Phil Anderton

Phil Anderton retired from academic life at the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science in 2005. After moving to Manilla in northern NSW he found himself working as a part-time clinical optometrist, responding to a high level of demand from the community, local GPs and local ophthalmologists to provide optometry services in this area of northern NSW.

He has been a locum clinician in Gunnedah and, together with regional Aboriginal eye health coordinators, has run clinics for Aboriginal communities in Gunnedah, Tamworth, Caroona, Quirindi, Coonabarabran, Baradine, Toomelah, Narrabri, Inverell and Goondiwindi. These clinics were sponsored by the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE), now the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

He currently has a private eye and vision clinic at Manilla Health Service, and recently received funding through the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program to upgrade the equipment there to include digital fundus photography, OCT and digital slit-lamp image and motion capture. These facilities have greatly enhanced the level of service offered, and much of his work is collaborative with local GPs and Tamworth ophthalmologists.

Twice a year he travels to Wilcannia and Menindi in western NSW, contributing to four-day clinical sessions as a part of the Outback Eye Service team.

He is an adjunct senior research fellow at UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science. He contributes to the ophthalmology program of the University of New England Joint Medical Program. He is the convenor of the Rural Optometry Group of the Optometrists Association Australia, and sits on both the council and board of the National Rural Health Alliance, of which the ROG is a constituent member.