

# AUSTRALIAN Optometry

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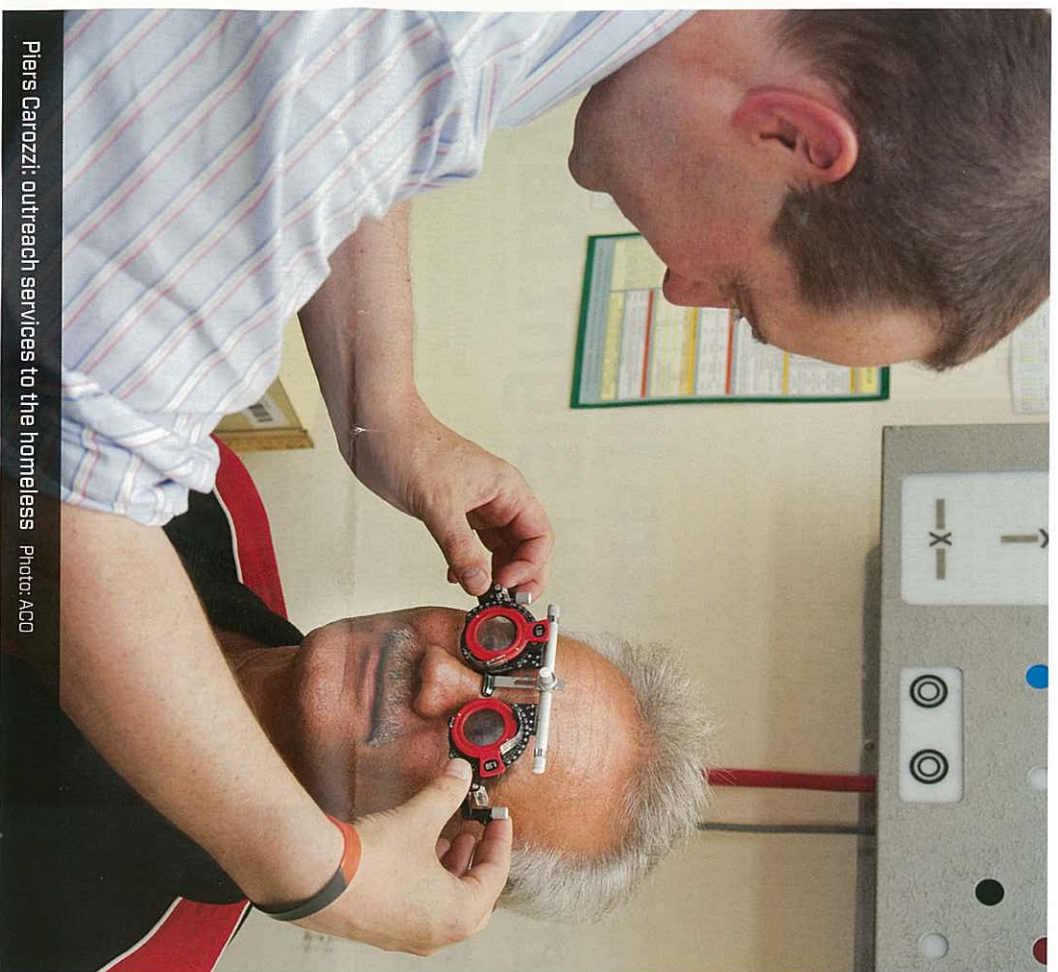
**IN  
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ISSUE**



Mother of two Samantha Bushby says studying therapeutics online is a great way of gaining endorsement because it is so accessible.  
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A panel of early contributors to ProVision explored the group's history at its 25th anniversary conference and celebrations in Hobart in October.  
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Piers Carozzi: outreach services to the homeless Photo: ACC



Leah McClintock: developed programs in Bangladesh

## Eye Health Heroes tell their story

### David Bradley

David Bradley's 15-year contribution to improving the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities started in Alice Springs.

'In the early days, the focus was very much on treating conditions such as trachoma and cataracts, while now the prevailing issues relate to diabetic eye disease and hypertensive retinopathy,' he said.

Mr Bradley, a Brisbane optometrist who is a director of Optometry Queensland/Northern Territory, usually makes three one-week visits to the Ngaanyatjarra region in Western Australia every year. He says there has been a massive improvement in eye health in the area and in awareness of how and why people should look after their eye health.

Mr Bradley also helps provide mobile services with other eye-health and health workers via the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening van to indigenous communities in Queensland. In the past year, the service has treated more than 2,500 patients.

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS** of seven optometrists to improving the eye health of Australians nationwide have been recognised as part of World Sight Day 2014. One optometrist of each state division of Optometry Australia was nominated as an Eye Health Hero and several featured in radio interviews on 9 October. They are David Bradley (Brisbane QLD), Piers Carozzi (Melbourne VIC), Gary Crieie

### Piers Carozzi

Melbourne optometrist Piers Carozzi was recognised for his work helping some of Victoria's most vulnerable people, providing outreach optometry services to St Kilda's homeless.

As lead optometrist of outreach services at the Australian College of Optometry, he co-ordinates a team of 12 optometrists contributing to the homeless program, which began 11 years ago. They use a purpose-equipped van and offer services including retinal photography and low-cost spectacles.

'It can be confronting to meet a guy in his 40s with no fixed address, clearly smelling of alcohol, not a clean, neatly-

(Perth WA), Ben Hamlyn (Adelaide SA), Leah McClintock (Launceston TAS), Robert Merrington (Gosford NSW) and Anna Morse (Darwin NT). Indigenous and remote work features prominently but optometrists were also recognised for behavioural optometry, and their work helping the homeless and people in Bangladesh.

dressed patient,' Mr Carozzi said. 'There are always challenges but by being able to throw more resources at homeless services we have been able to open new sites. Word of mouth has been big so we have had to open in a range of locations giving the best access.'

### Gary Crieie

Perth-based optometrist Gary Crieie played a key role in the development of the North West Eye Program, which provides eye care to remote communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. He became involved after seeing the outreach work of optometrist Margie O'Neill who was the key figure in the establishment of the program.

Mr Crieie saw the need to support her work with a sustainable program and organised a team of 13 volunteer optometrists to contribute two weeks a year to visiting remote parts of the state.

'People in these communities are now more aware of why it's important to look after their eyes and more willing to seek treatment,' he said.

Mr Crieie was also recognised for his 33 years working to improve literacy skills in children through vision programs delivered at his Learning-based practice. He developed programs with his occupational therapist wife, including home vision-training using colours, lenses and prisms.

### Ben Hamlyn

Flinders University School of Health Sciences associate lecturer, Ben Hamlyn, has spent much of the past four years visiting and providing eye care and treatment to remote communities in South Australia, the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea.

'After graduating I became involved in optometrist outreach services in the Northern Territory through the Fred Hollows Foundation and worked in about 25 communities,' he said.

Since then he has continued to provide support to local health authorities in remote communities, work he finds extremely rewarding.

These experiences have inspired his research and teaching work at Flinders. He says creating high-quality graduate optometrists will ensure access to the best eye care in the future.

Mr Hamlyn has been working on developing a retinopathy screening program for remote areas and hopes a screening