



(L-R) Maureen O'Keefe, Piers Carozzi, Bill Tripotseris, Genevieve Napper and Dia Rizk

Goodwill bankrolls outreach

A donation from the Commonwealth Bank and its employees has enabled the Australian College of Optometry to buy a portable autorefractor and keratometer for its youth Outreach and Aboriginal Services.

The Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund donated \$10,000 to help fund the \$11,500 instrument, which is about the size of an eftpos machine.

Lead optometrist Aboriginal services, Dr Genevieve Napper, said it would be an invaluable addition to outreach programs for young, indigenous and rural patients seen at high schools, Aboriginal health services and youth events.

Lead optometrist outreach services Piers Carozzi said it would also be useful in outreach services for homeless youth, at juvenile justice centres and for young people with disabilities who are seen in their homes or day centres.

'The unit is a good starting point for an eye exam. People with disability often have higher and varied refractive errors and unusual scripts,' he said.

'It will mean we can provide more services to youth and will be particularly helpful for people who have a high prescription for glasses. It also assists with detection of keratoconus and high astigmatism,' Dr Napper said.

Mr Carozzi said the college had bought a portable unit for its children's clinic and the staff had thought it would be ideal for outreach. This prompted senior projects officer Tenille Ibbotson to apply for the grant.

Commonwealth Bank Carlton branch manager Frank Johnson, customer service manager Dia Rizk and inner metropolitan area manager Bill Tripotseris presented the cheque on 25 September.

Funds donated by the bank staff are matched by the bank.

'Public health eye care relies very much on philanthropy so what you have done is fantastic because it's money we don't have otherwise,' college CEO Maureen O'Keefe said.

This year the fund has donated more than \$2 million to 235 organisations in Australia.