

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for Meeting 27 April 2007

Present

Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Marilyn Grimme, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon (Chairperson), Jill Pickering, and Cliff Wise

Apologies

Barbara Watson

Confirmation of March 30th Minutes

Moved Michael Judson, seconded Jo McKenna

Agenda Items

New General Manager, Community Services appointed & new organisational structure for Community Services

Lyndie Spurr, previously of RDNS, has been appointed as the new Community Services General Manager and will start at ParaQuad mid June.

Two Executive Managers are to be appointed for Support Services and Community Care respectively and will report to the General Manager Community Services. Mary-ann handed out copies of the new structure.

Margaret expressed concern that there is no specific social policy development role in any of these new or existing positions, including representing and advocating for ParaQuad clients at relevant meetings or in the media, e.g. accessible housing issues and community health services. She asked for this to be placed on the Agenda for May due to time constraints for April meeting.

Margaret also asked how she/PAC can feed concerns through to the Board. Cliff responded by saying that PVQ Board is very aware of the role the PAC plays. PAC can advise of any issues for the Boards consideration by informing Mary-ann → CEO, Peter Turner to then take issue to the Board to be included in agenda items. CEO is obligated to do so. This process is clear in the guidelines.

Review of previous action plan

PSV's response in Northern Region's PPSG Newsletter

PSV responses were included in Northern Post Polio Support Group's April newsletter

PAC Nominees

Fran Henke and Tricia Malowny to attend and be welcomed at the July PAC meeting as new members.

New slogan for reprint of posters

New slogan chosen as per voting by email, 'Easy to catch - hard to live with'. Mary-ann to email poster to Michael to work on format.

PNV Website enlarged print

Michael "efficient as ever" has forwarded steps to open website page in large print to Mary-ann to pass on to the web designer.

Marcom Projects

Finance General Manager has not yet responded to queries regarding the contents of an agreement with Marcom to buy the rights of "Post Polio Syndrome: The Australian Experience". Mary-ann to follow up.

School Speaker Program

As prospective speakers, Marilyn and Barbara responded to Mary-ann's request for comments on presentation material. Comments were "good to go" and "suitable for most ages". Still need to train the volunteer speakers. Two dates for Melbourne sessions will be set for June. Michael expressed reservations as to potential differences between the sessions with different participants involved in each session. Geoff Dean and prior PAC member, Angie Halpin, have asked to be added to list of volunteers for the program.

Correspondence

Nil

Reports

PQV Report

Cliff reported

- Warehouse for Independence Solutions will be leased in the next month. Not sure if telephone operators for call centre will be housed there.
- Peter Turner meeting with Christopher Pyne the new Federal Aged Care Minister

Polio Community Officer Report

- Mary-ann went to a second **Churchill Fellowship** interview. 42 of 272 applicants in Victoria had a second interview. Mary-ann prepared a handout for the interview. There were 13 members on the panel. It was suggested by a panel member that a 6 week trip might be appropriate rather than the 4 weeks applied for. The successful applicants will be advised in June.
- Dr Stephen de Graaff has agreed to come and run a workshop at the Polio Day Forum.

General Business

- Victorian National Party Leader Peter Ryan
Geoff Dean pointed out that his email to Michael simply suggested the idea of inviting Peter Ryan to speak on Polio Day, not that he had actually done so. PAC agreed that Peter should be invited as Key Note Speaker, so that the date is locked in. It was decided that Peter should be asked to discuss his views on disability and aged care issues with a specific emphasis on rural health services. Mary-ann will send an official invitation to Peter Ryan to speak at Polio Day

- A new Disability Ombudsman has been appointed by the state government.
- Margaret is keen to visit Clare Thorn at the Office for Disability, either unofficially or officially, to discuss problems with funding for PSV. This will be added to the Agenda for May due to time constraints for the April meeting.
According to Dept for Victorian Communities website, the Office is establishing a whole-of-government approach to policy and programs and making housing, transport, buildings, jobs, health and other services more accessible for Victorians with a disability. In addition to leading already established programs, the Office will also:
 - support implementation of Disability Action Plans in all government departments, agencies and local governments
 - In consultation with the Disability Advisory Council of Victoria, provide expert advice to government about how to include people with disability in policy development
- Following an exchange of correspondence with a local politician regarding service provision for polio survivors, Geoff queried ParaQuad funding and access to information. He was advised that the Polio Network is funded by DHS through ParaQuad, who provides extra financial support with resources etc. It was further explained that the \$8.9million mentioned in the funding of PQV is the specific allocation for Home First Grant for attendant care. Maryann to provide copies of latest Financial Report to Geoff and Margaret.
- Jill Pickering is an apology for the May meeting

Actions to be followed up

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| • PNV poster to be emailed to Michael to work on formatting. | MJ/MAL |
| • Agenda concern over lack of social policy development role for May PAC meeting | MC/MAL |
| • Follow up Finance GM for comments on Marcom agreement | MAL |
| • Peter Ryan MP to be invited to speak on Polio Day | MAL |
| • Agenda visit to Officer for Disability for May PAC meeting | MC/MAL |
| • Copies of latest Financial Report to be forwarded to Geoff and Margaret | MAL |

Date of next meeting: Friday 25th May 2007, ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood.

NOTE: Peter Turner will be attending June meeting together with new GM, Lyndie Spurr