

# Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 27 March 2007

## Present

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Marcia Baron, (Acting General Manager Community Services), Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme, Jane Henderson (Polio Services Victoria), Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chairperson), Jill Pickering, Barbara Watson and Cliff Wise

## Apologies

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Peter Turner (on leave) and Geoff Dean

## Confirmation of Minutes 16 February 2007

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Minutes Confirmed – Moved by Barbara, seconded by Michael. All in favour

## Agenda Items

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### Polio Services Victoria Report – Jane Henderson

- **Rural Clinics:** All clients that required appointments were seen on the March trip to Ballarat, including 2 new clients. Next trip is to Traralgon in June.
- **PSV Clinic:** waiting list is now 5 months. This is causing difficulties especially as some clients require urgent attention.
- **Orthotics:** A proposal has been submitted to St. Vincent's Hospital for an additional EFT in the Physiotherapy and Orthotics Department to improve the current orthotic services available for polio clients. (PSV's Orthotic service currently has 280 on the waiting list.)
- **Hydrotherapy classes:** These are growing in popularity but it is difficult to fit everyone in one hour. There are no resources for an additional class.
- **DHS Funding:** Still awaiting meeting date with DHS. Manager at St Vincent's has also forwarded a letter to Brian Joyce, Regional Director, North and West Metropolitan Region, Department of Human Services.
- Enquiries re services have been received from Tasmania but PSV can only provide services within Victoria.
- **Victorian Aids & Equipment:** Wondonga Health not funding high priority/urgent equipment recommended by PSV. PSV have written to DHS contact regarding the problem. No response received as yet. Client waiting 15 months for equipment.
- **Northern Region Post Polio Support Group Newsletter:** A list of questions pertaining to PSV services were included in the last newsletter. Jane has contacted the group and responded to the questions. The original article is to be reprinted and will include Jane's responses. Jo will check if the current edition includes this and if not will arrange that the April Newsletter does.

### PAC Election Nominations

Nominations to become a PAC member were advertised in the Autumn edition of Polio Perspectives. Four positions will become vacant as at the end of June 07. Those positions are now occupied by Margaret Cooper and Gordon McKinnon – who have both re-nominated – and Jill Pickering and Barbara Watson – who have both completed 6 years/3 terms on PAC and cannot re-nominate for a 12

month period. Only two new nominations have been received from PNV members Francis Henke and Tricia Mallowney. Both nominees are currently support group members and with the departure of Jill Pickering, the PAC was left with only one independent member, Geoff Dean. As the PAC Guidelines require two 'independent' members to be represented on the committee, Margaret Cooper opted to resign as a support group member, enabling her to stand as the second independent member.

The lack of any other applicants for the PAC means that an election will be unnecessary. Margaret and Gordon will stand for another term of 2 years, and Fran and Tricia will be welcomed to the PAC at the 27 July 2007 meeting. Mary-ann to advise Fran and Tricia accordingly.

### **New slogan for reprint of posters/costing**

Part of the new financial year's budget proposal for the Special Purpose Post Polio Account will be to reprint the 8 panel health professional brochures and new A4 posters. Mary-ann has had a combined quote from Genuine Print (who printed the original brochures) for 4,000 brochures and 2,000 A4 posters (full colour for both) for a total cost of \$1,925 00 incl. GST. (Previous quote for 2,000 brochures alone was \$1,155.00.)

Current photo to be retained for the new poster as representative of a range of polio disabilities and ethnic backgrounds. Several suggestions were put forward by the PAC for a new slogan. Mary-ann will compile the list of slogans and forward to PAC via email so that members can vote for a preferred option. Once a slogan has been decided on, Mary-ann will prepare a mock up poster for comment by the PAC.

### **Australian Polio Networks: State Service Comparisons**

Mary-ann compiled a comparison of state services for her trip to New Zealand and will also use it at the Polio Think Tank Seminar in NSW in May. The comparison indicates the lack of consistency in services offered across Victoria. Mary-ann to forward the comparison to the PAC members.

### **Google Alert - Polio Canada: Oldest Living Polio Survivor?**

Michael found record of a 98 year old polio survivor (since age 2) in Canada. Mary-ann will discuss this with other state networks at the national "Think Tank" in NSW in May as it could be a good media opportunity.

