

HEALTHWATCH

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In the frame: Check-up time for Kiara Seabourne, Mary Mabb, Jayden Hill and Esmond George.
Picture: Jono Searle

Company has vision for eye care

ONE in three indigenous adults have never had their eyes checked.

But the OneSight Foundation is hoping to change that.

Luxottica – the world’s largest eyewear and eye care company – is launching the OneVision Indigenous Eye Health Program to address the significant gap.

The program aims to educate indigenous communities about the importance of eye health and improve access to services.

Communities will receive free eye care education and eye screenings, as well as free eyewear, as required.

The first clinic will be held in Mount Isa at the end of this month in conjunction with the NRL’s One Community Grass to Class clinics.

To launch the program, OneSight flew 12 children from the Mount Isa region to the Gold Coast for five days to attend Australia’s largest indigenous festival, the Indigenous All Stars Festival, this weekend.

As part of the visit the children had their eyes checked at the Robina OPSM store.

A recent report prepared by University of Melbourne’s Professor Hugh R. Taylor, AC, highlighted the lack of access to optometry services as a significant factor contributing to poor indigenous eye health in remote communities.

“Ninety-four per cent of vision loss experienced in indigenous communities is preventable,” Prof Taylor said.