



October 2013

Flying Doctors and College of Optometry bring Mobile Eye Care to Ouyen and District

Residents of Ouyen and district with problems with their eyes or eyesight will be able to access a new mobile optometry service known as Mobile Eye Care.

The new program has announced its schedule of appointments over coming months, with one two day visit per month scheduled until February next year.

October 17th and 18th
November 14th and 15th
December 11th and 12th
February 20th and 21st

To book a free appointment with the new Mobile Eye Care service call Mallee Track Health and Community Services (MTH&CS) on ph. (03) 5092 1111.

Mobile Eye Care is a partnership between Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria, the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) and MTH&CS.

Under the program, optometrists from the ACO will fly to Mildura and then use a RFDS Mobile Eye Care vehicle to travel to Ouyen and surrounding communities. As well as using the rooms at MTH&CS, ACO optometrists will take eyecare and education out to community centres such as kindergartens, schools and aged care facilities.

Mobile Eye care started with the first optometrist's visit on Thursday and Friday Sept 19th and 20th. With 15 appointments, the service was fully booked and patients were very appreciative about being able to access free optometry services in Ouyen.

The Mobile Eye Care optometrist also visited Ouyen pre-school, educating children about eye care and the importance of reporting any problems they may have with their eyesight, particularly when reading.

RFDS Victoria Chief Executive, Scott Chapman, said the Flying Doctors were committed to taking health care to areas with limited access to these services.

"Currently, the nearest optometry service for people in and around Ouyen is in Mildura – which can be difficult to access, particularly for elderly people or those with impaired vision."

The ACO Chief Executive, Maureen O'Keefe said the new service will enable the detection and management of eye disease, leading to a reduction in vision impairment. In addition, the service will also supply affordable spectacles.

"The service has had a great start – and we're delighted to be able to broaden our primary health care services in the Mallee," said Lois O'Callaghan, Director of Community Services from MTHCS.

To donate to the Royal Flying Doctor Service call RFDS Victoria on 9429 6344 or go to www.flyingdoctor.org.au

For media enquiries please contact Geoff Fraser 9429 6344, 0407 360 256