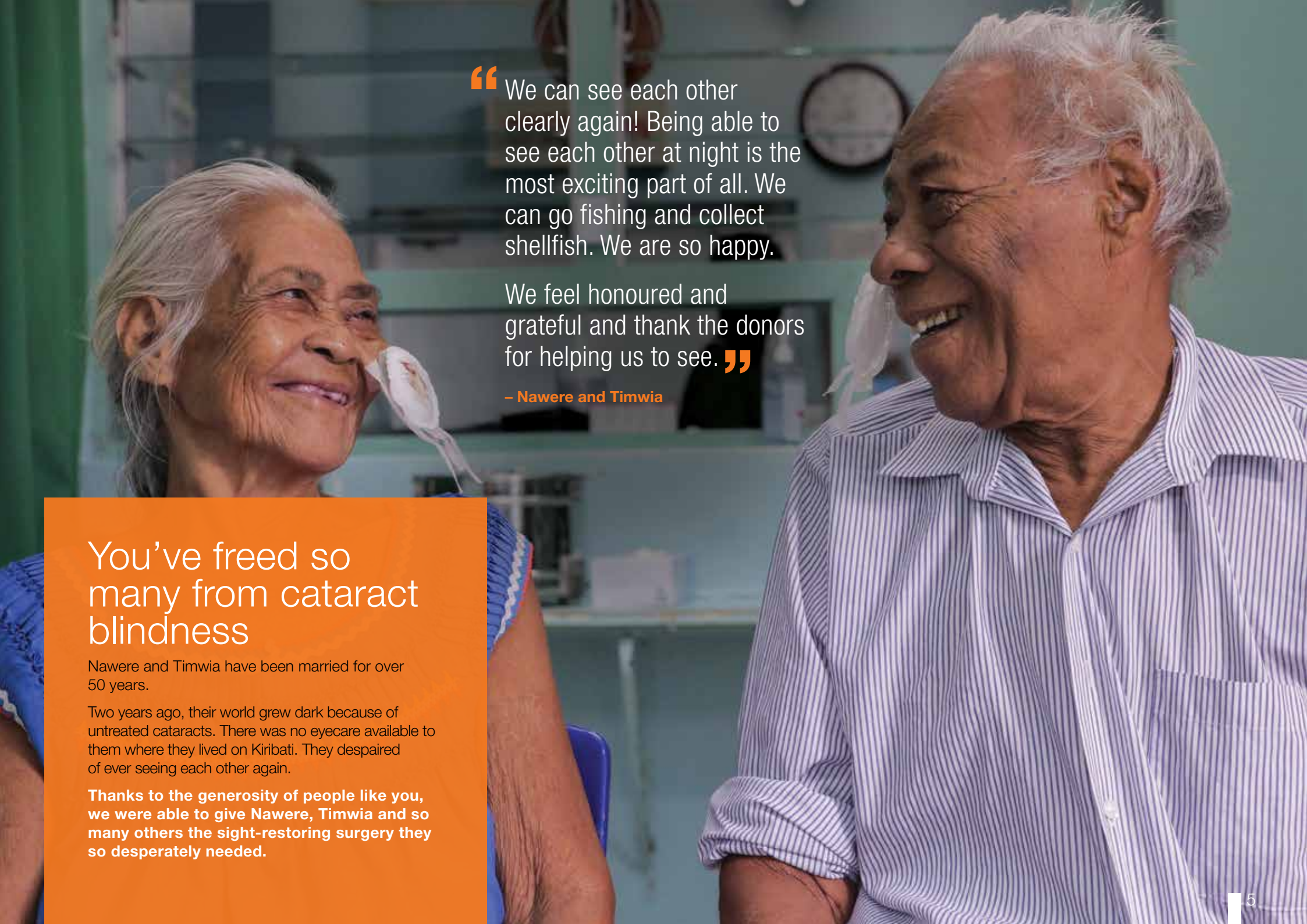
**5,868** PEOPLE IN REMOTE PLACES

can see again through our **Outreach Program.**

**14,746** PEOPLE CAN SEE CLEARLY

with pairs of properly **prescribed spectacles.**





“ We can see each other clearly again! Being able to see each other at night is the most exciting part of all. We can go fishing and collect shellfish. We are so happy.

We feel honoured and grateful and thank the donors for helping us to see. ”

– Nawere and Timwia

## You've freed so many from cataract blindness

Nawere and Timwia have been married for over 50 years.

Two years ago, their world grew dark because of untreated cataracts. There was no eyecare available to them where they lived on Kiribati. They despaired of ever seeing each other again.

**Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we were able to give Nawere, Timwia and so many others the sight-restoring surgery they so desperately needed.**





*"Don't ever half do a job, don't ever compromise. Slog away until you get the job done."*

**Professor Fred Hollows**

## You've restored sight to people in remote areas

Our Outreach team, headed by Dr Mundi Qalo, restores sight to thousands of people living in some of the most remote and hard to access areas of the Pacific.


