

Polio Advisory Committee Meeting
27 January 2006
ParaQuad, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood

In Attendance

Beth Clisby, Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme, Mary-ann Liethof, Jill Pickering, Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), Janny Ryan (Minutes), Barbara Watson

Apologies

Helen Bryant, Mary Reid, Cliff Wise

Minutes of Previous Meeting (25 November 2005)

All fine.

Polio Services Victoria Report

- Cath White reported back on the Patient Satisfaction Results. A random sample of 100 people who had used PSV in the previous 12-months indicated a high level of satisfaction. While this does not indicate that the range of services is adequate it is more likely that having had the limitations of what can be offered explained to them, people are happy with the level of service that is available. Budgetary limitations prevented a wider sample but emailing some surveys is a possibility in future.
- A recent seminar of health professionals at St Vincent's provided a good opportunity to explain for instance the value of sound communication in preparing orthotics.
- Hoping to attend a rehab conference in Cairns – working on an abstract that will attract a good turn-up and can then spread the word about polio treatments.
- Will continue to do research around polio, for instance looking at quality of life measures.
- Continues to lobby DHS as the organisation has quadrupled in the last few years. Funding for more regional clinics is one area of concern.

Agenda Items

- PAC Planning for 2006. Canvassed a range of projects to be funded from the Special Purpose Post Polio Fund, some already in motion – includes Marcia Falconer seminar (9 May), Polio Day (balance of social and education), PSV funding & Vic Aids and Equipment Program, Home First, immunisation education, website development, education in schools, education around post-polio syndrome within ethnic communities, providing information on resources other than PSV. Copies of information compiled on whiteboard distributed to all present for contemplation.
- PAC guidelines have been circulating for months and changes need to be finalised and ratified at next meeting.
- Post Polio Special Fund Budget Allocation 2006/07 – \$11,000 presently in the kitty and a further \$15,000 is coming in. Amounts need to be budgeted by June. Various options were discussed (website development, re launch of the community schools education program, Polio Day, Marcia Falconer, education/awareness raising through a range of promotional material and strategies i.e. brochures, TV). Several of these issues will also be discussed as agenda items throughout the year.

Review of Previous Action Plan

- Contact Premier's office contact re Rodney Angwin - deferred due to Cliff's absence.
- 'A World Without Polio' exhibition - location is a disadvantage (a shopping centre would have been better) and considered a wasted opportunity. Margaret volunteered to be an attendant at the exhibition

on 2 occasions but there were no visitors. Mary-ann has been 'on duty' on Friday mornings. Committee has asked her to withdraw her services.

- HomeFirst - draft document listing shortcomings prepared. New input to be incorporated into it and presented in partnership with a dialogue with HDG Consultants.

Correspondence

- Draft letter to HDG Consultants - re Home First
- Letter from Rosy Buchanan MP, following Cathy and Mary-ann's meeting late last year, stating that issues have been raised with the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services in preparation for a delegation of 'polios' to meet with him.

Reports

ParaQuad Board – Cliff Wise and Helen Bryant absent.

Polio Community Officer

- Three people up for re-election - call for nominations in Autumn edition (March) of Polio Perspectives with nominations to be in by the end of April. Nominees will then be published in Winter edition (June) with voting slip to be returned by 3rd week in June.
- A query was raised from a PNV member as to whether it would be contravening PAC Guidelines to only have 3 PAC members up for election instead of 4. This predicament is the result of 5 people being up for election last year due to no election being held the previous year. As the situation stands, none of the 5 recently elected PAC members intend resigning before the end of their 2 year term. Therefore, it was decided that, although this disrupts the annual election process (i.e. 4 of the 8 PAC positions to be rotated each year), the PAC will accommodate this imbalance and reconsider the options prior to the 2007/08 election.
- Upcoming trips this year: Regional - Shepparton, Hamilton, Geelong, Sale, Wodonga and Bendigo; Metro – Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Eltham, Bayside (Beaumaris library), and possibly Prahran/St Kilda.
- Keen to promote DVDs/videos to municipal and medical libraries, and Divisions of General Practice.

General Business

- A Shepparton member would like to attend a meeting to get a feel of the committee - OK.

Action To Be Followed Up

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| • Follow up with Rosy Buchanan re meeting with Parliamentary Secretary | Mary-ann |
| • Suggest priorities 2006/07 Post Polio Special Fund budget | PAC members |
| • Consider content for a redesigned Polio website | PAC members |
| • PAC Guidelines to be amended and ratified | PAC members |
| • Talk to Mary re organising meeting with Home First consultants | Marg |
| • Ask local libraries if they want to buy Polio video/DVD | PAC members |
| • Follow-up letter to Denis Naphine re what action has happened since Oct meeting | Mary-ann/Gordon |
| • Contact Premier's office re Rodney Angwin | Cliff |

**Next meeting – Friday 24 February 2006 at ParaQuad, Collingwood
Meeting begins at noon and includes a light lunch.**