

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for meeting held Friday 25th July 2008

Present

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

Apologies

None

Confirmation of Minutes for meeting held 27th June 2008

Margaret requested a change under the item "Identify with National Health Survey to see if polio statistics are held" in the 'Review of the previous action plan'. She suggested the word "**symptoms**" in "...ABS format questions are restricted to the *symptoms* not the cause..." be replaced by "**specific functions**".

Confirmation of Minutes moved by Jill and seconded by Geoff. All in favour.

Appointment of the new chair for 2008-2009

Gordon nominated Michael for election to the PAC Chairperson role. This was seconded by Margaret and all were in favour. Michael accepted the nomination and was re-elected to the position.

Agenda Items

- **Welcome to Kris Chapman, General Manager, Community Services**

The PAC welcomed Kris and each member introduced themselves. Kris related that she has now been with ParaQuad for 3 months and gave an overview of her previous experience.

- **RMIT Research Project**

Mary-ann initially approached RMIT University to ascertain the likelihood of her doing a Masters Degree by Research relating to the topic of Post Polio Syndrome and its impact on the Australia society. Discussions have now progressed to the concept of an 'International Joint University Study on Post Polio Syndrome'. This was suggested at a meeting attended by Mary-ann, Dr Heather Fraser from RMIT and Professor Kelly Johnson (formerly with RMIT, currently based at Bristol University, UK and in Melbourne on a visit). The research would be qualitative rather than quantitative and a funding grant will need to be sought by the universities.

This approach means Mary-ann's role would be to feed information to the research project rather than actually doing further study. When Mary-ann was asked how she felt about not pursuing the degree, she commented that 'anything to do with furthering research and that raises the profile, has to be of benefit'.

- **Mitre 10 quarterly remittance advice**

A letter was received from Mitre 10 saying that \$10.29 has been deposited in the bank for the last financial quarter. (Not all Mitre 10's offer a donation program). There is now approx. \$250 in donations received from Ritchies. Some IGA stores also offer a similar donation service.

- **Marcom Projects remittance advice**

Marcom Projects who have the Australian and New Zealand rights to the PNV DVD have forwarded \$41.99 in royalties.

- **Teleconferencing/PAC Meeting costs**

Peter reported that the cost of the teleconference for the last PAC meeting was cancelled out by not having to reimburse travel costs. There were no problems with the teleconference, which will only be used when more than one member is unable to travel to the meeting. Single members can be called up and put on loud speaker.

Review of previous action plan

- **Polio Australia MOU**

The MOU is still being progressed. Once the CEO, Peter Turner, is satisfied with it and the Constitution, they will be tabled at a ParaQuad Board meeting for approval.

- **Transfer of videos/DVD's received on the Churchill trip to Australian formatting**

Michael has reformatted some of the DVD's. Jill will test run 'Safe at home' and Yoga DVD's.

- **AFDO Conference information emailed**

All received the email but noted the cost of Conference is expensive and may be prohibitive. The possibility of ticket-sharing was discussed. Peter Hudson advised there was no plan for a representative of ParaQuad to attend.

- **Letter to the Churchill Fellowship**

The letter of appreciation which was drafted by Jill was signed off and forwarded on to the Fellowship.

- **Churchill Fellowship Report to all support groups**

A copy of the Report has now been forwarded to all support groups.

- **United Petrol Community Card**

It was decided not to pursue this option of a 1c donation on every visit to a United Petrol Station. There are few locations around Vic and the amount was not deemed significant enough to encourage participation in this scheme.

Correspondence

Incoming

- **Email exchange between Fran Henke and Rotary**

Fran Henke wrote to Rotary addressing issues that arose in response to a media release by Rotary claiming 'victory' in reference to the international incidence of polio. Fran was then invited to write an item for their newsletter discussing the late effects of polio.

- **ACOSS media release – ‘ACOSS congratulated the Government on removing work barrier for Disability Support Pensioners’**

(The media release may be viewed at: <http://www.paraquad.asn.au/index.php?page=news>)

Margaret requested of the Information Officer/Minute taker that the information be included in the next edition of ‘Inform’ newsletter.

Reports

PQV

Peter Hudson reported that ParaQuad is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Polio Community Officer

- Mary-ann has been invited to participate in a new Yahoo Group website “Polio World”. Participation is by invitation only. Mary-ann will forward the email address.
- Visit to Queensland for week beginning 4th July to coincide with Queensland’s Spinal Injury Association’s Post Polio Awareness Week. There has been extensive promotion regarding the visit. Mary-ann has a full agenda of six by two hour presentations over four days, focusing on conclusions and recommendations from her Churchill Fellowship Study Tour. She has also been asked to do four radio interviews
- Four more presentations will be run in Tasmania in September for their Post Polio Network.
- Mary-ann is also extremely busy putting together the eight regional Polio Days to be held in October.
- PAC members have offered to attend specific Polio Days as follows:
 - Sale - Geoff
 - Bendigo – n/a
 - Ballarat – Liz
 - Albury – Jill (TBC)
 - Shepparton – Marilyn (prior PAC Member)
 - Warrnambool – Gordon
 - Geelong – Jo McKenna
 - Frankston - Margaret and Michael

General Business

- Geoff suggested that ABC Radio 3LO 774 presenter Richard Stubbs would be a good possibility to approach re an interview on post polio. Mary-ann will approach Richard for Polio Awareness Month.

Action to be followed up

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| • Report on Queensland speaking tour | MAL |
| • Test run ‘Safe at home’ and Yoga DVD’s | Jill |
| • Include ACOSS media release material in ‘Inform’ newsletter | CMcA |
| • Approach ABC Radio 774 presenter for Polio Awareness Month interview | MAL |
| • Yahoo ‘Polio Word’ group email address to be forwarded to PAC | MAL |

Date of next meeting

12.00pm for 12.30pm start - Friday 29th August 2008, Board Room, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood, 3066