MONASH INDUSTRY TEAM INITIATIVE (MITI) 2016-2017
Elimination of trachoma by 2020
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INTRODUCTION
● Trachoma is a preventable and infectious eye disease that is caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis. If left untreated, frequent re-infection can cause blindness.
● Trachoma can be prevented by facial washing, improved hygiene and environmental improvement
● Australia is the only developed nation in the world still affected by trachoma. Trachoma is still endemic in many remote Indigenous communities.
● The Anangu Pitjantjatjara and Yalata (APY) Lands is located in the northwest of South Australia. The APY Lands have a high prevalence of trachoma. In 2015, the APY Lands had a 6.8% trachoma prevalence in children aged 5-9.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE
● Our objective was to develop a framework and a series of recommendations to implement behavioural and educational changes to assist in eliminating trachoma in a culturally sensitive approach.
● This recommended educational and engagement program is intended for the APY Lands to assist in eliminating trachoma as part of Rotary Australia’s End Trachoma 2020 project.

OUTCOMES
● A pack of “Building Better Communities” cards have been produced to provide program managers, partners, community workers and stakeholders with guidance to effectively engage with the APY Lands.
  ○ The cards are designed to be modified and developed when in consultation with communities. They can be added to, updated, or removed in future as needed.
  ○ The cards are split into 4 sections:
    ■ 1. Trachoma: background information
    ■ 2. Community: outlines the current successful programs being undertaken in the APY lands or other remote Indigenous communities and the reasons for their success
    ■ 3. Considerations: information on how to undertake projects in Indigenous communities with cultural sensitivity, as well as the importance of involving and engaging the community
    ■ 4. Indigenous engineering: history of engineering in the Indigenous culture built upon respect for the land and great knowledge of natural processes
● A report for Rotary to provide more detailed information and recommendations.