**Past and Present Primary Source handout**

**Source 1: Past**

This extract is taken from Fred Hollows autobiography with Peter Corris (1991).

Fred is talking about the beginning of his work in Australia with the Aboriginal peoples at the Gurindji camp. The camp was three days drive from Sydney.

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| **Fred Hollows Autobiography Extract**  ‘Fred,’ he says, ‘the men are ready.’  About 20 or 30 men were sitting quietly under a shelter waiting. I got my magnifiers on and went over and had a look at them… there were cataracts that were blinding them, and signs of advanced trachoma and other things. Trachoma is a disease which affects the mucous membrane lining the inside of the eyelids and the front of the eyeball…this [membrane] is known as the conjunctiva, and trachoma is an inflammation of this, [caused by the bacteria chlamydia trachomatis]. As a result of infection with these bacteria, area usually in childhood, a chronic condition develops which causes scarring of the inside of the lid. Directly or indirectly, this may cause the cornea to be ulcerated, scarred and made opaque, resulting in blindness. Conjunctiva contains … tissue and cells whose function is to protect the eye from bugs. Constant infection destroys this [ability] with the result that, even if a person so affected was given a corneal graft, sight would not be [possible] because the conjunctiva is the [main support system] for the cornea, and its destruction means that the [newly inserted] cornea cannot remain clear. Corneal blindness from [continued] trachoma is the end of the road.  When trachoma reaches its vision threatening stage – [it looks like] in-turned upper eyelashes and ulceration - it is a very painful condition.  It was a shock to me. I'd been working at the hospital and in my private practice and seeing a parade of eye disorders, but nothing like this. In my training and working in Wales, I thought I'd seen every sick eye condition there was to be seen, but I was wrong. It was like something out of the medical history books - eye diseases of a kind that hadn't been seen in western society for generations! The neglect this [showed], the suffering and the wasted quality of human life were appalling.  The next day I saw all the women. The day after that all the children. They were free of the hazy cornea condition, because they weren't [made] to work in the sun all day, but the woman had a lot of cataract and trachoma, and there were signs of the juvenile forms of trachoma in most of the children. I went wild…and demanded that they send a doctor down to look at the situation. That was when I found out how things worked up there…    Source: Hollows, F. & Corris, P. (1991). *Fred Hollows: An autobiography.* Kerr Publishing. pp.89-90 |

**Source 2: Present**

This news article is taken from the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ website. It is called ‘*Meet Moses Kombra’* and it was published 06 August, 2021.

Moses Kombra is one of the Fred Hollows Foundation students currently completing his studies in Papua New Guinea. Here he shares a bit about himself, including what motivated him to undertake this challenge, and what he hopes to achieve in the future. After graduating at the end of 2021, Moses is now a qualified Ophthalmic Clinician and seeing patients in a province close to his home.

You can see the full article here <https://www.hollows.org.nz/news/article/meet-moses-kombra>

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| **Meet Moses Kombra**  *My story*  My name is Moses Kombra. I am 34 years old, and I come from the Western Highlands province of Papua New Guinea. I grew up in a rural setting, where daily life was all about farming and fishing. My school was a good distance away. So were medical facilities, it took a long time to walk to them.  After high school, I studied general nursing… I was always troubled by one thing. Eye care. In Papua New Guinea eye care does not receive the attention other areas of medicine do…  That is why preventable blindness is so [common] in this country. Seeing people going to the health centres with eye problems and coming back home unresolved, left some scars in my mind, it breaks my heart to see my people suffering unnecessarily, simply because not enough has been done for eye medicine…  The Foundation gives us many, many things. They help recruit and cover the cost of teaching staff and provide resources for teaching... They assist with the curriculum, making sure it is right for us and up to date. They provide equipment for students like myself, like my laptop and other things I need for learning. I know the donors in New Zealand help to make all this possible…Our studies have been interrupted by COVID-19. Many schools and universities had to shut down, but we were able to learn online. It is not quite the same, but I believe we will complete this academic year successfully despite everything.  *My goals*  When I leave here, I have two main goals. One is to look after ordinary people who cannot afford to go to a hospital for their eye care. With my knowledge, I can bridge a big gap in rural communities, where I can also teach people to look after their eyes properly.  I also want to teach other health workers to know more about eye care. We have neglected this for too long. I am passionate about this…I want to repay the faith you have placed in me, and that I will become one of the clinicians in the country who are making a big impact… Thank you again for sponsoring me to fulfil my calling and my dream. |

**Source 3: Past**

Two newspaper articles about Fred’s work in Australia.

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**Source 4: Present**

Thanks to a scholarship through The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, Dr Antonio trained to become an eye doctor at Fiji National University. In 2022 he completed his fourth and final year, with the goal to return to his home island of Vava’u, Tonga to help provide high-quality eye care to the people in his community.

You can see the full article here <https://www.hollows.org.nz/longform/dr-antonio>

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| **Introducing Dr Antonio**  *Vava'u - A Tongan Paradise*  Dr Antonio grew up in a small village called Utungake - a separate island connected to Vava’u by a small bridge. You can drive across the bridge if the weather is good, but if there are bad storms, or the tide is high, the village can become shut off to the rest of the island… While studying has been a challenge at times, especially during a global pandemic, having his family by his side in Fiji, was the support he needed to get through this journey of becoming an eye doctor.  Dr Antonio graduated as a doctor in 2014.  He was Medical Officer for Vava'u, where he met Dr Mundi and his outreach team. There is a high [rate] of diabetes and high blood pressure in Tonga and because of this, there are long-term complications such as diabetes eye disease... At the time, the eye clinic in Vava'u had one local eye nurse to perform screenings, and Tonga itself didn't have a single eye doctor.  His love for Vava'u, its people and his community, are the reason Dr Antonio decided to work in eye care. Most people on the island rely on farming, fishing, weaving and handicrafts to earn a living.  Losing one’s sight is like losing one’s life when you are no longer able to provide for your family.  Observing cataract surgeries on Dr. Mundi's outreach; seeing how quickly people, including some of his family and close friends recovered and returned to work, encouraged him to specialise in eye care.  Dr Antonio was excited to return to Tonga and collaborate with Dr Duke, providing high-quality eye care to the people of his country.  More eye nurses and doctors are needed in Tonga and throughout the Pacific. Dr Antonio's wish is that people will continue to offer this opportunity to other young doctors and nurses in the Pacific who want to change people’s life by giving them vision. |