Every day, men, women and children in desperate need of eye care line up outside Dr Mundi's surgery. Many have journeyed on foot from their homes miles away.

Dr Mundi and his team won't stop operating until the very last person in that queue has been seen. On a typical day they will restore sight to as many as 35 people.

**We couldn't do it without you.**

**“**Even if I work until late at night, I know that tomorrow I will have the reward of seeing families hugging and smiling and crying with joy.**”**

**– Dr Mundi Qalo**  
Ophthalmologist and Outreach Team Leader



“My son is very lucky. He was here at the right time. When they gave him the new medicine I noticed a big improvement. He is smiling more.”


– Rachel  
Mosese's mother

## You've saved sight by stopping infections

Twelve year old Mosese didn't know how he got his eye infection. But the pain and swelling got so bad that he couldn't see out of his right eye. His mother Rachel grew frantic. She feared that Mosese would be totally blind. The antibiotics weren't having any effect.

Dr Mundi Qalo was called in. He added a stronger antibiotic that was better suited to Mosese's sight-threatening condition. It worked.

**Your kindness helped save the sight of Mosese and so many others like him by ensuring they receive the treatment they need, before an eye infection leads to blindness.**



“I can finish my studies now and graduate so I can get a good job and help support my family.”

– Sandhya

## You've helped restore vision and hope with properly prescribed glasses

For many people in the Pacific, having a pair of properly prescribed spectacles is all they need to see again. Imagine. Something as simple as a pair of glasses can make all the difference between a future of poverty, and one of hope.

Sandhya found it hard to see the blackboard at school. She couldn't study because reading and writing became too difficult.

Thanks to your generosity, Sandhya was prescribed a pair of low cost glasses.

**Sandhya's vision and her hope were restored. Now she can study for a better future.**





## **35 DOCTORS AND NURSES GRADUATE**

from The Foundation's eye care training programs and return to their communities to restore sight and train others. Federated States of Micronesia now have their **first fully qualified eye doctor**.

# **Train and support the regional eyecare workforce**

## **You've given people the skills they need to screen and restore sight in their communities**

Fred Hollows often said he'd like us to do ourselves out of a job.

We're doing that by putting more trained local people into communities right across the Pacific and giving them the tools they need to save peoples' sight.

Thanks to supporters like you, we established the Pacific region's only specialised eyecare training centre, the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji in 2006 to train local health professionals in eye care.

This year alone, your generosity has meant that six doctors and 29 nurses have graduated in eye specialist programs and returned to their communities to help hundreds of people see again.

You've also helped us train community health workers to provide eye care support services, such as vision screening and providing properly prescribed spectacles. It all makes such a profound impact on peoples' lives.

There are still thousands of people in the Pacific who needlessly suffer a life of darkness, because they don't have access to even the most basic eye care.

You're helping to change that. You're giving them the people they need who can restore their sight.

*"What we are doing is revolutionary. We are giving people the chance to help themselves. We are giving them independence."*

**Professor Fred Hollows**



“It is very fulfilling to see students flourish with new knowledge and skills. The greatest reward is in seeing patients walk out of a clinic or an operating theatre smiling. I feel so proud of my students.”

– Ashreeta Lingam

Ashreeta Lingam completed her Post Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Eye Care from our Pacific Eye Institute in 2015.

**Ashreeta now teaches students the skills to provide much needed eye care in their communities.**





After graduating from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2015, Dr Padwick returned to his native Federated States of Micronesia.

**Dr Padwick is the Federated States of Micronesia's first eye doctor.**

“Cataract surgery is such a rewarding operation. You operate today and they can see tomorrow. The patients are so happy. They can see their children or grandchildren or great grandchildren again and that is very inspiring.”

– Dr Padwick Gallen





“Helping people see again is what motivates me. No matter what the government does, I can see the result of my efforts. It’s a continuous development process for me. We learn new skills and techniques, not only for myself but for other team members.”

– Basil Aitip

Basil Aitip is an Eye Nurse helping to restore sight to people in Vanuatu.

**Basil graduated with a Post Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Eye Care from the Pacific Eye Institute in 2015.**



# Strengthen local health sector

## You're creating local eye care centres where they're needed most

With your help, we're making giant strides forward in setting up local eye care systems that will help save the sight of thousands of people.

You've helped us to build strong partnerships with both the New Zealand and local governments. By working together, we can establish facilities that will help people see again and give locals the skills they need to perform sight-restoring surgery in their own communities.

The new solar powered Regional Eye Centre that opened last year in Honiara, for example, wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of Kiwis like you and the New Zealand Government.

