

The value of Indigenous sight: An economic analysis

A report by PwC and PIC for the University of Melbourne's Indigenous Eye Health Unit

Overview

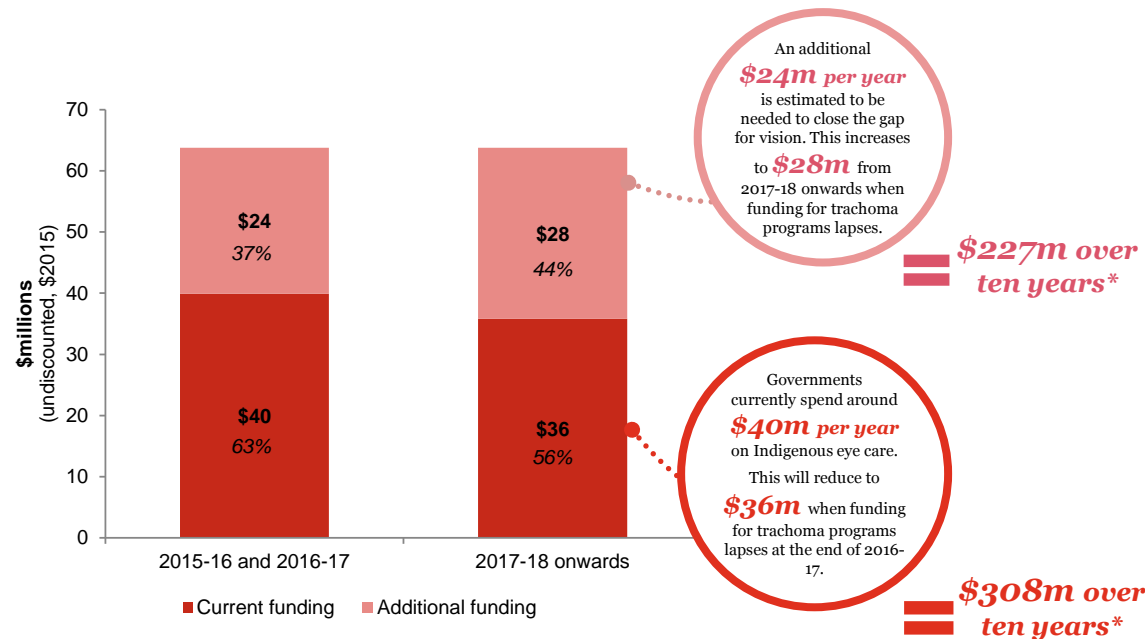
In 2012 the University of Melbourne's Indigenous Eye Health Unit launched The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision. The Roadmap is a call to action and practical program of recommendations to close the gap for Indigenous eye health. It shows that current eye care services and programs are not effectively addressing a number of eye problems for Indigenous Australians – all of which are treatable or preventable with the right care.

PwC and PwC's Indigenous Consulting (PIC) worked with the University of Melbourne to estimate the economic benefits of implementing the Roadmap's recommendations. Our aim was to test the hypothesis that the potential economic benefits to be gained from the implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations substantially outweigh the additional funding required.

Our report, The value of Indigenous Sight[^], compares the costs and benefits of current eye care services and programs with those of the additional strategies and activities recommended by the Roadmap. Our analysis showed that:

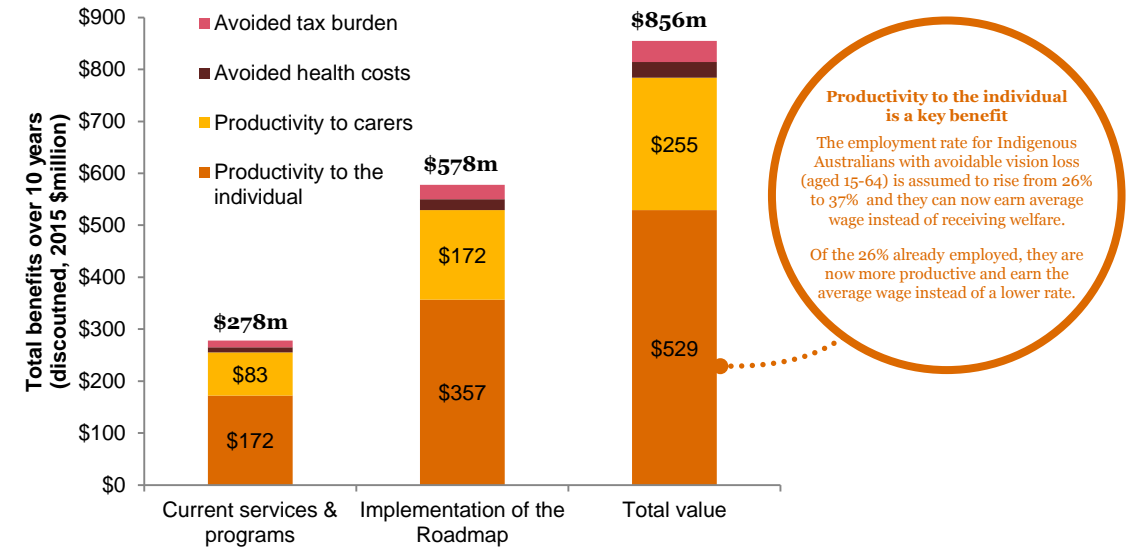
- the potential benefits of investing in the Roadmap will substantially outweigh the costs of the additional funding required: the implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations could close the gap in Indigenous eye health and generate over \$550 million in benefits for the Australian economy, at a cost of \$230 million
- the implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations will increase the efficiency of government investment in Indigenous eye care. Currently, for every dollar invested in Indigenous eye care, the return in benefits to the Australian economy is estimated to be only \$0.90. However, for every additional dollar invested in the Roadmap's recommendations, it is estimated \$2.50 will be generated for the Australian economy.

Costs



*allowing for population growth and discounted to 2015 dollars

Benefits



Key assumption
Current services and programs only address 1/3 of eye health problems for Indigenous Australians. The Roadmap will address the remaining 2/3, to close the gap.

Results

Along with generating substantial economic benefits, the Roadmap's impact on wellbeing and governments' fiscal position can also be considered.

Wellbeing benefits have been estimated using the World Health Organisation's 'Years of life lived with disability' approach.

