



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ

# YOUR VISION

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



**“I am so happy.  
I appreciate what  
you did for us.”**

Siafy, cataract patient,  
Papua New Guinea

# See your impact throughout 2023!

81,839 patient consultations

5,792 eye surgeries

10,445 spectacles dispensed

8,217 patients screened for diabetes eye disease



## Did you know...

Your incredible generosity allows us to invest in children's health so they can go to school, learn, and reach their full potential across their lives. Spectacles alone can reduce the likelihood of a student failing a class by 44%.

Your support in strengthening eye health services stimulates the broader economy. Every dollar that you donate towards eye care in the Pacific is worth more than 9x that in their local economy.

An estimated 91 million children around the world have vision loss. With every gift you give, you are helping to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment like this in the Pacific. Thank you!

## Your support is helping to improve access to quality eye care.

Papua New Guinea has the highest known rate of avoidable blindness in the Pacific. But with your support throughout 2023, you helped to restore sight to 1,104 people. One of these people was 79-year-old Siafy who had cataracts in both eyes for more than 30 years. Since 1992, Siafy had been living with unnecessary

blindness, unable to work, or enjoy simple pleasures like reading and seeing the smile on his wife Loku's face. It also meant that Loku became the sole provider, while Siafy struggled with daily tasks. For Siafy, the chance of restoring his sight seemed out of reach. But thanks to our remarkable donors like

you, Siafy underwent life-changing cataract surgery at a Foundation-supported outreach. **"I couldn't be more thankful for the chance I've been given to see again." – Siafy**



132 outreaches across 7 countries

24,435 patient consultations

2,322 eye surgeries

3 trainee eye doctors

18 fully qualified eye nurses

23 graduates

2 fully qualified eye doctors



## Your commitment is helping to train a local workforce.

While blindness and low vision in Papua New Guinea is the highest across the region, this is worsened by a severe shortage of eye care specialists. But with your help, in 2023, 10 eye nurses were trained and two trainee eye doctors completed another year of their Ophthalmology training.

Dr Alice Irafa is one of these eye specialists. She has been training as an eye doctor through a Foundation-supported scholarship, thanks to your incredible kindness. Your support allows us to invest in training local eye care specialists like Dr Alice, who is now in her fourth and final year of a Masters of Medicine at the University of Papua New Guinea.

Dr Alice is deeply committed to improving the state of eye care in her country. **"You're not helping one person, you're helping four to five people around him or her. It makes a big difference."** - Dr Alice. You are an essential part of this ripple effect.



## You are helping children to **see their future.**

Thanks to your amazing generosity, we supported the second ever Paediatric Outreach at the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI) in Fiji with our Pacific partners.

One of the children was six-year-old Vasemaca. At just six months old she developed a cataract in her left eye. Her parents tried for years to get her help, but the options were too expensive or overseas. When they learnt of PEI and that the operation was free, they couldn't believe it.

**“For the donors to give money for the operation, I think it is the best. For our daughter, we always prayed about it, that she would receive the eyesight, and it eventually happened. We are very grateful for that. It answered our prayers after almost six years now.” – Litia, Vasemaca’s mum.**

Life-changing moments like these are made possible because of you.

## Keep an eye out in Palmerston North

The life and work of our founder and legendary Kiwi eye doctor, Professor Fred Hollows, has been celebrated in a giant mural adjoining his former high school, Palmerston North Boys.

The hyper-realistic mural was recently completed by local Palmerston North artist SwiftMantis (Mikal Carter) who says it was an honour to paint Fred’s mural - “For me it’s just about mutual respect for an exceptional individual.”

We are thrilled with this incredible accolade to Fred and know the mural will play a profound role in increasing the awareness of Fred Hollows and the important work The Foundation continues to do in his name.



**“We are grateful to Boys’ High, the Council and SwiftMantis for supporting us in celebrating Fred’s legacy.”**

**Dr Audrey Aumua,  
Chief Executive Officer**