

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

Friday 31 July 2009

Present

Jill Burn, Geoff Dean, Simon Mathieson (PSV), Michael Judson (Chairman), Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute Taker), Jo McKenna, Gordon McKinnon, Liz Telford and Peter Willcocks.

Apologies

Martin Grillo

Confirmation of 26 June 2009 Minutes

Moved Peter, seconded Geoff. All in favour.

Appointment of the new Chair for 2009-2010

Jill Burn was elected unanimously to the position of PAC chair.

Agenda Items

Welcome to Martin Grillo

See apologies above.

Report back from Liz Telford's visit to Israel

Liz reported:

- The Israeli group is very aware of Mary-ann and the work she does.
- The group is trying to get more compensation from their government.
- There are no special polio services and a lack of interest in creating them.
- There is a complicated medical insurance scheme which is linked to employment.
- Impressed that PPS is identified as a condition in Australia and labelled as such – connects with their situation and ideas for lobbying to address their issues.
- All group members had major orthopaedic surgery – often with dire consequences – which was the common form of treatment at the time for polio in Israel.
- The group reflected on what could have been done differently, e.g. modified lifestyles.
- Have good public recreational facilities which are accessible for people with disabilities.
- All involved in some activity, sport, dancing etc.

Polio Day update

- Mary-ann reported that everything is booked and locked in for Polio Day.
- Darebin Council has donated \$1000, Moreland Council \$550 and City of Yarra \$550.
- Council for the Ageing, U3A and Assoc. of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (ANHLC) will send brochures for display.
- Dr. Andrew Sinclair (IA Counselling Services) and Dr. Steve De Graff will jointly run (different aspects) the Pain Management Session.
- IA marketing team has applied for 2 philanthropic grants for Polio Day. Awaiting results.
- The Polio Day program will be on-line and included in the Spring edition of Polio Perspectives.

Schedule next Book Sub-Committee Meeting

- Date and time to be set by sub-committee following the close of this meeting.

Review of previous action plan

Disability Parking Issues

- MS Society (members) have put in several submissions.
- Peter Willcocks attended information/briefing session and felt a lot of misinformation was presented.
- Peter/Bayside group has put in a submission.
- Michael reported that he has not yet progressed the PAC submission.

Contact Greg Hunt's secretary to obtain a template for Polio Australia submission

Mary-ann contacted Greg Hunt's office for clarification and has put together a submission which has been sent to Gillian Thomas in NSW for budget input.

Email Mitch Fifield re attending Bayside group's first year anniversary celebration

Mitch Fifield was unable to attend as he was going overseas.

Check polio stories on PNV website

Potential to use some of the stories from the PNV website. This may involve re-writing and editing in some cases. Jill will continue to assess the stories.

Send bookmark format to Mary-ann

Peter will forward the format to Mary-ann and Michael.

Correspondence

Geoff Dean tabled a letter he received from his local member, Russell Broadbent MP, indicating that he was "in the process of reserving a time with the Government Whip to speak to the motion being proposed by the Member for Ballarat" on Polio Australia.

Reports

Polio Services Victoria

- Simon Mathieson reported that he has now been 3 months in his role as Co-ordinator at PSV.
- Darren Pereira has resigned from St Vincent's Hospital to concentrate on private practice.
- Simon Hughes replaces Darren in PSV Orthotics with an increase of hours for this service.
- Where there was previously a 5-6 month waiting list for the multidisciplinary clinic at PSV this has been reduced to an approx. 2 month waiting list.
- PSV is currently scheduling 2 half day medical clinics each fortnight.
- Simon is looking at creating an open letter for clients to take to their GP's regarding a number of tests to exclude other diagnoses. Potentially clients could then have those results in hand when attending the PSV clinics to improve utilization of time at the medical clinics.
- Considering the ongoing nature of PPS assessments, PSV is suggesting clients get an 'indefinite' referral from their GP.
- PSV is introducing a process whereby attending clients are booked in for another visit in 12 months if required.
- Two successful rural clinics held with or 8 attending at Ballarat (including 3 new attendees) and 6 in Mildura (3 new attendees).
- PSV is creating an introductory letter regarding polio services to be sent to Migrant Resource Centres with the intention of connecting with younger polio survivors who may have migrated from countries where polio is still prevalent or only recently eradicated.

- Lots to catch up with regarding policies and procedures.

Polio Community Officer

- Polio Australia has reimbursed Mary-ann for her trip to Canberra.
- Mary-ann is working on a Services Satisfaction Survey for PNV and will request feedback from the PAC. The survey is not for publication. The PAC responded that such a survey was long overdue as it had never been done before and will help the PAC and Mary-ann plan for the future. Simon suggested the online tool 'surveymonkey' tool may be useful in the process.

General Business

- DHS Self Help Disability Funding program has changed its announcement and application time (previously approx Oct/Nov). The program is currently open for applications and closes 21st August and is now being facilitated by the Dept of Planning and Community Development.
- Jill will contact Martin to check if he is still interested in being seconded to the PAC. If Martin Grillo is unable to attend the next meeting, PAC will look at teleconferencing with him.
- Gordon moved Michael be thanked by the PAC for his chairing and that Margaret Cooper be thanked for her contribution over the years. The PAC unanimously agreed to the motion.

Action to be followed up

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| • Progress the PAC submission for the Disability Harmonisation Parking Scheme | MJ |
| • Talk to Martin Grillo re secondment to PAC | JB |
| • Continue to check website stories | JB |
| • Polio day program on-line and in Spring Polio Perspectives | MAL |
| • Bookmark format to Mary-ann and Michael | PW |
| • Service Satisfaction Survey (forward to PAC for feedback) | MAL / PAC |
| • Submission to Greg Hunt for Polio Australia re August budget | MAL |

Date of next meeting: 12.00pm for 12.30pm - Friday 28th August 2009

Independence Australia HQ, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood – Ph: 9418 0411 / 1300 704 456