It is the most advanced eye care facility in the Pacific and provides free eye care to Solomon Islanders and thousands of people across the Pacific. In just its first year, the number of people who have had their sight saved has doubled. Imagine. In the last 12 months, over 1,400 Solomon Islanders have been able to see again thanks to you.

That's a wonderful achievement.

**1,427** SIGHT-RESTORING  
OPERATIONS  
performed in **Solomon Islands.**

*"Every eye is an eye, when you're doing surgery that is just as important as if you were doing eye surgery on the Prime Minister or the King."*

**Professor Fred Hollows**





Number of people who can see again in the Solomon Islands doubles with the opening of the new Regional Eye Centre.



“We need to push the governments that blindness needs to be a priority as well. Restoring sight has so many good impacts on the economy of a country and the standard of living. I think what has been achieved has been great and I am very very proud to be part of that.”

– Dr John Szetu

Dr John Szetu is a leader in eye health care and has made a huge impact in the lives of people across the Pacific.

He has helped set up programmes that have provided much needed eye care to people in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, and helped establish the revolutionary Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji.

**Dr John has restored sight to tens of thousands of people. Just as important is his contribution towards training a generation of eye doctors and eye nurses who are carrying on the work of not only his vision, but our vision as well.**



**5,078** PEOPLE IN  
REMOTE AREAS  
OF FIJI

had their eyes screened in our unique  
Mobile Eye Clinic in it's first six months.

## Drive innovation and research

### You've helped put the Pacific's first Mobile Eye Clinic on the road

There are so many remote villages where men, women and children are blinded by conditions that are treated as simple matter of routine here in New Zealand.

Many of these people are too isolated to get to a clinic. You've helped us get to them.

With the Pacific's first Mobile Eye Clinic, our team has been able to bring eye care services to thousands of people who would not have otherwise accessed the eye care they needed.

You've helped in other innovative ways too. Every year we give scholarships to bright thinkers to find better ways to provide eye care. Recent achievements include looking at ways to use mobile phone technology to make eye care more accessible for people living in low-income countries, and ways we can work with the government and agencies in the Pacific to provide sight saving surgery.

*"It is our job to do something about the disparity between nations. We discover our own humanity by helping others – the old, the lame, the blind. Don't ever forget that this is what it is all about."*

**Professor Fred Hollows**





“I would like to thank you very much for helping us and helping my mum to get better. She can see by herself now and is really, really happy.”


– Preti and Raj

Raj is a proud and capable grandmother. When cataracts slowly robbed her of her sight, she should have been able to seek treatment immediately.

But Raj lived in a remote village in Fiji, where access to eye care is difficult. So Raj lived in darkness, knowing she had become a terrible burden to her family.

When the new Mobile Eye Clinic visited her area, her life changed overnight – and now Raj can see again.

**It was thanks to wonderful people like you who funded the Mobile Eye Clinic that we can bring eye care to people in remote areas.**



“In the Pacific, there’s been a huge leap in the number of people with access to a mobile phone. It presents a critical opportunity among low and middle income countries to improve and increase access to health care. I’m hoping the outcomes of my research will be a useful tool to start debate around the use of mHealth and enhance local health systems.”

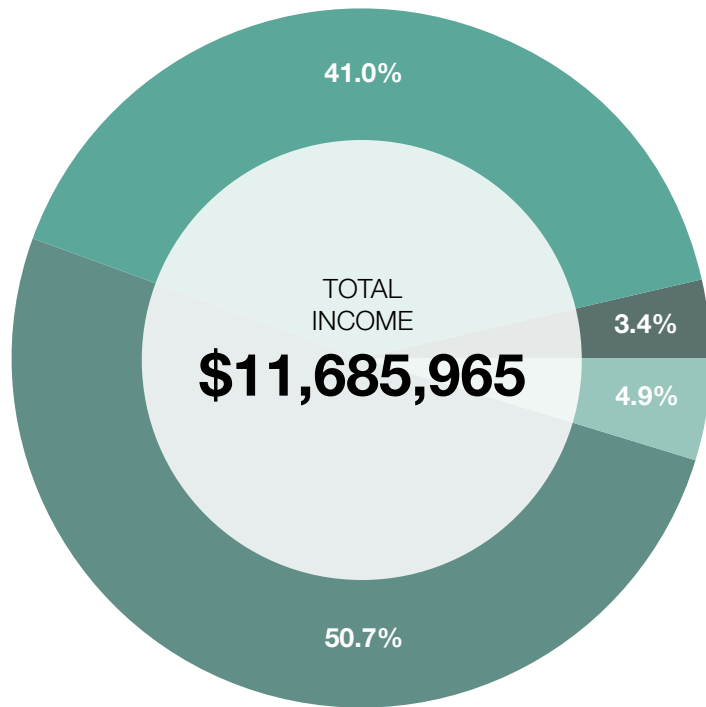
– Elaine Umali

Public Health graduate Elaine Umali researched the potential use of mobile phones as a health tool for disease prevention and control in the Pacific.

