

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

for meeting held Friday 2nd November 2007

Present

Geoff Dean, Fran Henke, Michael Judson, Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon, Lyndie Spurr (General Manager Community Services) and Cliff Wise (PQV Chairman)

Apologies

Margaret Cooper, Marilyn Grimme and Tricia Malowney

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held October 5

Minutes confirmed: Moved Geoff seconded Fran. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Margaret Cooper - leave of absence

If Margaret came back for March meeting, this would comply with PAC Guidelines with regards to missing more than 4 meetings.

Geoff moved that Margaret be granted a leave of absence. Seconded by Gordon.

Tricia Malowney resignation

Tricia has corresponded with Mary-ann re her need to resign. She has been appointed President of the Victorian Disability Services Board, as well as the Victorian Disability Advisory Council. Tricia advised Mary-ann that she will be sending an official letter of resignation.

PAC will need to co-opt a new independent member to replace Tricia to comply with PAC Guidelines. Mary-ann has someone in mind and will have an answer for the next PAC meeting.

Polio Australia Constitution

Mary-ann forwarded copies of the constitution to PAC members by email for feedback. Michael commented:

- The constitution is a modification of the National Alzheimers' Constitution and some references have not been altered, e.g. Constitution refers to a body that no longer exists.
- It is a good starting point but there is still no Memorandum of Understanding between the state networks.
- Memorandum of Understanding should be between networks as an agreement for setting up Polio Australia. No such body actually exists.
- Name 'Polio Australia' is not yet registered.
- Needs to be signed off with PQV as agreement between PQV and Polio Australia
- Other states are incorporated bodies. Only Victoria and Queensland are under umbrella organisations.
- NSW suggested that there be a teleconference link up with all state networks early in the new year to work through issues. Mary-ann, Jill P and Michael will represent Vic.

Census data from Post Polio Health International

An Expression of Interest from the ABS has been received to attend session regarding inclusion of other than existing data in 2011 Census.

- Mary-ann to attend and to encourage other states to do so in regard to polio statistics.

- Other disability service providers have not been successful in a achieving inclusion of disability-related question
- Suggestion to have generic disability question/s rather than specific topic questions

Polio in Nigeria traced to vaccine article

An item appeared in the New York Times International relating to mutating vaccine. This article will be included in next edition of Polio Perspectives, together with a response from Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL).

Review of previous action plan

Polio day feedback

- Really good
- Venue good – very accessible and toilets accessible
- One rural group couldn't get a driver for the day
- Questions as to "why not in the country"?
- Travelling very tiring – a long day
- 26 out of 131 attendees returned feedback forms
- Numbers attending: 102 paying participants, 9 staff and 20 non-paying attendees
- \$59.00 received towards Jill's costs for 2008 study tour

In 2008 Mary-ann intends to hold multiple forums will be held across Vic instead of one Polio Day event. These forums will provide opportunity for Mary-ann to give feedback from the Churchill Fellowship tour.

Regional groups will be asked to publicise their own event, take the registrations and liaise with the local venue and relevant local health service providers – who will be asked to participate in an interactive information exchange. As usual, they will also be celebratory and social occasions including lunch. Mary-ann will provide templates for the day's activities

PAC Christmas lunch venue

Grandview Hotel in Station Street Fairfield will be the venue.
Fran will be an apology for Christmas lunch meeting.

Post Polio information mail out

Comments from PAC on the kit included:

- Everything is valuable
- Volume of content is intimidating
- Some articles a bit negative but that is the reality and have an obligation to provide
- One or two page synopsis sheet referring to articles of special interest
- Have covering letter

PSV funding support

- Michael forwarded copies to PAC for feedback
- Geoff suggested getting advice from others who have had successful submissions
- Fran had created a letter for advocates. (Stage I letter) Fran to dress content up.
- Letter title: We're still here - but where are the services?
- Letter to go to all groups. Would be good if a posse of group members went to local MP. Better for members to visit MP rather than mail letter as provides an opportunity to tell their own stories.
- Include local members contact details when forwarding letter to groups.
- Keep in mind budgets are done in March

Correspondence

- Thank you letter sent to Western Region Post Polio Support
- This group has ceased to function (social group). Maree Jongkryg will continue to take inquiries in the area. Group has donated bank balance to PNV to be dispersed as follows: Polio Day \$200.00, Polio Stories \$337.90, School Speakers reimbursement \$337.90.

Reports

PQV

Cliff reported:

- Board undertaking extensive operational review at board level. Reviewing and upgrading constitution and governance practice with consultants.
- The AGM will be held on November 26
- CEO sees greatest challenge being employment/retention of in-home and other high needs care staff. This is a high priority but there is an industry wide competition for staff.

Polio Community Officer

Mary-ann has nothing further to report.

Action to be followed up

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| • Contact potential independent to be co-opted to PAC | MAL |
| • Attend Census Information Session | MAL |
| • MP letter for all groups to be dressed up and forwarded | FH/MAL |

Next meeting: Christmas meeting and lunch. Friday 30 November 12.30pm Grandview Hotel, Fairfield