

# Polio Advisory Committee Minutes

## Friday 25 September 2009

### Present

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

### Apologies

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Jill Burn and Gordon McKinnon

### Confirmation of 28 August 2009 Minutes

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Moved Peter, seconded Geoff. All in favour.

### Agenda Items

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#### Polio Day activities

Liz reported that she participated in a teleconference with the other two speakers, Fran Henke and Shirley Glance, who will be presenting on their experiences at the Wellness Retreat in Warm Springs, USA in April this year. As a result of the discussion it was decided that:

- it would be best to have photos screening in the background rather than including descriptions of them in the presentations
- each speaker will cover the aspect of the Retreat that "struck them the most"
- speakers will talk for 10 minutes plus 5 minutes each for questions

Mary-ann reported that:

- There will be approx 40 'non paying' attendees at Polio Day (PAC members, staff, presenters)
- 65 paying registrations have been received so far
- A small coloured advert has been placed in this Saturday's Herald Sun at a cost of \$1200
- Press releases to the media: Mary-ann asking local groups to provide an interview in their community paper/s
- Werribee Leader newspaper has already contacted Mary-ann for a local person to interview
- Mary-ann to forward Polio Day flyers to PAC members for distribution
- Michael Williams (new Manager Community Services), Kris Chapman (General Manager Community Services) and Linda Morton (Manager, Community Access) will be present. Peter Turner, CEO is unable to attend Polio Day this year.

Michael suggested we include a display to promote the PAC, eg. what it's about, what has been achieved in the last 12 months. Mary-ann said she would put something together for the Information Table.

#### Proceeds of polio book

Peter suggested that any profits from this publication should go to supporting specific purposes, eg setting up a program to contact nursing homes to arrange information sessions. Mary-ann responded that there is not an expectation of much, if any, in the way of profits.

The audience for the book may not be huge (distributed mainly through polio networks). The funds for producing the book are coming from the Special Purpose Polio Account which needs to meet the guidelines of educating the community regarding polio and post polio.

The recent PNV service satisfaction survey has shown a hunger for personal stories and the publication is viewed as enriching for readers, families etc. The book has been drafted into chapter form but requires more professional editing.

The next book sub committee meeting will be held on Monday 26 October and Barbara Rossall-Wynne (historian) and Fran Henke (editor) have been invited to discuss their contributions.

### **New Manager Community Services, Michael Williams, to attend October meeting**

The PAC members welcomed Michael's intention to attend the next meeting.

### **Polio Today website**

- This new website has been instigated by the SALK Institute and shows short DVDs of polio information including current research and new treatments
- Links on the website have increased the number of hits by 100 for Shades of Grey
- Polio Today will be a good search site for GPs
- There will be an upgrade to the You Tube site on the 30<sup>th</sup> October

## **Review of previous action plan**

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### **Proposed brochure for P & O Students and/or Practitioners**

Mary-ann emailed the information sheet to the PAC for comment but did not receive any feedback. Michael suggested the content understated the psychological impacts regarding the use of orthotics. PAC discussed various aspects of this and Simon suggested this could be an area for discussion between IA Psychologist, Andrew Sinclair and PSV Orthotist, Steve Hughes.

### **Service Satisfaction Survey**

Mary-ann cited a fantastic response of 200 returned surveys so far. "People embraced the idea of feeding back comments and having the opportunity to do so". Considering there was no stamped addressed envelope attached to the survey, the resultant number of returns is even more pleasing.

Volunteer, Jill Pickering, has set up a spreadsheet to record the survey data which is both qualitative and quantitative.

The feedback is very positive and the final results will also be passed on internally to appropriate Independence Australia staff.

## **Correspondence**

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### **Our Community: 2009 Alcoa Foundation Outstanding Community Worker Award**

Mary-ann has received a letter and certificate acknowledging her work and congratulating her on being nominated and being a finalist for this award. Mary-ann thanked the PAC for their support.

### **City of Yarra Disability Action Plan**

Mary-ann has received a request in regard to a survey for the City of Yarra Disability Action Plan and consultation with people with disabilities accessing the City of Yarra. It was agreed that a City of Yarra disability representative, Lisa Borg, will inform the PAC regarding the survey at the next meeting. Half an hour is allocated for the presentation.

## Reports

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### Polio Services Victoria

Simon reported:

- His interest in a brochure for student orthotists.
- He will be presenting at the Post Polio (NSW) Country Conference in Wagga Wagga on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- There will be regional clinics held in Leongatha in October and Warnnambool in December.
- There is a GP liaison site on the St. Vincent's Hospital website which provides an educative resource for GPs regarding diagnosis etc.
- PSV is looking at creating information for polios to refer to their doctors to facilitate people coming into the clinic with appropriate test results.

### Polio Community Officer

Mary-ann will also be presenting on the Warm Springs Wellness Retreat and Conference at the Post Polio Network (NSW) Country Conference in Wagga Wagga.

## General Business

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PAC to identify a suitable, accessible venue for November end of year lunch/ meeting. Liz Telford will check out Traffic Cafe in High Street, Westgarth and Michael and Peter will check out Carousel by Albert Park Lake.

## Action to be followed up

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Forward Polio Day flyers to PAC members for distribution  
Check suggested venues for PAC end of year lunch meeting

MAL  
LT/PW/MJ

### Date of next meeting:

12.00pm for 12.30pm - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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