

Flying Doctors opening eyes in West Wimmera

People living in Goroke and surrounding areas in West Wimmera who have problems with their eyesight will now be able to access an affordable and convenient Mobile Eye Care service.

The program, which was launched in Goroke on Monday 21 March, is a partnership between Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria with optometrists from OneSight providing eye care services for people living in the West Wimmera region.

RFDS Victoria Chief Executive Scott Chapman said the Flying Doctors are committed to taking health care to areas in Victoria where there is limited access to health services.

“Under the program, an optometrist and dispenser from OneSight will travel once a month to various sites and locations across the West Wimmera including Jeparit, Kaniva, Natimuk Rainbow and Goroke. Optometrists will provide a range of optometry services for people who cannot easily access the service, often due to their remote location or their age which can lead to an inability to drive,” Mr Chapman said.

“This new Mobile Eye Care service has already proven to be popular for the West Wimmera community, with appointments being booked out ahead of time. Anyone who has missed out on seeing an optometrist will have another opportunity during the program’s second visit later in the year,” Mr Chapman said.

OPSM Director of Eyecare and Community, Robyn Weinberg said OneSight is proud to be partnering with the RFDS to provide eye care and eyewear to people living in remote communities in the West Wimmera region.

“OPSM through our charity OneSight has a proud history of providing optometry services for over 25 years. Optometrists from local Victorian OPSM branches volunteer their time to provide this much needed service and we continue to work towards eradicating the vision care crisis in Australia and worldwide,” Ms Weinberg said.

The Mobile Eye Care Clinic in the West Wimmera is open to anyone who holds a Medicare card. Glasses will also be available free of charge to people who have a concession care card. Patients who do not have a concession care card can still purchase glasses for \$30 each.

Patients wanting to book an appointment for the Mobile Eye Care programs in the West Wimmera, can do so by contacting the Nhill Administration centre on 03 5391 4222.

To donate to the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria call (03) 8412 0400 or go to www.flyingdoctor.org.au

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