Her research is being supported by a Fred Hollows Foundation NZ scholarship.

**As part of the research Elaine engaged with key government and health representatives about establishing mobile phone health services in the Pacific.**

# 2015 Financial Report



## DONATIONS: 56%

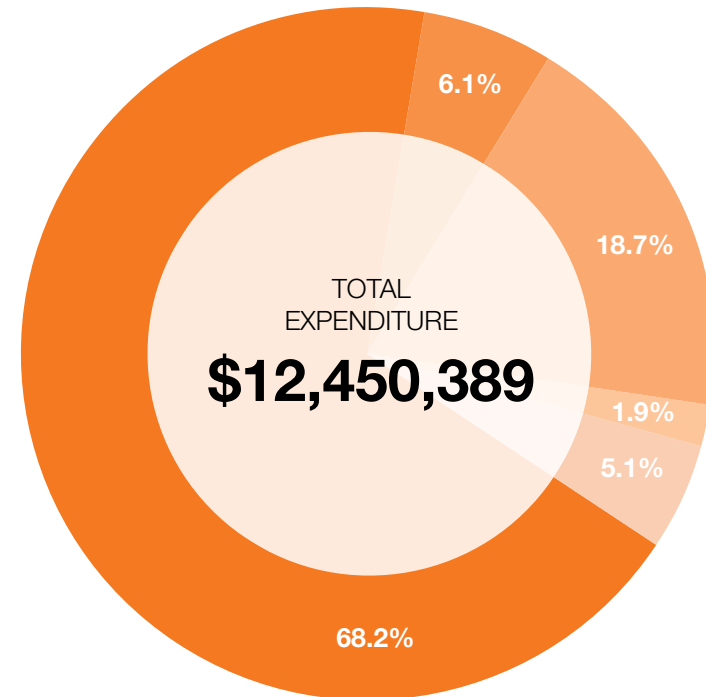
Bequests **\$565,364** (4.9%)  
Donations **\$5,929,609** (50.7%)

## GOVERNMENT GRANTS: 41%

Grants **\$4,788,683** (41.0%)

## INTEREST & MISC: 3%

Other Income **\$402,309** (3.4%)



## FUNDRAISING & ADMINISTRATION: 26%

Fundraising, Initiatives & Donor Care **\$2,322,727** (18.7%)  
Communications **\$238,658** (1.9%)  
Administration **\$636,584** (5.1%)

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: 74%

Eyecare Programs **\$8,491,883** (68.2%)  
Public Education **\$760,537** (6.1%)

Financial position as at 31 December 2015.  
Registered charity cc23722



# Dedicated to supporters

## Thanks for an amazing year!

Reaching out across the Pacific to prevent avoidable blindness and restore sight is only possible because of the generosity of our supporters, volunteers and partners.

In 2015, the exceptional effort of fundraisers across New Zealand was truly awe inspiring. One brave girl shaved her head to help others see! Others volunteered their time, ran marathons, held stalls, hosted dinners and many other activities besides – thank you!

Every year we are also deeply touched by gifts received in honour of the memory of loved ones and deeply grateful to the men and women who choose to leave a gift to The Foundation in their Will. It is our privilege to be entrusted with such lasting legacies from which Pacific communities will benefit for years to come.

Thank you for making our work possible.

### How you can help:

- Tell one new person about The Foundation this year.
- Make a donation.
- Contact us about leaving a gift in your Will.



Nine year old  
Isabelle Lauder  
raised over \$2,000.

“I decided to shave my head for The Fred Hollows Foundation because you can change someone's life and the life of their family.”

– Isabelle Lauder



Photo credit: Meghan  
Lawrence, Fairfax NZ

Vonney Johnston (right) with Andrew Bell. The generous bequest left by Vonney's father Ernie Johnston played a major part in building the new operating theatre in Papua New Guinea.



# People

## Patrons



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



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

## Executive team

**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 (resigned May 2015)**  
Founding Director, Living Earth Ltd

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

**Dr Nick Mantell**  
Ophthalmologist, Eye Institute

**Debbie Sorensen DCCT**  
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Specialists Ltd

**Kath Watson**  
CEO, OMD New Zealand

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



# Thank you

## Development partners

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

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 2015, thank you.



## Individual donors, trusts, foundations and community groups

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.

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals, trusts and foundations that contribute so generously towards making our shared vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind, a reality. We are thankful to The David Ellison Trust for the many, many years of continued support.

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, spun candyfloss, chopped wood, waved flags, sang to strangers, hosted dinners, danced across stages and opened their hearts to help needlessly blind people see once again.

A photograph of an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a white lace shawl over a red garment. A green, circular eye patch is visible over her right eye. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a blue lattice structure.

**Thank you  
very much!**

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