



“We need to have all Rotary Clubs in Australia galvanized into action to make sure this project succeeds”

R.I. President 2017-18 Ian Riseley

What is trachoma?

- ✓ Trachoma is a highly contagious bacterial eye infection that can lead to permanent blindness.
- ✓ Australia remains the last developed country in the world where trachoma still persists.
- ✓ Trachoma is endemic in Indigenous communities in regions of Western and Central Australia.
- ✓ Australian Government funding is largely allocated to screening for and treating trachoma.
- ✓ Rotary is working with the Australian Trachoma Alliance (Chair is Major General Michael Jeffrey) on preventive strategies to eliminate trachoma rather than treat it.
- ✓ The long-term solution rests with hygiene and education.
- ✓ This Rotary partnership has identified ways that Rotarians can support some of our least advantaged Australians improve their health and wellbeing.
- ✓ The World Health Organisation has endorsed the SAFE strategy to combat trachoma.



Project Manager, optometrist Lien Trinh examining a child's eyes. Lien is a former Rotary Foundation Global Scholar.

What are the projects that we can support?

1. Installation of mirrors in homes. This can facilitate pride in oneself and highlight hygiene issues. Thousands of 300mm square acrylic stick-on mirror tiles have already been enthusiastically received by families. Cost \$15 for 3 tiles.
2. Provision of washing machines to allow the washing of clothes and laundry at home. Trials are currently being carried out with small (2.5kg) EzyWash machines which cost \$100 each.
3. Provision of SpaTaps which give the opportunity for hand washing or even a shower where there is no such facility. Cost: \$10 each.
4. Installation of communal laundry facilities to include bathrooms with showers. Cost: dependent on size of project.
5. Promotion of facial cleanliness with face washers/face wipes.
6. Support the building of local capacity by providing training in repair & maintenance skills.



Surgery
is needed to reposition turned-in eyelashes so they do not scrape against the cornea.



Antibiotics
treat the infection and decrease transmission in endemic regions.



Facial cleanliness
helps to reduce transmission.



Environmental Improvements
such as access to water and basic sanitation, reduce risk of exposure and infection.