

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 28 July 2006

Present

Helen Bryant, Beth Clisby, Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minutes), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chair), Jill Pickering, Barbara Watson, and Cliff Wise

Apologies

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting held 30 June

Minutes Confirmed – Moved by Barbara, seconded by Marilyn

Election of New Chairperson

Gordon was nominated for re-election to position of Chairperson. All in favour - Gordon re-elected as Chairperson for July 2006 to July 2007.

Agenda Items

Guest Speakers: Ingrid Sevilla and Fleur Watters (Multi Purpose Taxi Program Victorian Taxi Directorate)

Ingrid covered the history and activities of the Multi Purpose Taxi Program including the appointment of Peter Hibbert to the new position of Scope Transport Manager. Peter will work with groups and taxi depots on issues regarding complaints. Ingrid to forward dates and venues of Regional Victoria visits, Peter Hibbert's contact details and copies of complaint forms to Mary-ann. Mary-ann to contact Peter as a possible future quest speaker.

Revised Polio Roll Call

Previously designed as a PowerPoint Presentation the 'Polio Roll Call' data has now been transferred (with approx 100 hours input) by Michael to an Excel Spreadsheet including 730 names. (This includes the deletion of some double entries.) Michael aims to have the information also available on CD and DVD eventually to enable viewing in any format.

Review of Previous Action Plan

PolioNetwork Website Update

Mary-ann reported that Josh Dickinson (Infoxchange) is now working on redesigning the website www.polionetworkvic.asn.au. Infoxchange's Polio Network Project Plan allocates 'review, sign off and presentation' of the website for September, which will be in time for Polio Day. Helen discussed the eventual linkup of the Polio Network site with the new ParaQuad website which is currently being revamped.

Progress of Clinical Service Provider Brochure

Mary-ann has responded to feedback from groups and organisations re the last update of the brochure. Changes now made include a different graphic, layout and use of alternative terminology and wording. The question of including information on 'Immunisation' arose. Mary-ann will email groups re possible wording for inclusion.

Research Proposal: Services for people who have had Polio

Helen to write up a brief for a research proposal looking at lack of local community services. (e.g. Fixing orthotics or availability of specialist physiotherapist.)

Phase 1. Case studies to support DHS funding for further research into the cost of inappropriate use of acute services due to lack of funding for lower cost community service providers.

Phase 2. Research funding to ascertain the number of people with polio in Australia

Requests to be circulated to groups re having to use acute services such as hospitals due to inability to access more appropriate community based services (such as PSV). More stories/case studies required.

Launch of Disability Rights Campaign

Helen reported the launch took place this week and will lead up to the next State election. This needs to be a grassroots campaign including experiences of accessing services.

Re-launch of School Program

Jill reported that she, Barbara, Marilyn and Mary-ann have met to discuss issues relating to a re-launch of the previous school's program including:

- What age level the program should be aimed at
- How polio information would slot into current curricula
- The possibility of writing to principals in a sample area to ascertain interest in talks to Years 6 to 9

Helen suggested the use of the existing schools database. A pool of volunteer presenters could be created with training to take place. General information could be packaged with the addition of particular presenter's pictures and personal story. Mary-ann to make a request for volunteer presenters in the PolioNetwork Newsletter.

Correspondence

Mary-ann received letter from Doreen Westerduin in WA who had handwritten her personal story as a result of receiving Polio Perspectives. This could (with Doreen's permission) be included in a future newsletter as an example of what networks are about.

Reports

PQV Board

Cliff reported:

- The first briefing from the consultant for the 'Strategic Plan' document took place at the last Board meeting. Consultant bought up a range of issues.
- The opening of the new respite house in Williamstown was a good day. Federal Minister Kevin Andrews was in attendance. Recurrent funding of \$50,000 p.a. has been received.
- The Board congratulated Mary Reid on being awarded the Australia Medal.
- The Board has approved the PAC Budget submission for the Post Polio Special Fund for next year.

Polio Community Officer

- Mary-ann visited the Warrnambool group for their 11th year celebration with 16 members attending the meeting.
- In response to a request from the Eastern Region a polio information display was mounted on a board at the Nunawading Library with another to be displayed at the Vermont Library later in the year. This highlighted the potential for further displays in other libraries, Community Health Centres and doctors' waiting rooms. PAC members were asked to consider approaching local services.

- Following an article in the Whitehorse leader on Ron Bell's electronic knee brace (E-Knee) and the resulting interest, Ron, his wife and the constructor of the knee have been funded by the US based manufacturer to attend a conference in WA later in the year.

General Business

June Middleton and Guinness Book of Records

Michael suggested the possibility of applying to the Guinness Book of Records to include June Middleton's long term use of an iron lung (held to be the longest known use in the world). All research into the validity of the claim is done by the Guinness Book of Records. There were no objections to the suggestion and Mary-ann will ask June for her agreement to proceed.

Polio Day Raffle

With the success of last year's raffle covering parking costs for the day, Mary-ann requested some thought be given to possible donors for prizes, with the aim of covering parking costs again this year. Donors could be acknowledged in 'Polio Perspectives' after Polio Day takes place.

Christmas Party

To be placed on the August meeting agenda.

September Meeting

A request for the September meeting to be bought forward by a week to September 22nd was made by Gordon due to that week being the AFL Grand Final. All present agreed.

Action to be Followed Up

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| • Contact with Multi Purpose Taxi Program's Scope Transport Manager to invite to future meeting. | Mary-ann
All PAC |
| • Consider approaching local service providers re mounting a display. | |
| • June Middleton for permission to be a possible entry in the Guinness Book of Records | Mary-ann |
| • Christmas Party venue | All PAC |
| • Polio Day Raffle | All PAC |

Date of next meeting

Clarified as Friday 25th August 2006