

10.3 Community Donations.DOC

From: tracey parish [<mailto:tracey.p parish6@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2014 11:41 AM
To: Sara Hayes
Subject: NSW Spectacle Scheme

The NSW Spectacles Program provides Government funded glasses and vision aids to eligible recipients including the elderly, children, people experiencing homelessness, those living in rural and remote areas, people with disability and Aboriginal and multicultural communities.

How to apply

Before applying for the Program, you must have recently had an eye examination and have a prescription that is not older than 3 months.

The application is completed by myself. You need to bring a Centrelink Income Statement (if you receive a Centrelink benefit) or recent payslip and bank statement (if you are a low income earner), and your medicare card. You will receive an instant assessment of your eligibility based on information you provide. If Vision Australia confirms that you are eligible, I will order the spectacles and let the client know when they are ready to collect.

This is a Government funded program and I donate my time, so the Ballina and surrounding communities have the benefits of having this service.

It would be greatly appreciated if Ballina Shire Council would provide Interview room 1 at Kentwell Community Centre free of fees or charges. I would require the room one day a week preferably from 9.30 to 12.30 which is 3 hours in total. The equates to \$30.00 a week.

I am currently providing this service at The Lismore Community Gateway every Thursday so unfortunately I would not be able to come on this day, but any other day is fine.

I was contacted by Vision Australia to help set up this service in Ballina so the Far North Coast would be fully covered by this scheme. Please help me help those in need in your community.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Regards
Tracey Parish
0429831693

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From: tracey parish [<mailto:tracey.p parish6@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 4:49 PM
To: Sara Hayes
Subject: NSW spectacle scheme

Hi Sarah

I hope this information helps.

Vision Australia holds the contract for the NSW Spectacle scheme. They contacted me to be a providers to supply the spectacles in the Ballina region. The program works as follows:

I have an allowance to provide single vision glasses for \$65.00
Bifocals for \$85.00
2 pairs of single vision for \$97.05

I had to find my own frames to supply to customer, case, lenses and courier charges out of this funding. I have to purchase the frames with my own funds and have them stored in my home.

This is my outlay to provide the follow:

Single vision
Frame 15.00
Case 2.00
Lenses 10.00
Fitting fee charged by the lab that fits the lenses 10.00
Courier to get it sent to Sydney and Return 19.50
That leaves me 8.50 to cover my phone expenses for when I ring clients to tell them there glasses are ready, and fuel to The Lismore Community Gateway.

2 pairs of single vision
Frame 30.00
Case 4.00
Lenses 20.00
Fitting fees 20.00
Courier fees 19.50
=93.50
Leaves me \$3.55

Bifocals
Frame 30.00
Case 2.00
Lenses 28.00
Fitting fee 10.00
Courier 19.50
=89.50

They pay 85.00 I have a loss of 4.50 I am currently talking to a company from the Philippines to try and source a cheaper Bifocal

I donate 3 hours every Thursday at the Lismore Community Gateway 9.30 -12.30 sometimes later to provide this service. I have to call back there two or three times per week as people sometimes don't bring the correct form from Centrelink they tend to get agitated because they have to go to Centrelink to get an Income Statement.

So as you can see I am not doing this to make money. I am doing this simply because I had an elderly lady call me crying that she couldn't afford to buy new glasses, and OPSM weren't doing the program anymore because there is NO MONEY in it. No one would take this on as it is a lot of work, to enter data to the Vision Australia website, fax off income statements to them. Package up glasses and sending them off to be fitted, but I felt like someone should be doing something for these people that live from week to week. If this is what I could do then I should do it.

I spoke to Jenny Dowell The Mayor of Lismore with assistance in trying to find a room where I could provide this service and she put me onto The Lismore Community Gateway. Jenny offered any help possible to try to find me a room where I could do this. Thankfully The Gateway had a room that I could use for free every Thursday morning. I see approx. 12 people a week, to order new glasses and to then deliver the ones that come back from the lab.

This program has been very successful in Lismore thanks to councils support. I don't know how anyone can be walking around not being able to see correctly we are not a third world country.

I respectfully ask the Ballina Shire Council to think very hard about the Age Pensioner, Disability Pensioner or anyone on full Centrelink benefits that struggle to live let alone find money to pay for glasses when there is a program available for them. I have had numerous calls from people in Ballina wanting to utilise my services as they read in the Lismore Echo every week. The Community Gateway receive free advertising in the echo and they have promoting the program to help those who need it know about it.

I live in Coraki so it would be at least a 45minute drive for me to come to Ballina to do this, it is not something I have thought about lightly, but am willing to do.

I respectfully await your decision.
Tracey Parish



31 October 2014

To whom it may concern

This is to confirm that Ms Tracy Parish of Affordable Eyewear, Coraki, is registered with Vision Australia to provide eligible patients in the northern NSW region access to the NSW Spectacles Program (a program funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services).

This important program provides funded spectacles to people of NSW from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. It relies on the commitment of providers such as Ms Parish to deliver this community service.

Please do not hesitate to contact Vision Australia on 1300 84 74 66 or email spectacles@visionaustralia.org should you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Luisa Ferronato
NSW Spectacles Program Project Manager

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