



ATLANTIC EYE
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Atlantic Eye Foundation and Radiance Foundation Restore Sight in Mandela Day Cataract Outreach at Eerste Rivier Hospital

"Cash for Clarity" campaign brings free cataract care to 20 patients, easing pressure on state waiting lists

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — 22 July 2026 — In honour of Nelson Mandela's belief that healthcare is a basic human right, the Atlantic Eye Foundation (AEF) partnered with the Radiance Foundation to host a free cataract outreach day at Eerste Rivier Hospital on Saturday, 18 July 2026, as part of Mandela Day.

The initiative, run under AEF's ongoing "Cash for Clarity" campaign, saw the Foundation's technical team conduct biometries for 20 patients, who were then taken through for cataract surgery — all at no cost to those treated. The outreach forms part of AEF's broader objective of reducing wait times on state cataract surgery lists and relieving pressure on public healthcare resources through collaborative, community-driven care.

A Partnership Built on Collaboration

The day's success was made possible through the combined contribution of several partners:

- **Radiance Foundation**, led by Dr David Steven, provided clinic and theatre staff.
- **Atlantic Eye Foundation** supplied specialists (Dr Pieter van der Merwe & Dr Leandri Linde), UCT Registrar Candidate (Dr Doug Heale), Medical Officer (Dr Raeesah Suleman), technicians (Leon Papenfus & Karen Mandhlazi), and support staff (Annerine van der Merwe & Keri Lambooy).
- **Jansen-Vorster Optometrists** conducted patient pre-screenings, post-operative assistance and sponsoring transport for all patients.
- **Rotary Atlantis** coordinating patients and logistics



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- **Zeiss** provided the intraocular lenses used in the procedures.
- **OSI** supplied viscoelastic consumables for surgery.
- **Atlantic Eye Centre** sponsored post-operative eye drops for all patients.

"It was a big day and a big team effort," said Dr David Steven of the Radiance Foundation. "Shout out to Frederik Jansen in Atlantis for assessing the patients, sending them through for surgery, and for seeing them after the surgery; to the Atlantic Eye team who all pitched in to get the job done; and to the Atlantic Eye Foundation, who made it possible with their sponsorship."

About the Cash for Clarity Campaign

Cash for Clarity is the Atlantic Eye Foundation's ongoing initiative to fund and facilitate free cataract surgeries for patients on South Africa's state healthcare waiting lists, delivered in partnership with government hospitals, sponsors, and fellow eye-care organisations. If you wish to get involved with this initiative, please contact us on details below.



(Photos: Atlantic Eye Foundation, Mandela Day outreach, Eerste Rivier Hospital, 18 July 2026)



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