

# Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 30 June 2006

## In attendance

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Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), Jill Pickering (Minutes), Barbara Watson

## Apologies

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Helen Bryant, Beth Clisby, Mary Reid & Cliff Wise

## Minutes of Previous Meeting May 26<sup>th</sup>

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Margaret asked for the following change to be recorded under General Business – first point:

Margaret Cooper commented that the PAC had recognised the need for crisis care and had mentioned this while lobbying. PAC reps did talk about this at the HomeFirst Review and the Senate Committee on Ageing, Melbourne hearing. It was also noted in PQV's Strategic Plan. Mary-ann reminded us that Carelink provides a 24/7 crisis call number.

Minutes were confirmed - Moved by Gordon, seconded by Jill

## Agenda Items

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**Polio Services Victoria Report** – Jane Henderson, recently appointed as PSV Coordinator, gave an update on PSV activities that continue to stretch PSV resources:

- 60 new patient referrals received so far for the current year 2006
- Waiting lists for Polio assessment/treatment clinics were now an unacceptable 2 months
- Still waiting on a response to PSV request for increased funding from DHS
- Current PSV budget is insufficient to cover growing need. If DHS fails to increase PSV funding, priorities will need to spread limited resources across clinics, waiting lists will increase and inability to supplement the VAEP orthotic funding gap where needed.
- Also mentioned was the low 'One Off' funding payment to St. Vincent's Victorian Aids & Equipment Program (VAEP).
- The Channel 9 E-Knee feature received a positive response. However the resulting new assessment requests will be adversely affected by a negative DHS funding response.
- PSV will be applying for a research grant through Post-Polio Health International (based in the USA) to work up the E-Knee.

**Guest Speaker: Natalie Collins (InfoXchange)** – Natalie worked systematically through the proposed PNV Website material prior to commencing web design work. Natalie said she would get back in touch with Mary-ann about the web design work within 3 weeks i.e. by 21<sup>st</sup> July 2006.

**PAC Election Results** – PAC members have been advised of the results. Jo McKenna was congratulated for being re-elected to the PAC, Michael Judson was welcomed, and Mary Reid was thanked (in her absence) for her positive contribution to the PAC over past years. Mary-ann advised that she would be delivering a plant and card to Mary on Monday.

Gordon McKinnon advised that he would be happy to be nominated as Chair for a further 12 months, i.e. from July 2006 to June 2007 inclusive. On this occasion, other PAC members were in favour of 2 consecutive years.

**Report on Victorian Aids & Equipment (VAEP) Forum June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006** – The forum was attended by approximately 30 VAEP users/fund supply agents. Liz Forsyth from KPMG presented a summary of feedback received to date and then the attendees broke into groups to discuss any issues still outstanding. Jill Pickering reported back a summary of the issues raised at the forum.

**Media Release 24/6/06: \$2.7M for Aids and Equipment** – Mary-ann tabled the media release stating that the VAEP had received a 2.7 million ‘One-Off’ funding injection. The meeting felt this would help reduce an excessive VAEP waiting list, but unless followed by a realistic increase in annual VAEP funding, waiting lists would soon blow out again.

**Congratulations to Mary Reid OAM** – Mary Reid, retiring PAC member, was congratulated (in her absence) for the great achievement of being awarded the OAM for service to people with disabilities, particularly as a contributor to the advancement of attendant care services to allow independent living.

### **Review of Previous Action Plan**

**Polio Network Website Committee Feedback** – Barbara Watson asked for thanks to be given to the PAC Web working party for the great job they had done.

**Clinical Service Provider Brochure** – A draft of the proposed brochure was tabled. This draft will be run by a sample of PPSG’s, PSV, and Dr Stephen de Graaff before being modified and resubmitted to the PAC.

### **Correspondence**

- Mary-ann advised that PNV had received a \$500.00 donation from the Lions Club of Mentone-Mordialloc towards Polio Day 2006.
- Margaret Griffiths, the co-ordinator of Bairnsdale PPSG, send an email to PNV regarding suggestions sent to the Disability Access Council of Victoria (DACV) regarding access issues.

### **Reports**

**PQ Board Report** – In the absence of Cliff & Helen, Mary-ann flagged a change to PAC reporting procedures following Legal advice received by Peter Turner (CEO). The change would involve the PAC reporting to the Board via the CEO rather than directly to the Board. Further details would be explained at the August PAC meeting by Peter Turner & Cliff Wise.

#### **PNV Report**

- Mary-ann reported on the progress of Polio information sessions that continue to run on a regular basis. She noted that response to information sessions was greater in rural areas than metropolitan.

### **General Business**

- Gordon reported that March 2007 has been designated by Rotary as Polio Irradiation Literacy Month.
- Mary-ann also provided details on the next Pamper Me Day details to be held on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Action To Be Followed Up**

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Ingrid Kariuki, Multi Purpose Taxi Program attending July meeting  
Review of PAC reporting procedures (August)  
Update on InfoXchange progress on website

Cliff Wise/Peter T  
Mary-ann

**Date Of Next Meeting**

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Clarified as Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2006.