Anna Morse

Anna Morse is project manager for the Aboriginal Vision Program of Brien Holden Vision Institute, Public Health Division (formerly ICEE). Anna’s first four years upon graduating (2005–2008) were as a clinical optometrist in Alice Springs, where she also worked with the outreach ophthalmology clinics in Central Australian and Barkly region communities one day per week. Since 2009, Anna’s work for the Institute has seen her based in Darwin where she is part of a team who facilitates optometry services to over 75 community health centres and Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs) across all regions of the NT, predominantly in very remote areas.

The Institute partners with Regional Eye Health Coordinators (REHCs) and AMSs in both the NT and NSW to deliver eye care services that are effective, accessible and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. An important aspect of the program is provision of appropriately designed training in eye health for REHCs, Aboriginal health workers and other primary health care staff (eg GPs and nurses). This intends to upskill the frontline health care staff in primary eye and vision care, to improve earlier detection and timely referrals for people in their communities.

As lead collaborator, the Institute is also involved in the Vision CRC research project ‘Models of vision care delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities’. This project, spanning five years (2010–2015), aims to understand current practices and systems for eye care coordination and service delivery for Indigenous communities and work with health services to develop, implement, evaluate and refine a set of practical tools and systems to support and improve eye care outcomes for their patients.