## **Review of previous action plan**

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### **Film sales through Marcom Projects**

Marcom Projects has suggested drawing up an agreement to purchase the rights to the film "Post Polio Syndrome: The Australian Experience" for 3 years. PAC members suggested amendments to Marcom's pro-forma agreement include:

- **2. Grant of Rights:** PNV retains the right to sell the DVD & Video to PNV members at a reduced rate (\$15.00)
- Advance on royalties for 200 units

ParaQuad technically holds the rights as PNV is a department of ParaQuad. However, PAC members wanted to confirm that any financial return should be directed to the Special Purpose Post Polio Account. Any sales will create 100% profit as film production has already been paid for.

A motion was moved by Marilyn that "Providing the agreement fits with ParaQuad, the PAC will go ahead (with the agreement)" All agreed in principle. Mary-ann to verify the status of the holding of the sales rights and check with GM Finance regarding Marcom's agreement.

### **Oral History Project: Costings**

Another project for the new financial year's budget proposal for the Special Purpose Post Polio Account will be to gather polio stories for the production of a book. Example quote for a 2,000 x 250 page A4 size books with 250gm cover and 204x100gm text pages = \$8.00 per book / \$16,000.

The amount proposed would be around \$3,000, with the remainder to be raised through the community/grants, etc. Thought also needs to be given to who would compile and prepare the stories: volunteer(s)?

### **School program presentation for comment**

Mary-ann has prepared a PowerPoint presentation which has been given to Marilyn and Barbara (as volunteers for this program) for their perusal and comment. Once approved, kits including CD, slides, handouts and brochures will be prepared for the 15 PNV members who have volunteered to become School Speakers. They are from a range of municipal and rural council areas: Greater Dandenong Council, Glen Eira Council, Bendigo Shire, La Trobe Shire, Bayside Council, Greater Shepparton, Cardinia Council, Moreland Council, Wellington Shire, Yarra Ranges Council, Baw Baw Shire, Wyndam Council, Whitehorse Council, Manningham Council and Casey Council.

Mary-ann will invite all the volunteer speakers to attend a training day where they will be stepped through the kit information, presentation options, timing, and allowances. They will also be asked to nominate which 10-20 schools in their area they would like Mary-ann to approach first. Mary-ann will then send letters to all the schools concerned inviting them to book in speakers for Terms 3 & 4, initially targeting grades 5 & 6 students in primary schools.

It is anticipated that no more than one x one hour school visit be booked per month. Anticipated token travel/petrol reimbursement of up to \$20.00 per trip (on receipt of petrol/transport docket) will need to be included in with the Special Purpose Post Polio Account budget proposal.

### **Sub committee report on Polio Day 2007: Ideas for concurrent workshops**

Format to include:

- Key note speaker to discuss political climate: disability / aged care / rural medical services
- Panel Discussion/Case Study of soon-to-be 65yo polio survivor:
  - Dept Human Services: Aged Care Services
  - Dept Human Services: Disability Services & VAEP Entitlements
  - Centrelink: Entitlements
  - Independent Living Centre: Aids available
  - ParaQuad Victoria (Janice Florence): How it all works
- Lunch and displays:
  - Centrelink
  - ILC
  - Polio Roll Call
  - June Middleton DVD compilation
  - other
- Concurrent workshops (40 mins):
  - Dr Steve de Graaff: Neurology & Physiology
  - Centrelink: Entitlements
  - DHS: Disability to Aged Sector (repeat workshops)

## Correspondence

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- Out – Second letter to DHS. Same letter to Fran Thorn, as to her predecessor Patricia Faulkner. No response as yet.
- In – Letter from Peter Ryan, MP, to Geoff Dean. Peter Ryan advised that he would be delighted to attend Polio Day and speak. PAC needs to manage the opportunity effectively and to be clear regarding topics to be covered. Example- Address rural health issues particularly in relation to polio.
- In – Email correspondence from Fran Henke to parliamentarians (Helen Shardey, Neil Burgess and Andrea Coote) and their responses. Question from Fran relating to political support for the push towards creating a National Body to ‘help the state and local bodies achieve recognition of the need for proper statistics and services’. Also included a question regarding any process for further departmental reaction after MPs make representation on behalf of polio survivors in parliament.
- In – Letter of response from Gavin Jennings (Minister for Community Services) forwarded by Greg Hunt MP to Fran Henke in relation to the PSV’s services and DHS funding issues Fran had raised with Greg Hunt.
- In – Email correspondence from PNV Member, Kay Jakob. Kay has requested 20 more copies of the Polio Brochure.

