

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

for meeting held Friday 25th January 2008

Present

Jill Burn, Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Marilyn Grimme, Peter Hudson (Executive Manager, Community Services), Michael Judson (Chairperson), Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon and Liz Telford

Apologies

Jane Henderson (PSV) and Cliff Wise

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held November 30th 2007

Minutes confirmed: Moved by Marilyn seconded by Geoff. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Welcome back to Margaret Cooper

Margaret was welcomed back to the PAC after a leave of absence of 3 months

Welcome to new seconded members, Jill Burn and Liz Telford

The PAC welcomed the new members and introduced themselves, each giving a brief overview of their relevant backgrounds.

New member Liz Telford has a work history in social work and family therapy and is a member of the Professional Association of Relationship Counsellors. Liz has had to cut back on her employment due to post polio issues.

Jill Burns has retired from World Vision and has an interest in increasing awareness of polio issues with GP's.

Introduction of new Executive Manager, Community Services, Peter Hudson

Peter was only into his second week as Executive Manager, Community Support Services. Peter reported that the new General Manager Community Services will start at the end of March and a replacement is yet to be appointed following the resignation of the previous Executive Manager, Community Care.

Peter's work history includes 19 years with Human Services and 14 years with not for profit and community welfare organisations.

Polio Australia Teleconference

A teleconference was held on Tuesday 22 January between representatives from all state networks to discuss progress in the formation of Polio Australia. Mary-ann, Jill Pickering and Michael Judson represented PNV. Mary-ann relayed the concept of Polio Australia to the new members and also explained that Post-Polio Network (NSW) volunteers are coordinating the process which is, therefore, taking longer than expected.

Feedback from Victorian participation:

- Fairly fruitful discussion
- Need to make a few changes to the draft Constitution
- The name 'Polio Australia' has been reserved in NSW and has already been renewed twice.

The advantages of creating a 'Polio Australia include:

- Enhancing opportunities to obtain funding for national research projects
- Addressing Federal issues such as Medicare
- Ascertaining numbers of polios in Australia via Census and/or other data collection tools. There may be records in existence but it is currently difficult to track the sources and those figures may be 'rubbery'.

Polio Australia is still a work in progress but ParaQuad Vic and Spinal Injuries Assoc (SIA) in QLD will need a Memorandum of Understanding as these states' Polio Networks and not independently incorporated. SIA have advised they will be seeking legal advice on the matter which may be of use to PQV. This would then need to go through the formal process of being considered and ratified by PQV's Board.

2008 PAC election process

According to PAC Guidelines, applications for nominations are included in the Autumn edition of "Polio Perspectives" - resultant nominations included in the Winter edition of "Polio Perspectives" - and Ballot papers returned to PNV by mid June. Newly elected PAC members commence in July and are announced in the Spring edition of "Polio Perspectives".

However, due to the timing of Mary-ann's overseas travels and the fact that the Winter "Polio Perspectives" would be 2 weeks later than usual (thereby not providing suitable time for Ballot papers to be returned), the following changes were suggested:

- applications will still be included in the Autumn edition of "Polio Perspectives"
- Nominations should be returned by Friday 11th April
- There will be a separate mail out of Ballot papers to all Victorian PNV members
- Ballot papers should be returned to PNV by Friday 31st May. (Mary-ann returns June 4th)

Current PAC members due to stand for election or re-election this year are:

Geoff Dean – Seconded November 2006 (Rural / Independent)

Marilyn Grimme – Elected June 2006 (Rural / Group Member)

Michael Judson – Elected June 2006 (Metro / Group Member)

Jo McKenna – Elected June 2006 (Metro / Group Member)

Due to Fran Henke's resignation, it was suggested that Liz Telford's original 'co-opted' status be changed to 'seconded'. No objections were raised. All agreed.

Changes to PAC Guidelines

In relation to resignations and consequent secondments of new members to the PAC, Michael had drafted and tabled some suggested amendments to the PAC Guidelines.

All agreed on the option to second members for the balance of the term which had been vacated by the elected member.

Michael undertook to draft the changes and forward to PAC for feedback within the week. The change will then proceed to the ParaQuad Board for approval as per the guidelines.

Oral History Project Committee meeting

Jo, Margaret, Liz, Jill and Mary-ann will hold an inaugural Oral History Project meeting after this PAC meeting. Margaret described the project as 'absolutely vital...so many fascinating stories out there'. Margaret suggested PAC members read Oyster Grit and critique it for the oral history project.

Regional Polio Days

Instead of the usual metropolitan Polio Day in 2008, Mary-ann intends to hold 8 regional Polio Days in: Bendigo, Albury/Wodonga, Shepparton, Frankston, Ballarat, Geelong, Warrnambool and Sale and is deciding whether to include Warrugul as another venue.

- Those who are metro based can have opportunity to go to their nearest regional venue, eg Frankston, Geelong, Ballarat.
- Program will include Mary-ann's US feedback in the morning and local service providers in the afternoon. Polio Services Victoria may attend a couple if available. Local Divisions of General Practice will be invited along with Community Health service providers.
- All areas have a support group to suggest venues and assist with registrations. Most venues will be gaming venues as they often provide free hire and low cost catering for the day.

Review of previous action plan

Draft application to Australia Post re commemorative stamp

- This will be a 2 year process
- The focus of the stamp should be on Post Polio
- It will require a proper letter of support from all states
- There has been support received from Tasmania, WA, QLD and SA
- Michael will draft a letter of support. There needs to be agreement on the wording
- The letter to be forwarded early in February

2011 Census

- Feedback from Census contact person advised that it was not expected that any major change would be required for the "Needs for Assistance" based question in the 2006 Census, although we had argued for a totally new disability-related question.
- A further suggestion was made to look at the development of the next Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), which is expected to be conducted in late 2009. The problem with SDAC is that it is a sample survey using extrapolations rather than identifying actual numbers in specific disability-related areas.
- Margaret suggested working with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) on this as they are already on the Census working party.

MND Conference follow up

The response to the approach to the MND Conference re a presentation has been that the focus is on MND only.

Meetings with politicians re PSV funding

- PSV funding has now moved to DHS Health from Disability Services. However, this does not mean funding will increase making it still important to lobby for this to happen.
- Fran Henke and Jill Pickering have both met with their local MP's.
- It was suggested that a delegation of post polios meet with the Minister for Health, Lisa Neville. Delegation could include: Michael, Margaret, Jill Pickering and possibly Fran Henke. Mary-ann will check with Jill and Fran. This would not be in the capacity of PAC members but as a delegation of post polios.
- The Geelong group could also approach Minister Neville as her constituents.

Correspondence

Incoming

A letter of resignation has been received from Fran Henke

Reports

PQV – No report due to Cliff's absence

Polio Community Officer

- Mary-ann has been invited to Queensland in August to give feedback from her US visit.
- National Polio Day / Week is 'on the agenda'.

PSV (Printed report supplied):

Funding:

- PSV will be funded through the DHS Metropolitan Health & Aged Care Services Division instead of through DHS Disability Services.
- Our new DHS representative in this division is Juliet Coles.
- PSV will become one of the Subacute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS). The SACS departments at St Vincent's are much more similar to our service in terms of their set-up, structure, needs, etc. They are all monitored by Juliet Coles and are funded by the DHS Metropolitan Health & Aged Care Services Division.
- PSV still have insufficient funds to run an adequate service; therefore we have commenced briefing Juliet Coles of our issues and lobbying her for additional funding.
- PSV has a meeting scheduled with Juliet Coles on the 1st Feb 2008.

PSV Orthotics:

- Darren Pereira goes on leave from Mon 28 Jan 08 to Fri 7 Mar 08 (inclusive). Priya Davis will backfill metropolitan and regional clinics during his leave.

PSV Waiting Lists:

- 5 months for a clinic appointment with the PSV doctor.

PSV Clinics:

METRO:

- Darren and Jane are running fortnightly Monday morning clinics again this year to review clients who do not need to see the PSV doctor. Minimal waitlist.

REGIONAL:

- The team are now going to Rosebud on Wed 20 Feb 08 (note change of date from 5 Mar 2008). Clinic is fully booked.
- Dates and venues of regional clinics are as follows:

▪ Wed 20 th Feb 2008	Rosebud	▪ Wed 2 nd July 2008	Swan Hill
▪ Wed 2 nd April 2008	Horsham	▪ Wed 3 rd Sep 2008	Shepparton
▪ Wed 7 th May 2008	Korumburra	▪ Wed 5 th Nov 2008	Bendigo

PSV Hydrotherapy:

- PSV Hydro classes commenced for 2008 on Thurs 17 Jan 2008. Class time is now 12:30pm, not 1:00pm.

General Business

Polio Network move from Smith Street back to Wellington Street to take place in the next week. Phone numbers will remain the same. Peter Hudson added that the next board meeting (February) will decide on the new location for ParaQuad. It is planned to be in a 9 km radius of the CBD. Consequently the organisation could relocate in 2 or 3 months.

Margaret asked as if the "Polio for attendant carers" brochure was still included in carer training information packages. Mary-ann to check with ParaQuad training.

MS Society is looking for support from polio survivors in regard to possible changes in the Summer Energy Concessions. MS has suggested we contact PNV members who currently receive the concession to write to or visit their local MP's. Margaret suggested approaching Minister for Energy. With increase in utility bills to go up by 17-20% many polios could be affected as regulating body temperature can be an issue. Possibility of Jo McKenna visiting Premier John

Brumby as her local MP but would need to be supported by someone like Rosslyn Pickhaver, fellow member of the Northern Region PPSG.

Action to be followed up

- Draft changes to PAC Guidelines to be forwarded to PAC MJ
- Draft support letter for states for postage stamp project and send to MAL MJ
- Send drafted support letter re stamp to state networks MAL
- Contact PNV members who currently receive the concession to write to or visit their local MP's MAL
- Contact AFDO to discuss Census MAL
- Arrange delegation of post polio community members to meet with Minister for Health, Lisa Neville to continue supporting PSV funding increase MAL
- Check inclusion of attendant carer polio brochure in ParaQuad training information kit MAL
- Arrange visit to Premier John Brumby MAL/JMcK

Next Meeting

12.00pm lunch for 12.30pm start - Friday, 29 February 2008 – ParaQuad Victoria Boardroom, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood