

Report to 4th Cabinet Meeting to be held on 2nd May 2024

Portfolio: Sight - DC Peter Daniel

District Governor Neville and fellow Lions, my report is as follows:

I believe Sight or Vision is one of the most important pillars of Lions Clubs service projects. Providing spectacles to needy patients, especially school children, is an easy way for a Lions Club to make a difference in their local communities. To put a pair of spectacles on a shortsighted child's nose and for the first time they see a tree has leaves and is not just a green blob and see the look of amazement on their faces is a really rewarding experience. It just makes you realise why Lions do what they do.

I am pleased to report there has been a huge improvement in the number of scripts received from District 410W by the Lions Brightsight Office in Benoni since I took over this portfolio in 2021. However, this improvement seems to be levelling off. To mention figures - for the first 9 months of the Lionistic year (July 2021/March 2022) - 119 scripts, (July 2022/March 2023) - 339 scripts and this year, (July 2023/March 2024 – 312 scripts. I notice that District 410E numbers have also declined slightly, so this appears to be a general trend (Fewer Lions, less Service?). I would like to thank the Clubs of 410W who are supporting this Multiple District Project: According to the Brightsight debtors system, the following 10 Clubs send scripts to Brightsight: Durbanville, Eden, George, Gordon's Bay, Knysna, Malmesbury, Merriman, Paarl and Uniondale. If compared to the number of Clubs in 410W, which totals 57, this is relatively few Clubs. I am hopeful that the following Lions Clubs, who have made contact with me, namely Tokai, Franschhoek, Milnerton and Hout Bay will soon get involved in Brightsight.

The LCIF grant for giving free spectacles to school children through Brightsight still has a very substantial amount of over R120,000 in the grant which equates about 480 pairs of single vision spectacles. The grant is presently being used by District 410E and 410W so the figures quoted above for spectacles in District 410W do not include the LCIF grant figures.

I will hopefully send out my 4th Sight Newsletter in April. I strongly suspect that very few Lions take the time and trouble to read these newsletters.

I am looking forward to seeing my fellow Cabinet Officers and fellow Lions at the Multiple District Convention in the Wilderness during May.

Yours in Lions,

Peter Daniel