

SOUTH EASTERN REGION POLIO SUPPORT GROUP

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A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OF INDEPENDENCE AUSTRALIA

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY: City of Greater Dandenong

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Meetings are held at: Springvale Senior Citizens Rooms, 3 The Crescent, Springvale.

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2009

Presidents Letter

Hi Everyone

It was great to finally get to go away for a break after 6 years of no holidays. My trip to Corowa worked out really well. The train trip was great. The staff on Countrylink were so much help, as were Travellers Aide at Southern Cross Station. I met a friend of a friend in Albury to fill in the 3 hours before the bus trip to Corowa. We had lunch then looked around the shops till it was time to return to the station for the bus. It was a long day as I left home at 6.30am and got to Kay's place in Corowa at 5.10pm. I was tired but felt it more the next day. The time in Corowa was a good rest, we went to the RSL Club to play bingo etc plus see a country and western concert, we also went out and about in our wheelchairs shopping and having cups of coffee at the bakery. The wheelchair taxi up there only takes one chair at a time so it was a real shuttle service. The trip home was better as far as times went. I did not have to leave until 10.30am then met the same friend in Albury again to fill in time till the train left at 3.20pm. We arrived in Melbourne at 7.30pm and the Taxi was waiting for me. I felt good when I got home but still NO modifications done to the shower. [another story].

Thank you to all our members for once again voting me in as your President.

I have spoken to Una and Virginia over the past few weeks, both are getting along OK. Una is now able to sit up in the club chair [not her wheelchair] for 2 hours a day.

I have submitted our grant application with the help of Barbara. This year it is being done by the Department of Planning and Community Services not DHS. The forms were awful, very confusing and more detailed than before. Keep you fingers crossed that we are successful.

Regards

Lyn

APOLOGIES

Would all members who are regulars at our meetings **PLEASE** ring Lyn if you are unable to attend a meeting.

JULY MEETING

It was great to have Mary-ann tell us all about her trip to the USA which was also attended by Polio people from Australia.

AUGUST MEETING

This was our AGM. Cr Roz Blades once again chaired this meeting for us. It was good to so many there and become involved.

The Committee is as follows:-

President Lyn Bates
Vice President Barbara Watson
Secretary Viv Cunningham
Treasurer Joan Owens
Newsletter Michael Judson

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This will be on **September 12th** in our usual place, the Springvale Senior Citizens Rooms, The Crescent Springvale at 1.30pm. It will be a cuppa and chat meeting.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are now due. They are still \$10 per annum. Please bring the form sent out with the last newsletter with your payment. You must be financial to be able to vote at the AGM.

POLIO DAY 2009

Polio Day 2009 will be held on Monday 12th October at the Darebin Community Arts & Entertainment Centre in Preston. We will do the usual and organize a group taxi etc. **PLEASE LET LYN KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND ASAP** so transport can be arranged.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Once again Lyn is asking for suggestions for guest speakers. She will endeavour to get people that will be of interest for all people.

MEETING DATES FOR 2009

MONTH DATE DETAILS

August	8	A.G.M.
September	12	Cuppa and chat
October	10	
October	12	Polio Day, Darebin Community Arts and Entertainment Centre
November	14	
December	6	Christmas Lunch - TBA

GLOBAL CASE COUNT

19 August 2009

Data as at 18 August 2009

[Information by country](#)

Total cases	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008	Total in 2008
Globally	839	1044	1651
- in endemic countries:	621	980	1505
- in non-endemic countries:	218	64	146

Case breakdown by country

Country	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008	Total in 2008	Date of onset of most recent case
India	206	359	559	31 July 2009
Pakistan	35	31	117	28 July 2009
Afghanistan	17	15	31	27 July 2009
Chad	13	12	37	15 July 2009
Nigeria	363	575	798	12 July 2009
Angola	19	23	29	8 July 2009
Guinea	15	0	0	6 July 2009
Liberia	7	0	0	29 June 2009
Côte d'Ivoire	24	0	1	26 June 2009
DRC	3	3	5	24 June 2009
CAR	14	1	3	22 June 2009
Kenya	17	0	0	30 May 2009
Sudan	44	3	26	28 May 2009
Niger	15	13	12	28 May 2009
Burkina Faso	12	1	6	20 May 2009
Uganda	8	0	0	10 May 2009
Benin	20	2	6	19 April 2009
Togo	6	0	3	28 March 2009
Mali	1	0	1	4 January 2009
Ghana	0	0	8	8 November 2008
Nepal	0	4	6	15 October 2008
Ethiopia	0	2	3	27 April 2008