## Reports

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### PQV Board

Cliff reported:

- AQA has just appointed a new CEO. Due to former CEO Ian Bennett’s resignation.
- ParaQuad Board has recognised the need to align the Board’s expertise to current practices. A review of the process on succession and renewal of Board Member positions is underway. Final recommendations expected in 2 months. (Most recent member has been on the board for 6 years.)
- Board has approved CEO to sign a lease for a warehouse for Independence Solutions.
- The Racing for the Roses Fundraiser held in partnership with the Robert Rose Foundation at the Moonee Valley Racecourse was very successful in raising \$48,000.

### Polio Community Officer Report

- Mary-ann attended General Divisions of Practice forum. Assistance for interacting with GP’s is primarily for larger organisations dealing with health issues such as diabetes, obesity, asthma, heart, etc. PNV will continue the approach of educating people to educate their doctors. Mary-ann distributed brochures to other participants.
- Visit to NZ – according to the NZ President’s Report, Mary-ann “had some very good advice to offer our management team and ideas that we are looking to implement for the benefit of the board and our members.”
- In response to her application, Mary-ann attended a 5 member panel interview for the Churchill Fellowship grant to the USA. There is a follow up interview for those successful in the first. 22 scholarships in all are available for Victorians.
- Feedback from PNV website has all been positive. However, there was a suggestion that PNV website include a button to enlarge the print view. Infoxchange would charge \$200 to include this function. Michael advised that there was an alternative way for the user to make the screen print larger and offered to write up the steps which will be uploaded onto the website.

## Acting General Manager Community Care Report – Marcia Baron

- Expansion of service delivery with Department of Veteran Affairs Home Care and Carelink programs bringing an additional 800 clients. ParaQuad moved quickly in January to address challenges in restructuring attendant and residential care services. All clients will have a carer by May.
- First stage of restructuring now over, second stage in progress. Restructuring also to address service delivery requirements of new Disabilities Act.
- Carer hours will be boosted leading to marked retention of carers.
- Margaret asked who was carrying the policy focus, i.e. ageing, pointing out that no one from ParaQuad was attending this year's Aging and Disability Conference in Adelaide.
- Marcia responded, saying that a new General Manager appointment was to be announced in a few weeks. In the meantime, she is maintaining contact with committees and research groups. There may have been a gap in regard to this year's conference, but there is no intention of not participating at that level in future. Part of Strategic Review over next 3 or 4 years includes Strategic Program for Aging. Currently ParaQuad has involvement with DHS 'think tank' on the issue of young people in nursing homes and is looking at possibilities regarding research, i.e. new research relating to people with SCI.
- Margaret stated the carer service has been "a big problem for Home First clients for the last 5 months".
- Marcia explained that these problems should be addressed by the restructure, which includes 5 regional managers, four of whom had already been appointed. However, since the start of the year, has been working with only 2 pre-existing staff.

## General Business

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- Margaret suggested a visit be made to Clare Thorn who heads The Office of Disability. Jill and Margaret interested in attending on behalf of all polio survivors who have complained. The ParaQuad Board would need to give permission if attending as PAC members.
- Barbara Watson to be an apology for the April PAC meeting

## Actions to be followed up

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- Ensure Jane Henderson's responses included in Northern Region Post Polio Support Group Newsletter Jo
- Fran Henke and Tricia Mallowney to be advised about their successful applications to become members of the PAC. MAL
- Compile and forward new PNV slogans by email MAL
- Prepare mock up poster for comment by PAC MAL
- Forward state service comparisons to PAC members MAL
- Discuss 'oldest polio survivors' with state representatives at national 'Think Tank' in May MAL
- Check legal status with ParaQuad leading up to the transfer of the rights to Marcom MAL
- Write up specification for enlarging print view for PNV website and upload MJ/MAL

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 27 April 2007, ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood