

Polio Advisory Committee Meeting
31 March 2006
ParaQuad, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood

In Attendance

Beth Clisby, Margaret Cooper, Mary-ann Liethof, Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), Janny Ryan (Minutes), Barbara Watson, Cliff Wise

Apologies

Helen Bryant, Marilyn Grimme, Jill Pickering, Mary Reid

Minutes of Previous Meeting (27 November 2005)

Accepted

Agenda Items

- **Farewell for Cathy White, PSV** – Cath White attended her last PAC meeting as she is resigning. Replacement not known at time of meeting (post meeting advised the new PSV Co-ordinator is Jane Henderson).
Re Victorian Aids and Equipment Program (VAEP), reported that action is necessary on the KAFO front. Darren represented PSV at review of the program. Cath's presentation of a polio poster/paper at a state physio conference was well received and she had been invited to present at other state conferences. Cath was encouraged by meeting to see if her replacement could attend the Marcia Falconer conference. A philanthropic trust has funded a weight-gait machine at St V's that is proving valuable. Cath was thanked for her terrific service and given a present of thanks.
- **DHS VAEP Focus Group Meeting / Early close to PAC meeting** – DHS Vic Aids & Equipment Program focus group meetings are taking place this week. MAL and Janny attending later today. Reported that Mary Reid felt that invitations were unfairly very selective - you had to ring to find out the venues and at least a month's notice should have been given to disability groups to organise representation. General agreement that subsidies under the program are grossly inadequate and that people have to 'beg, borrow or steal' to survive.
- **Meeting with Rosy Buchanan & Telmo Languiller** – This meeting was attended by Barbara, Margaret, Gordon, MAL and Helen from the PAC, and Ian Gainey who initiated a petition for an increase in PSV funding for services. Barbara felt the Polio group got a good hearing. Margaret felt that while Rosy had a good understanding of the issues, Telmo was engrossed in the Disability Services changes that were about to go before parliament. Gordon will continue to lobby Denis Napthine. Mary-ann lobbied for extra PSV funding - can only meet acute demand and increasingly younger population is now seeking services, particularly among refugee populations.
- **PAC Election Applicants** – none. Closing date today. (post meeting - one applicant)
- **Polio Roll Call** – This is being updated by Michael Judson from the S/E PPSG. A copy was distributed, many inaccuracies. All invited to correct where possible. The current list will also be sent to all PPSG's for input.
- **Polio Network Service Brochure** – distributed and feedback invited. Once everyone happy, these will be printed to be handed out as required and sent to PPSG's.
- **Special Purpose Post Polio Fund Budget Sheet** – members to comment before it goes to PQV board for ratification. Peter Turner, PQV CEO, is happy for polio website link to be trialled as a pilot.

Review of Previous Action Plan

- **Invite Ingrid Kariuki from Multi Purpose Taxi Program** - will attend April meeting. Agenda 1 hour.
- **PAC Guidelines Ratification** - Cliff reported that there was some confusion over status of PAC - an advisory committee not sub-committee. PQV will get legal opinion on PAC committee's obligations, but no problems anticipated.
- **Website content** – Margaret, Beth and Jill are looking into content of website.
- **Draft brochure content for service providers** – deferred to next meeting due to Marilyn's absence.
- **Rodney Angwin case** - Hospitals and Charities Act, according to Margaret, would have overridden any parliamentary ruling re supporting Polios life-long.

Correspondence

- Email from Margery Kennett, previously of Post Polio Foundation, suggesting funds could be expended on good resources on "The Net". Mary-ann replied saying this was exactly what the PAC were considering for the next budget.
- Moving letter from Arthur Dobson, Tas Post Polio Network - letter reporting on the success of the polio video on a Tasmanian sufferer in explaining her condition to spouse.

Reports

- **ParaQuad Board – Cliff**. Outgoing Governor, John Landy, was thanked for his patronage of PQV and offered life-long membership. Independence Solutions going from strength to strength, with an office opening in Queensland and servicing Department of Veterans Affairs. Office space still problematic - pro bono architect working on it. Hopefully all of ParaQuad can re-unite on the Wellington site. Strategic Plan runs out this year – new consultant to look at next plan. New Williamstown respite facility has an ongoing booking with MS Society - presently costing PQV money but hoping to build its profile. Steve Bracks to be invited to officially open. (Request from the group that Telmo Languiller be invited).
- **Polio Community Officer – Mary-ann**. Will be attending the Northern Region PPSG meeting tomorrow. She will also meet up with her NZ counterpart, Ray Wilson, due to stopover on the way to Tasmania. Plans to meet up at Tullamarine. Will present and information session in Geelong (30 responses to 80 letters), and fly to Mildura for a lunchtime meeting. Presented an information session in Hamilton earlier in month with 13 attendees. Hamilton may consider starting a specific polio support group as the current one is a generic disability group.

General Business

- Steve de Graaff, rehabilitation specialist at Caulfield, wants support to develop a clinic.

Action To Be Followed Up

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| • Comment on PolioNetwork service brochure | All |
| • Consider website content | Marg, Beth, Jill, MAL |
| • Ring Margaret or Cliff re Rodney Angwin | Mary |
| • Agenda Steve de Graaff for next meeting | MAL |
| • Agenda one hour for Ingrid Kariuki, Multi Purpose Taxi Program at next meeting | MAL |

**Next meeting – Friday 28 April 2006 at ParaQuad, Collingwood
Meeting begins at noon and includes a light lunch.**