

# SHAUN TATIPATA: A LEADER IN EYE HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA



DEPUTY CHAIR OF IAHA NTWD BOARD AND THE FIRST ABORIGINAL BUSINESS OWNER OF AN EYE HEALTH CLINIC - **DEADLY VISION CENTRE**, WHICH SUPPORTS BOTH ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS/PRACTITIONER'S, AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

Shaun Tatipata, a proud Wuthathi and Ngarrindjeri man, is a trained Aboriginal Health Practitioner based in the Northern Territory. Shaun is the founder of the Deadly Vision Centre, Australia's first Aboriginal-owned optical and eye care provider. Trained in the Northern Territory, Shaun has dedicated over two decades to improving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

See Shaun's IAHA NTWD Board profile here: <https://iaha.com.au/our-leadership/>

## THE DEADLY VISION CENTRE HEALTH CARE FOR MOB WHILE SUPPORTING A LOCAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Through the Deadly Vision Centre, Shaun delivers culturally safe eye care, addressing issues like diabetic retinopathy and cataracts, which disproportionately affect Indigenous communities, as noted in a 2017 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report. Shaun continues to support a local workforce, with the employment of AHP trainees, who were supported with their training through IAHA's GTO services. <https://iaha.com.au/iaha-group-training-organisation-gto/>

IAHA optometry student members and graduates can also be regularly seen supporting service delivery at the Deadly Vision Centre

## BRINGING EYE HEALTH CARE TO COMMUNITY - BARUNGA FESTIVAL

Shaun continues to support IAHA and IAHA NTWD through his community engagement at the annual Barunga Festival event in June. Traveling to Barunga in the Deadly Vision Centre eye health van, Shaun and his team are able to promote free eye tests and glasses to community members attending the festival.



Photo: Kylie Stothers (IAHA Deputy CEO)  
AND Shaun TATIPATA (NTWD DEPUTY CHAIR)





Photo: National Indigenous Times



### DEADLY CUP CARNIVAL – COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF SPORT AND WELLBEING

2025 was the 6<sup>th</sup> successful running of the annual Deadly Cup Carnival held in Darwin during NAIDOC week. A vision from Shaun was to create an annual rugby league carnival, which is a community celebration of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our culture. An event that connects families whilst promoting health and wellbeing.

IAHA has been a proud partner since its inception in 2020, and continues to support the importance of employment education, training pathways.

<https://www.deadly.health/home/deadly-cup-rugby-league-carnival/>

### INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AT IAHA

Shaun's journey remains an inspiration for the next generation. Shaun is the current Deputy Chairperson of IAHA NTWD. Shaun is a regular guest speaker in the classroom for IAHA's NT academy students, providing year 11 and 12 high school students with an opportunity to learn more about eye health care. Many of our academy graduates have now gone on to either Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker/Practitioner training pathways or working as Allied Health Assistants in the eye health sector.

<https://iaha.com.au/careers-and-pathways/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-academy/>



Photo: IAHA trainees at 2024 Deadly Cup