



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Visiting Optometrist Scheme Expansion**

The Australian College of Optometry Visiting Optometrists Scheme contract with the Australian Government Department of Health has been extended to include some additional sites through to June 2014.

Some of the new sites were identified by the Department as areas where more services were required for Aboriginal communities. As a result the ACO applied for, and was granted additional funding. The new sites are: Aboriginal Health Services at Kerang, Morwell and Bendigo in Victoria and Aboriginal Health Services at Mt.Gambier and the Riverland region in South Australia.

Additional sites were added to increase the focus on residential aged care clients, elderly clients and clients with diabetes. These sites are: Boort and Birchip in central Victoria and Minyip, Jeparit, Rainbow and Edenhope in the Horsham region.

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) is dedicated to the care of communities experiencing disadvantage through the provision of comprehensive public health eye care services. ACO staff also contribute as locum optometrists in the Brien Holden Vision Institute program in the Northern Territory.

For further information please contact Dr. Genevieve Napper, Lead Optometrist Aboriginal Services on 03 9349 7476 or [gnapper@aco.org.au](mailto:gnapper@aco.org.au).