The Motivation to Make a Difference

You are going to complete a close reading of two sources. We are going to look at Fred Hollows motivation, and how the innovative actions of Fred (and now the Fred Hollows Foundation) are attempting to overcome the inequality of resources and access to healthcare services. We will also explore the impact of this work.

You need:

1 x copy of this resource

3 x different colour highlighter or pens (to underline)

**Instructions:**

1. Please download or print your own copy. Your teacher may ask you to work in groups, or individually.
2. Read the source one at a time. Do a skim read of the source. You will read it more than once.
3. During the second time of reading, when you see evidence (specific facts) about Fred being **motivated or inspired,** you need to highlight this and write or comment “M” (for motivation)in the margin. This will help you find the information faster. You could also write an annotation and summarise in one or two words what the motivation or inspiration was.
4. Repeat the same step as above, but with a different colour, and this time when you see evidence of **innovation action** (this means clever problem-solving). Write or comment “A” (for action) in the margin. Try and summarise the innovative action in one or two words in the margin.

1. Repeat once more, with a third coloured highlighter for any evidence you see about the impact or benefit of his work. Write or comment “i” (impact) in the margin. Try and summarise the impact in one or two words in the margin.

Source 1:

This extract is taken from Fred Hollows autobiography with Peter Corris (1991). It is a primary source.

Fred is talking about the beginning of his work in Australia with the Aboriginal peoples at the Gurindji camp. The camp was three days from Sydney.

| **Fred Hollows Autobiography Extract**  ‘Fred,’ he says, ‘the men are ready.’  About 20 or 30 men were sitting quietly under a shelter waiting. I got my magnifiers on and went over and had a look at them… there were cataracts that were blinding them, and signs of advanced trachoma and other things. Trachoma is a disease which affects the mucous membrane lining the inside of the eyelids and the front of the eyeball…this [membrane] is known as the conjunctiva, and trachoma is an inflammation of this, [caused by the bacteria chlamydia trachomatis]. As a result of infection with these bacteria, area usually in childhood, a chronic condition develops which causes scarring of the inside of the lid. Directly or indirectly, this may cause the cornea to be ulcerated, scarred and made opaque, resulting in blindness. Conjunctiva contains … tissue and cells whose function is to protect the eye from bugs. Constant infection destroys this [ability] with the result that, even if a person so affected was given a corneal graft, sight would not be [possible] because the conjunctiva is the [main support system] for the cornea, and its destruction means that the [newly inserted] cornea cannot remain clear. Corneal blindness from [continued] trachoma is the end of the road.  When trachoma reaches its vision threatening stage – [it looks like] in-turned upper eyelashes and ulceration - it is a very painful condition.  It was a shock to me. I'd been working at the hospital and in my private practice and seeing a parade of eye disorders, but nothing like this. In my training and working in Wales, I thought I'd seen every sick eye condition there was to be seen, but I was wrong. It was like something out of the medical history books - eye diseases of a kind that hadn't been seen in western society for generations! The neglect this [showed], the suffering and the wasted quality of human life were appalling.  The next day I saw all the women. The day after that all the children. They were free of the hazy cornea condition, because they weren't [made] to work in the sun all day, but the woman had a lot of cataract and trachoma, and there were signs of the juvenile forms of trachoma in most of the children. I went wild…and demanded that they send a doctor down to look at the situation. That was when I found out how things worked up there…    Source: Hollows, F. & Corris, P. (1991). *Fred Hollows: An autobiography.* Kerr Publishing. pp.89-90 |
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Source 2:

This is adapted from the Fred Hollows Foundation Australia website (2020). It is a secondary source.

