

Polio Advisory Committee Minutes for meeting held Friday 29th August 2008

Present

Jill Burn, Margaret Cooper, Geoff Dean, Jane Henderson (PSV), Peter Hudson (Executive Manager, Community Services), Michael Judson (Chairperson), Mary-ann Liethof, Christine McAuslan (Minute taker), Jo McKenna, Liz Telford, Peter Willcocks and Nitin Verma (student on placement).

Apologies

Gordon McKinnon

Confirmation of Minutes for meeting held 25th July 2008

Polio Community Officer report item- Visit to Queensland for week beginning 4th July - should read "week beginning 4th August."
Confirmation of Minutes moved by Jill and seconded by Geoff. All in favour.

Agenda Items

Welcome to Peter Willcocks and confirmation of secondment to the PAC

Peter was welcomed as a secondment to the PAC. He introduced himself relating his Polio and Post Polio experience including his awareness of the battle to get Post Polio recognised. Introductions were made by PAC members and other attendees at the meeting.

PAC Christmas Function

Mary-ann and Liz will check Stuzzi's Restaurant and the Peacock Inn in High Street, Northcote as potential, accessible venues for Christmas meeting/function (Friday 28th November).

Macquarie Guidelines

Mary-ann's email request for PAC feedback regarding a possible submission to the Macquarie Group Foundation grants scheme resulted in feedback which highlighted 'research' as the main area of interest. As there are a few departments within ParaQuad seeking funding, ParaQuad's Relationship Development Manager, Richard Prentice has concluded it would be applicable to submit for an overall education program encompassing the various focuses of the interested departments. Mary-ann will draw up a \$60,000 budget (to cover a 3 year period) for the PNV. There is also a need to define the benefits/advantage for the Macquarie Group Foundation when considering the proposal (any suggestions re this to be emailed to Mary-ann).

Post-Polio Clinics Directors Network

Mary-ann has had an invitation to present (via teleconferencing) to the US based Post-Polio Clinics Directors Network at 8.00am on Wednesday 17th September. Mary-ann, who will be in Launceston, Tasmania at that time, will present a half hour version of the 2 hour presentations planned for the Polio Days.

AFDO Conference Cancelled

This conference has been cancelled until further notice due to the appointment of a new CEO for AFDO.

Review of Previous Action Plan

- **Report on Queensland Speaking Tour**

The trip to Queensland involved a lot of travelling between towns and covered visits to the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Most presentations were made to 20 or more attendees with a lower number of approx. 12 in Brisbane.

The presentations attracted the participation of many who were new to the Qld Polio Network and resulted in additional names being added to their network's contacts.

Mary-ann felt the trip was very successful and the presentations provided a good test run for the Polio Day presentations.

- **Test Run 'Safe at Home' and Yoga DVD's**

Jill report the reformatted DVD's had played well. She commented that the 'Safe at Home' was very American in regard to services and wondered if there was something similar produced in Australia. The Yoga DVD was very good (although cut out at the end) but did not include exercises for people with upper body weakness. Michael gave Jill new versions of both DVDs to test run.

- **Inclusion of ACOSS Media Release Material in 'Inform' Newsletter**

The news of changes to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) is included on page 13 of the Spring 2008 edition of Inform Newsletter.

- **Yahoo 'Polio World' Group Email Address to be Forwarded to PAC**

Mary-ann feels that the 'chat room' format of the 'Polio World' Yahoo Groups web link doesn't really provide much of benefit to the Polio Network at this stage. She believes that the Post Polio Health International has a practical, informative website which would have been a good host for this forum.

Correspondence

Incoming:

- **Jenny Horton, Rotary International**

Mary-ann received a letter from Jenny Horton from Rotary International regarding Mary-ann's Brisbane presentation. Jenny was responding to the issue of polio eradication, providing supporting documentation on the efforts of the Polio Eradication Program.

- **Barbara Rossall-Wynne, Archives relocation/contacts**

Barbara attended one of the PAC's Oral History Sub Committee meetings. She has provided contacts for the newly located Fairfield Hospital Historic Collection which is now archived at the Dept. of Human Services. Barbara advised that people seeking access to Fairfield Hospital records from the DHS could contact the Genealogical Society as they hold Patient Registration Accessing Numbers on CD Rom. Having the accessing number will then expedite the process in accessing personal records from the archives at DHS.

Reports

Polio Services Victoria

Jane Henderson reported:

- Following the resignation of Dr. Genevieve Kennedy, a new PSV doctor, Dr Kathleen Ooi, has been recruited to attend the Polio Clinics. This is a 3 month trial initially. Dr Ooi is not available on Tuesdays (the day of the PSV Clinic), therefore a few clinics have been moved to Wednesday. Several Tuesday clinics will still be held by Darren and Jane until the end of the year.
- Gait laboratory to be set up but still some equipment required.
- Regional visit to Shepparton was full with 7 reviews and 3 new clients. Bendigo clinic to be held on 5th November.
- Jane will attend Frankston and Geelong Polio Days.
- Jane now has the assistance of a volunteer (qualified as a physiotherapist in Japan) for the hydrotherapy sessions.

PQV

Peter Hudson reported:

- ParaQuad Board had approved PNV to be part of Polio Australia. 'Polio Network Victoria' will now be registered as a business name by ParaQuad (this does not alter PNV's status within the ParaQuad structure).
- A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation for Polio Australia has been received.

Polio Community Officer

Mary-ann reported:

- Everything is 'locked down' for the 8 Polio Days during Polio Awareness Month.
- Details of the 'days' are in the Spring edition of Polio Perspectives currently at the printer.
- Responses are dribbling in but it is anticipated that the newsletter information will inspire further bookings.
- The media campaign will be the next stage.
- Mary-ann passed the poster around for comment.
- Jill will attend the Albury Polio Day as a representative for the PAC.

General Business

- Margaret asked whether a condolence card had been sent and/or the funeral of Betty Fussell had been attended by a PNV representative. Mary-ann responded that neither a card had been sent nor the funeral attended as she had no further information other than having been notified that the death notice had been in the newspaper.
- Margaret also asked what would happen to the extensive polio related material that Betty had amassed - Barbara Rossall-Wynne, Curator and Archivist for the Bryan Richard Speed Infectious Diseases Collection would try to contact the family regarding the collection.
- Jill to be an apology for the September meeting.

Action to be Followed Up

- Post-Polio Clinics Directors Network teleconferencing presentation MAL
- Visit potential Christmas meeting/function Northcote venues MAL/LT
- Suggestions by email defining any benefits for the Macquarie Group Foundation in regard to ParaQuad's submission (inclusive of funding for PNV). PAC
- Draw up budget for PNV's input into MacQuarie Group Foundation submission application MAL
- Review next version of Yoga and 'Safe at Home' DVD's as provided by Michael JB

Date of next meeting: 12.00pm for 12.30pm start - Friday 26th September 2008, Board Room, 208 Wellington Street, Collingwood, 3066