

Mobile Eye Care >

Mobile Eye Care patient appointments conducted in 2013/14

144

36%

of patients needed glasses upgraded

In partnership with the Australian College of Optometry, RFDS Victoria launched its Mobile Eye Care service in October 2013.

The service is based in Ouyen where there is no resident optometrist. As well as clinics hosted by Mallee Track and Health and Community Services in Ouyen, the service includes outreach visits to surrounding communities.

The clinics at Ouyen completed 144 appointments in the financial year, with 53 people needing glasses to be upgraded and 15 people referred for more serious issues.

The clinics have been booked out each month with a 94 per cent attendance rate.

Clinics are held for one and a half days every four weeks in Ouyen with half a day devoted to visiting surrounding communities.

During the visits, community education programs were hosted by eight different organisations, including schools and aged care facilities.

LITA RETAINS HER INDEPENDENCE

The Royal Flying Doctor Service doesn't have favourite patients, but if it did Lita Lowe would be one of them.

85 year-old Lita is a patient of Mobile Eye Care in Ouyen, and a great supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The introduction of Mobile Eye Care to Ouyen – a small community about 100 kilometres south of Mildura in the Mallee – in the latter part of 2013 has allowed Lita to maintain her eyesight and her independence.

In years past, Lita would drive to Adelaide, combining her optometrist's appointment with family visits. More recently she stopped driving, and with no optometrist for 100 kilometres, she was worried about her eyesight.

"Thank-you to the Royal Flying Doctor Service for bringing eyecare to Ouyen," Lita said, as she made a generous donation to the Flying Doctors.



Mobile Eye Care optometrist Katrina Koenig consults with Jocelyn Lindner of Murrayville. (image courtesy Sunraysia Daily)