Headlines

- The WHO Director-General's Independent Evaluation of Major Barriers to Interrupting Poliovirus Transmission is currently taking place in the endemic countries and countries that have experienced persistent outbreaks.
- World Humanitarian Day was held on 18 August to honour the dedication of people who work in the world's most challenging, often dangerous locations and to remember those who have lost their lives while trying to assist others. The sacrifice made by GPEI staff in both these areas continues to be profound. Please take the time this week to stop and remember those staff lost this past year in the name of polio eradication.

Afghanistan

- Three new cases were reported in the past week, one wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in Hilmand and two type 3s (WPV3s) in Kandahar, all in previously infected districts. Afghanistan has reported 17 cases in 2009, the most recent of which is a WPV3 from Maywand, Kandahar, with onset of paralysis on 27 July.
- The most recent National Immunization Days (NIDs) were held from 26-28 July, using trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV).
- With Presidential elections to be held on 20 August, the security threat is extremely high, resulting in all international staff having temporarily evacuated to neighbouring countries.
- Sub National Immunization Days (SNID) will be held from 13-15 September. This activity, aiming to vaccinate children in 13 high-risk districts of the Southern Region, is part of a nation-wide campaign dubbed "What are you doing for peace?" Timed to revolve around International Peace Day (20 September), the campaign is planned by civil society, government organizations and the United Nations and its agencies in Afghanistan.

India

- Twenty-two new cases were reported in the past week (one WPV1, in Bhagalpur, Bihar, and 21 WPV3 cases in western Uttar Pradesh), bringing the total number of cases for 2009 to 206, compared with 359 at this time last year. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 31 July (WPV1 from Bihar).
- Sub-National Immunizations Days (SNIDs) began on 9 August, with Uttar Pradesh using mOPV3 vaccine in most areas and mOPV1 in some districts surrounding recent WPV1 cases. Bihar will use tOPV except in those districts with recent WPV1 transmission.
- The next Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIAs) are scheduled for 13 September, using mOPV1 across Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Following that, it is hoped that SIAs in early November will use the new bivalent oral polio vaccine, which will tackle both WPV1 and WPV3 serotypes concurrently.

Nigeria

- Two new cases were reported in the past week (both WPV3), bringing the total number of cases for 2009 to 363, compared with 575 at this time last year. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 12 July (WPV1 from Delta). Significantly, no cases of WPV1 were reported this week, continuing the positive trend for WPV1 case numbers in Nigeria. At this time last year, 529 children had been paralysed in Nigeria from type-1 polio - the most dangerous of the polio serotypes; this year, that figure is 69.
- The outbreak of violence in some northern states and logistics obstacles in others has forced the program to implement its Sub-national Immunizations Plus Days (IPDs), which were initially planned to be held from 1-4 August, over three weeks. Borno, Yobe, Edo and Rivers States are currently conducting the IPDs, Adamawa has suspended implementation due to LGA strike action while in Akwa-Ibom and Cross River the activity remains postponed.
- SIAs are planned for October, using mOPV3 across the northern and middle-belt states.

Pakistan

- Four new cases were reported in the past week (three WPV1, one WPV3), bringing the total number of cases for 2009 to 35, compared with 31 at this time last year. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 28 July (WPV1 from Nferoz, Sindh).
- SNIDs were held from 17-19 August, targeting 17.4 million children using a combination of mOPV3 and mOPV1 vaccine. While access to children was improved in Malakand, no SIAs were able to be conducted in south Waziristan due to a deteriorating security situation.
- Further NIDs using tOPV are planned for October and November.
- In Peshawar, the City Traffic Police have established 13 polio checkpoints, following the example of Islamabad, Lahore and Pakistan Motorways Police, to check cars for "missed" children during immunization campaigns.

If you have anything for inclusion in the newsletter and have a computer, please email it to me at mjudson@tpg.com.au as part of the email, or as a Word document or a text file attached to the email. If you do not have access to a computer please send it to Lyn who will pass it on to me.

For those people with an email address, as you are well aware costs are constantly increasing, so if you would like to receive this newsletter by email and help save postage and printing costs, please let Lynn know.