6. The Eye and Vision Epidemiology Research Program (EVER):

Blindness is a crippling disability resulting in misery, loss of employment, economic loss and premature death. It is estimated that around 50,000 (0.57%) Australians are known to be blind, with an incidence 60 times higher amongst Indigenous groups. Currently, no accurate or validated population data on blindness exists anywhere in the world, and blindness rates are predicted to rise markedly in the next 20 years, owing largely to the ageing of the developed world’s population. The program supports the effective planning and use of health resources in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of the most important causes, and implementation of strategies to better target disadvantaged groups. The research links a validated blind registry to other health databases and examines blindness trends, the use and effectiveness of treatments, associated factors and comorbidities.

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