

Eye care: What's the situation in Aotearoa New Zealand?

A plain language summary

What was the aim of this research?

To summarise the current state of eye care services in Aotearoa, using the World Health Organization's Eye Care Situation Analysis Tool (ECSAT).

Why did we do this research?

Accessible, good quality eye care services are essential for New Zealanders to maintain good eye health. To improve eye care services, we must first understand the strengths and weaknesses of current services. ECSAT is the first of four tools developed by WHO to support countries to strengthen their eye care services.

What did we do?

We established a Technical Working Group of people with experience in optometry, ophthalmology, primary care, rehabilitation and Māori health.

We used information gathered from published documents, and also interviewed people with detailed knowledge of eye care services to assess Aotearoa's situation in 31 areas ('items') across each of the ECSAT's six health system building blocks. The Working Group reached consensus on each item, and the recommended actions to strengthen eye care services.

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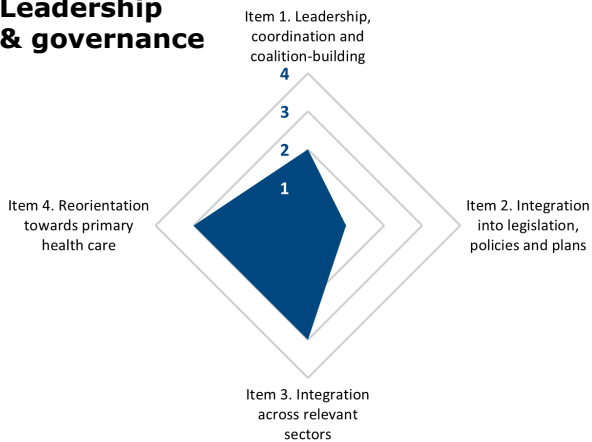
Key messages

- New Zealand has a **solid foundation for good quality eye care services**
- However, **there is room for improvement in the way we plan and deliver eye care services to ensure all New Zealanders can access the services they need**
- The report provides a detailed list of **81 recommended actions** that may help strengthen eye care services in New Zealand.

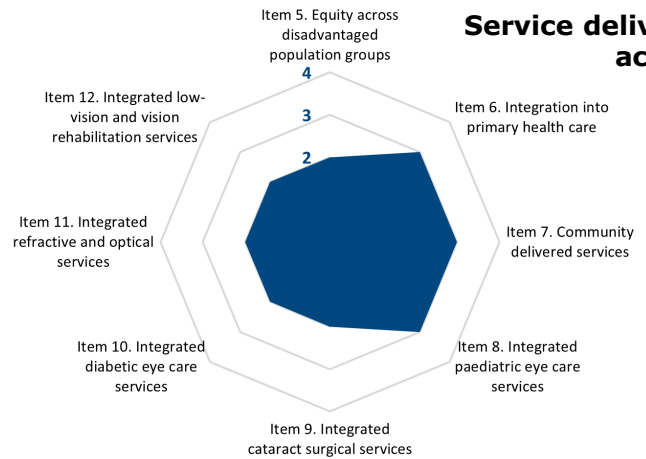
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Aotearoa's situation across each of ECSAT's six building blocks.
Larger shaded area indicates better performance.

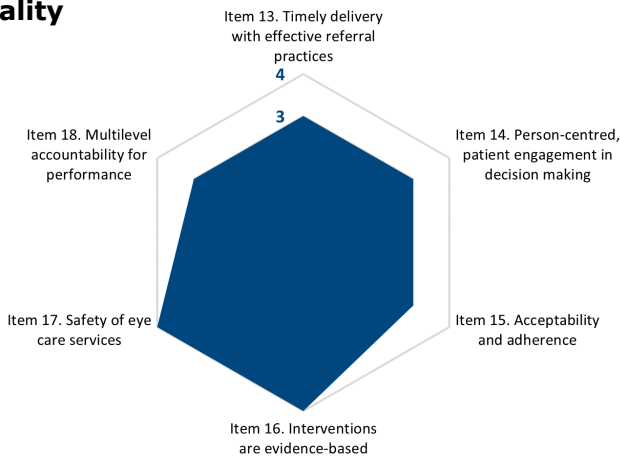
Leadership & governance



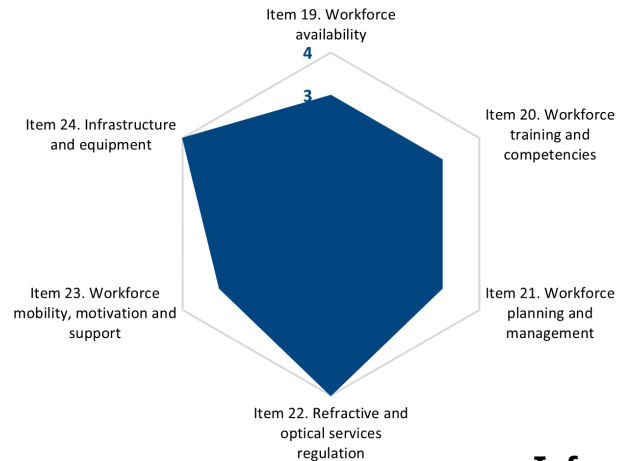
Service delivery: access



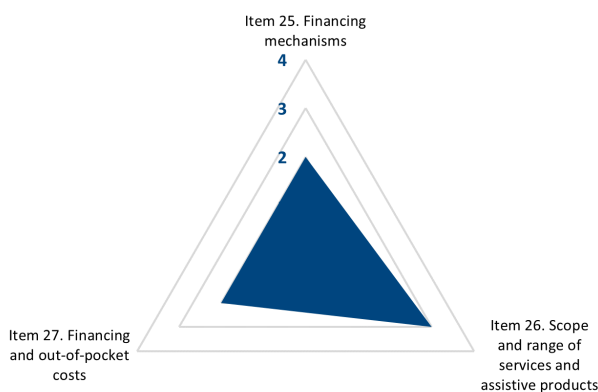
Service delivery: quality



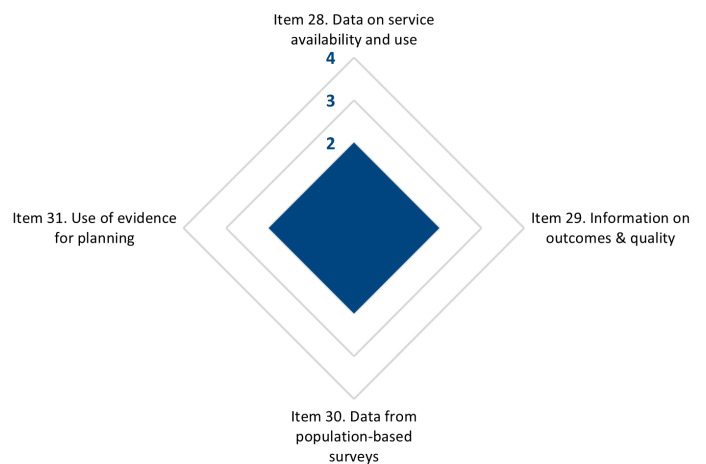
Workforce



Financing



Information



Service delivery-quality and **workforce & infrastructure** are generally “strong” or only “need minor strengthening”.

Leadership & governance, **access to services**, **financing**, and **information** generally “need major strengthening”.