Heather Wilson

Heather Wilson has been a long-time local to Central Australia and Alice Springs for over 28 years. She is a mother of four children and started as a nurse in the 1970s at the Naracoorte Hospital then moved up and worked at the Alice Springs Hospital in the 1980s. She was a full-time mother for over 12 years and then returned to the workforce at Charles Darwin University in Children Services and lectured in this for seven years. She has worked in the trachoma program as an educator and training facilitator for three years and has now moved onto the remote allied health/eye health program.

Heather’s role as the Central Australian Coordinator in the Remote Eye Health Program is liaising with all 26 Central communities that receive Central Australia Aboriginal Congress Outreach Optometry Service.

Heather’s role is to provide personal administration, logistics, monitoring and evaluation, management, clinical activities and coordination of visiting eye health services to eye health patients, scheduling eye health specialist visits and liaison with clinics, hospitals and the communities that host the visiting services. She has developed an ongoing communication with major stakeholders including the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Alice Springs Hospital, Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) trachoma department.

Heather travels remotely with the visiting locum optometrists who travel up to the Territory from interstate, then travel usually on dirt roads to the remote communities; the distance on any given trip may cover over 1000 km in a week. The area she covers is of 1.2 million km². Heather works collaboratively with the Brien Holden Vision Institute enabling provisions of optometry service that are accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate.