AUSTRALIAN LEADER OF 1.3 MILLION LIONS LEADS CELEBRATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORLD SIGHT DAY

Lions Clubs International will officially mark World Sight Day in Mossman, Queensland on October 10. International President, Australian Barry J. Palmer will lead the events, which will include vision screenings of school children and adults.

At 9am on Thursday 10 October, local Mossman Lions Club members will hold vision screenings for students at Mossman State School in conjunction with Mossman Hospital Community Health Services. Lions will work with local eye care professionals to provide follow-up care if needed. Later that same day further screenings will also be conducted at St Augustine’s School in Mossman.

In addition, vision screenings will be held for the public in the Mossman Shire Hall also with the support of Mossman Hospital Community Health Services and local eye health specialists.

“Vision screenings are an important first step towards preventing and treating eye disease. Our activities in Mossman represent Lions’ global efforts to provide vision services,” said Lions President Palmer. “Lions in Australia, and around the world, work hard to fight eye disease and save sight. Lions World Sight Day is a perfect opportunity to celebrate Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation’s commitment to promoting universal eye care.

International President Barry Palmer and his wife Anne will be joined at Mossman State School by members of the Lions International Board who are holding their International Board meeting at the Mirage Hotel in Port Douglas.

Held annually in October, World Sight Day is an international event launched by Lions in 1998 to recognize the importance of fighting preventable blindness globally. The event has grown to include hundreds of eye health care non-governmental organizations worldwide. On World Sight Day, Lions clubs around the world conduct special sight-related projects with the focus of this year’s Lions World Sight Day on community vision screenings.

To attend the event at Mossman State School or for further information please contact:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

WORLD SIGHT DAY
Approximately 285 million people are visually impaired worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, with 39 million people who are blind. Yet, up to 80 percent of blindness is preventable. Through vision screenings and eye health education, eye diseases like cataract, glaucoma and more can be detected, treated and prevented. Lions and LCIF’s SightFirst program are making a real difference on global blindness rates, but as the world’s population increases and people live longer, the need for vision-services also increases.

Lions Clubs International
Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Our 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs are serving communities in 207 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

Lions Clubs International Foundation
Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest service club organization with more than 1.35 million members around the world. Established in 1968, LCIF has been preventing avoidable blindness on a global scale for more than 20 years through the SightFirst program. Lions are investing US$415 million in SightFirst and have helped to restore sight to millions worldwide. Learn more at www.lcif.org

Additional contacts:
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