

AUSTRALIAN TRACHOMA SURVEILLANCE REPORT 2022

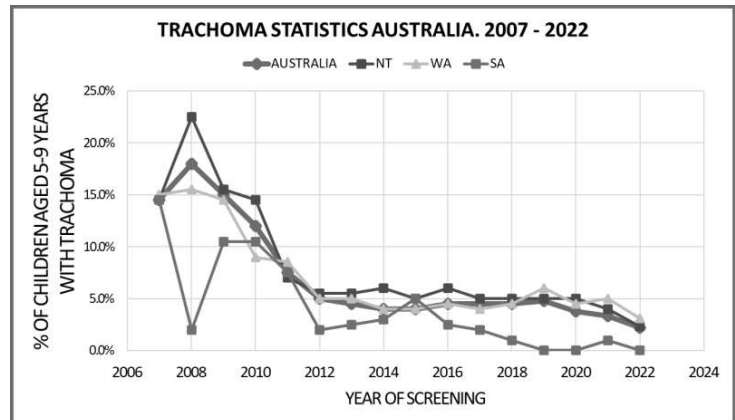
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Straight to the good news:

The 2022 screening results of trachoma in kids aged 5–9-year of age in at-risk communities showed a further reduction in the presence of trachoma across Australia. Rotary’s EndTrachoma project started in 2016. Trachoma nationally was 4.5% with 6.0% in the NT, 4.5% in WA and 2.5% in SA. Today Australia is at 2.2%, the best result so far, and the NT is now at an average of 2.3% with no communities over 5% for the first time, and WA is down to 3.1% with the ongoing challenge being the Goldfields region at between 5-10%. SA was one of our first project focuses and it is showing as zero trachoma detected:

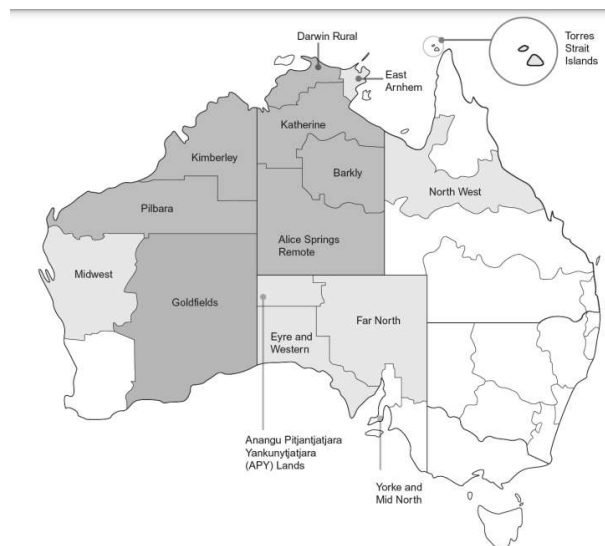
	AUSTRALIA	NT	WA	SA
2008	18.0%	22.5%	15.5%	2.0%
2016	4.5%	6.0%	4.5%	2.5%
2022	2.2%	2.3%	3.1%	0.0%



Executive summary

The overall trachoma prevalence in children aged 5-9 years has decreased to a level consistent with the elimination as a public health problem level in all jurisdictions. For verification of elimination as a public health problem, these levels must remain under 5% in all jurisdictions for a further 2 years.

Screening was undertaken in SA, NT, and WA. No screening was required in NSW or QLD. There was a decrease in 2022 in the number of communities designated at-risk for trachoma (92 in 2021 to 84 in 2022) and a slight decrease in the number of communities with endemic trachoma (39 in 2021 to 31 in 2022). Of the 12 regions currently considered at-risk, 11 recorded non-endemic levels of trachoma. The proportion of children with clean faces decreased in 2022, with 67% of children aged 5-9 years screened reported to have a clean face compared to 75% in 2021. In 2022, the proportion of communities reaching the CDNA guidelines goal of clean faces in 85% of children aged 5-9 years in community at the time of screening increased to 43% (34/78) of communities screened compared to 28% of communities screened (26/94) in 2021.



2008 overall prevalence 18%
2019 overall prevalence 4.5%
2021 overall prevalence 3.3%
2022 overall prevalence 2.2%

- ≥10% and <20%
- ≥5% and <10%
- <5%
- No trachoma detected
- Not at-risk

Summary of findings:

Trachoma program coverage

- In 2022, jurisdictions designated 84 remote Indigenous communities as at-risk of endemic trachoma, a decrease of 9% from 92 in 2021 (Table 1.1).
- The number of communities at-risk of trachoma in Australia has steadily declined in all jurisdictions since 2010. The number of at-risk communities fell by 50% in NT (84 in 2010 to 42 in 2022), 85% in SA (72 in 2010 to 11 in 2022) and 64% in WA (86 in 2010 to 31 in 2022).

Facial cleanliness

- Compared to 2021, in 2022 the prevalence of clean faces increased slightly in the NT which reported the highest rate of facial cleanliness (84% in 2021, 86% in 2022), remained the same in SA (74% in 2021 and 2022) and decreased slightly in WA 2022 (57% in 2021, 55% in 2022).

At-risk communities

Communities classified by jurisdictions as being at higher risk of trachoma based on 1) no recent data, but historical evidence of endemicity; 2) data of trachoma prevalence of 5% or more in children aged 5-9 years in the last 5 years; or 3) current data of less than 5% trachoma prevalence but with a recorded prevalence of trachoma of 5% or above in the past 5 years.

Endemic trachoma

Prevalence of trachoma of 5% or more in children aged 5-9 years screened or a prevalence of trichiasis of at least 0.1% in the adult population screened.