| **FRED HOLLOWS' Story Extract:**  **From his early years to his work overseas**  Professor Fred Hollows was a proud Australian. He was also a humanist and a global citizen, who was revered around the world for his contributions to eye health.  Fred always used to say that “I never did medicine to make a lot of money… I studied medicine so I could help others.”. And not only did he help people in Australia, he worked tirelessly to give the most marginalised people in the world access to high quality eye care.  Fred’s passion for achieving eye health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples saw him travel all around the country, visiting hundreds of remote communities. He became an activist, bringing to light the shocking disparities that existed in Australia.    …Were it not for Fred, millions of people would be blind from avoidable causes. Our work ensures the world’s most vulnerable children, women, and men are able to access high quality eye health services so their vision problems can be treated or prevented from worsening.  In 1985 Fred visited Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO). And two years later, he visited Eritrea, which was war-torn at the time. He also visited Vietnam. Fred’s experiences in these countries had a huge impact on him, motivating him to find a way to reduce the cost of eye care and treatment in developing countries. It also led him to focus on the need to train and empower local people to deliver eye care services to their own communities.  *“What I’d really like is to see the economic disparity (difference/gap) between the First and the Third World done away with. And it can be.” Fred Hollows*    What he saw in Eritrea, Nepal and Vietnam in particular led him to label them as the cataract triangle. He encountered extraordinary numbers of patients who were at risk of permanent blindness due to cataract clouding the lens of their eye. Fred was frustrated by the cost of eye surgery, which made it unaffordable for so many people to access the urgent medical care they needed.  He also saw that doctors in under-resourced countries weren’t being trained in modern cataract surgery, meaning people in developing countries had poorer outcomes simply because of where they lived.  Fred saw the need for factories to produce affordable intraocular lenses (IOLs) in these countries. IOLs are used to treat cataract, and he knew that to provide affordable eye care in developing countries it was necessary to significantly cut the cost of production. He sought to empower local communities by founding lens factories in Nepal and Eritrea. The lenses were expensive when made in the United States or Australia, but cheap and accessible when made locally.  It saw the cost of the tiny plastic lenses fall from more than $150AUD to less than $5AUD. Today, these factories have produced millions of lenses and are a continuing reminder of Fred’s enduring impact. Lens factories now exist in many countries around the world, transforming the access to cataract surgery for millions of people every year.  The factories Fred established produced world-class IOLs and have allowed millions of people in under-resourced countries and marginalised communities to access high quality eye care.  Source: Fred Hollows Foundation (2020). *Fred Hollows’ Story: From his early years to his work overseas.* Retrieved from <https://www.hollows.org/au/blog/fred-hollows-story> |
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Source 3:

| **See blindness through his eyes**  Zaydan, a little boy of six, had to travel far from home and go through two eye operations in just three days, plus weeks of recovery, to get his sight back. It was a scary journey, but it changed his life.  Zaydan lives in Lautoka on the main island of Fiji. Last October, Zaydan travelled to visit our Outreach team in Labasa on the island of Vanua Levu, 230km from his home. He came with two other children whose eyes also needed immediate attention. They all made this journey because we were not able to perform operations in any of the hospitals on the main island. These were required for patients with COVID-19, which hit Fiji very hard.  Jyoti, Zaydan's mother, shares how they came to make this journey:  “Zaydan was not born with cataracts. However, he started having problems with his eyes when he was about four. Sometimes he did not recognise people. He couldn’t read very well, saying the type was too small. I did not really understand what his problems were. Then in March last year, something happened that told me they were serious. He was talking to me in the house, and he was looking in a totally different direction from where I was. He couldn’t see me! After I took him to the doctor to have his eyes checked, he was referred to the hospital. They said he had cataracts in both eyes, one was really bad, the other nearly as much.”  But they could not operate because COVID-19 was just starting to fill up the hospital. His mum said: “'I was desperate, I was told the only way to get an operation was to go overseas, take Zaydan to New Zealand or Australia. They said the operation was urgent. But we could not go overseas. Zaydan’s sight was getting worse, and I was so worried. Without his eyes what sort of life would he have? Then something wonderful happened. At work, one of my superiors said, “Have you thought about Fred Hollows? They will help you.”  Zaydens mum said, “In desperation, I contacted The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ on social media…the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ was very good to us. They said they could not currently operate at the Pacific Eye Institute, it was still being used for people with COVID-19. But despite that, they had made a plan to help us. They were going to Labasa to do operations there. Zaydan would be able to come over and his cataracts could be removed.'  Six months after he was diagnosed with cataracts, Zaydan and his mother Jyoti met Dr Mundi in Labasa. Dr Mundi was leading an Outreach team that had travelled to the small hospital there, to help patients whose eye problems required immediate attention.  In the months that followed his surgeries, Zaydan’s sight got better and better. Jyoti told us of that time:  “The experience with the doctors gave us so much joy. When we came home, he could see faces, recognise his friends. For the first time in his life, he saw a rainbow. He was amazed. He could name all the colours. I could not believe it. One day he even said to me, “Mum, you look so beautiful”. I will never forget that. The operation has changed his life. It has also changed mine. Before he wouldn’t leave my side, he would cling to me because he couldn’t see properly. Now he is always off playing. He tells me, mum I don’t need you. I’m a big boy now.”  Zaydan is fortunate in many ways. Without The Foundation there is a real chance he would have remained blind. Unnecessarily so, as is often the case in the Pacific. Instead, he is a growing boy, doing well at school, becoming a good reader. Something he can do without glasses. He has a great future now. Restoring Zaydan's sight has changed his life, but it's also changed his mother's. Her worry is gone…  Source: Fred Hollows Foundation NZ (2023). *See Blindness Through His Eyes.* Retrieved from <https://www.hollows.org.nz/longform/zaydan> |
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