

Partnerships for Brighter Eye Health

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AVARUA, COOK ISLANDS – A high-level meeting between health officials, key international partners, and the Minister of Health, Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki Brown has marked a transformative milestone for eye health care in the Cook Islands. The Minister expressed immense pride and excitement following the meeting, highlighting the work to progress towards establishing a Center for eye health at the Rarotonga Hospital.

The proposed Center represents a critical leap forward in national specialized healthcare, designed to provide comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality vision services directly to the local community.

"The collaborative session with our partners and Dr. Faireka was exceptionally positive," the Minister stated. "I am deeply moved and incredibly excited to see our new center for eye health reach completion. This proposed Centre stands as a testament to what we can achieve for our people when we work together."

The Minister extended profound gratitude to the internal health workforce, acknowledging the staff's unwavering commitment. "Thank you to the entire team for the hard work, relentless energy, and absolute dedication you have poured into improving eye health outcomes over the years."

A cornerstone of this milestone is the sustained backing from prominent international non-governmental organizations. The Minister explicitly acknowledged the vital, ongoing support of OneSight and Christian Blind Mission, whose long-term investments have significantly bolstered the capacity of Te Marae Ora Cook Islands Ministry of Health (TMO).

This robust network of partnerships has been warmly embraced nationwide. The expansion of localized eye care facilities and services continues to be exceptionally well received by TMO, ensuring a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

For further information, please contact:

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Photo by – Temarae Ora, Ministry of Health, Cook Islands. Dr Teariki Faireka, Director Primary Care, Linabel Hadlee, International Programmes Director, Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Minister of Health, Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki Brown, Wayne Tennet, Regional Director for One Eyesight, Australia, NZ and Pacific Region.

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