



MULTIPLE DISTRICT 410 – 2023/2024

REPORT TO 3rd COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING – 2nd May 2024

PORTFOLIO – Lions Brightsight

BY – PDG Pierre Theron

Council Chair Bernd, District Governors Lindie & Neville, Fellow Lions I have submitted my final report, which is in the pack.

Current Situation:

I have pleasure in reporting that Lions Brightsight continues to operate successfully and continues to show an operating profit as indicated in the financial report. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of the Management Committee, the staff under the guidance of our manager, Kirsty – Ann Mackenzie. Our couriers, Seabourne, who continue to give us outstanding service at no cost; Medequip for the generous donation of well needed Optometric equipment, and of course those clubs that support the efforts of Lions Brightsight.

As always there is room for improvement. The Committee has plans for the new year which should increase the turnover and profitability of Lions Brightsight.

As at the 31st of March 2024, The figures showed the following uptake of Spectacles:

District 410E: 902.

District 410W; 381

Clinic 1093

Total 2,384

Vision Screening in South Africa:

Due to lack of resources, healthcare professionals and screening programs, most South Africa's children have never had a simple, yet potentially life-changing, vision screening.

To add to this with the transition to more and more 'remote' learning on small screens - and a decrease in outdoor playtime -there is mounting evidence that children at younger and younger ages are developing myopia and other vision challenges.

According to the implemented school vision screenings program in South Africa, the HPCSA states that screening should be conducted at least once during pre-school period, primary school and thereafter upon entry into secondary school.

Bottom-line, children can and should, receive a basic, touchless, digital vision screening as young as 6 months. It's now super easy, proven, and very effective at detecting early vision challenges that need professional care.

We will, in the new year, hopefully be able to provide clubs with a less expensive way to get equipped to perform vision screening for children at pre-schools as well as at government schools. We are in negotiations with LCIF to establish a way to fund the purchase of Plusoptix handheld Vision Screeners on a preferential grant matching basis. Watch this space!

Conclusion: Nominations for members on the management committee have been submitted for approval by Council, and I have every faith that next year, with the support of clubs & MANCO, Lions Brightsight will grow even further. My heartfelt thanks to Council for your support this past year.

PIERRE