



2015 Committee:

Geoff Dean (President & Treasurer), Margaret Cooper (Vice President), Liz Telford (Secretary), Fleur Rubens, Fran Henke, Ron Exiner, Jill Pickering, Susan Shaab.

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President Report – Geoff Dean



Since the last newsletter our discussions with all levels of government about the cost and delivery of Disability Services have picked up apace. We have joined with other polio support groups to talk about the

effects of governments' transferring people already receiving packages of care to other services, service integration, fair, affordable, age appropriate care, for all, within future funding of Disability Care.

We are continuing to represent you at every media opportunity. And, all affected by Disability can be talking with members of Parliament about what increasing out-of-pocket expenses will mean to you and your local communities.

As well as providing you with PPV's May update, this edition of POST POLIO VIEWS includes:

1. How we can send you news efficiently and cheaply by providing us with an e-mail address.
2. PPV's May update: Advocating for equal funding for people of ALL ages with a life-long or permanent disability.
3. Response by Victorian Minister Foley about interim funding arrangements until July 2016 (the implementation date of NDIS in Victoria) for people over 65, who receive Individual Support Packages.
4. How to donate to PPV to support our work.
5. Report on POLIO AUSTRALIA'S 2015 Retreat in Torquay by Jill Pickering.
6. Notification of Polio Australia hosting an Australasian Pacific Symposium on Post Polio to be held in Sydney in September 2016.
7. Media release by PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA; thoughts about the Federal budget 2015-16.

Advocating For Equal Funding

For people of All ages with a life-long or permanent disability.

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PPV is working actively to ensure that people with disabilities who aren't eligible for the NDIS due to the age cut-off of 65 are provided with the same level of funding, choice and quality of service. Many people in Victoria with polio are over the age of 65.

As of around July this year, there will be a major change to the provision of funding to people with disabilities who are 65 or over. The Commonwealth Home Support Package (CHSP) a program of the Commonwealth Department of Ageing will take over the responsibility for people over 65 with life long or permanent disabilities such as post polio, replacing the function of the Victorian Department of Human Services Disability, which administered Individual Support Packages.

The overall vision for disability is that the National Disability Insurance Scheme will cover those under 65 and the Commonwealth Home Support Package will cover all people under 65.

Those who were previously on Individual Support Packages will shift to the CHSP, and hence from DHS to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, Ageing and Aged Care.

We have three main concerns for those with polio who will not be covered by the NDIS when it rolls out in 2016-2019:

- The level of funding under the CHSP should be equivalent to that of an Individual Support Package
- The level of funding for aids and equipment, home and car modifications should be equivalent to that of the NDIS
- If Aged Care is to be responsible for those with long term or life long disabilities, specialist disability services should be established with the appropriate scope, training and vision. The service model needs to take into account that the needs and issues of ageing and age related conditions are different to the needs of those with life long or permanent disabilities.

We are actively representing the concerns to the relevant Ministers, meeting with ministerial advisers and senior departmental staff.

Please contact us at postpoliovictoria@gmail.com if you have any comments or suggestions.

Donate—

Post Polio Victoria Inc. needs your support to continue its work toward enabling people with polio in Victoria to receive the best possible health care and to receive the services and equipment they need to live active and independent lives. While PPV is run by a volunteer committee, we need to employ others with specific expertise, pay for printing, postage, support workers, transport and teleconference meetings to enable participation.

Donations help PPV to:

- Maintain an up to date website
- Provide information to members
- Campaign for appropriate hospital care
- Advocate to politicians for adequate services
- Support member involvement in meetings and events
- Provide forums and other events
- Develop projects to benefit members

Post Polio Victoria Inc. is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Health Promotion Charity and a Deductible Gift Recipient making all Australian donations over \$2 tax deductible. Post Polio Victoria Inc will issue an official receipt for all donations received.

How to donate:

By cheque payable to Post Polio Victoria Inc

And sent to:

Ross House

247-251 Flinders Lane

Melbourne 3000

Or

By Electronic Transfer to:

Post Polio Victoria Inc

BENDIGO Bank BSB 633 108

Account Number: 142520766

Send us your email address please

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Dear PPV members who may not have a computer at home;

We notice that we do not have an email address for for you. If you have one, please send it to us so that we can communicate with you electronically.

We now have an improved website and will regularly add items such links to health information, our newsletters and some from other polio organisations. We hope that you now check out the website monthly for added news items.

If you don't have access to the Internet at home could you ask a family member or friendly neighbour to receive your emails and print them for you if needed? Alternatively you could check out your email at the local library. Friendly librarians are willing to help if you are uncertain about the procedure. They could easily help you to set up your own email address too!

The rewards of Internet access are great. Access to the wide range of information through the links on our and other websites will empower you with information relevant to your health and well being.

There will always be some people for whom accessing email is not feasible, but if you can find an email address to use, please send us an email so that in the future we can email information to you.



Look us up on Facebook: Post Polio Victoria

Response From Minister Foley

Geoff Dean and Margaret Cooper
President and Vice President
Post Polio Victoria Inc
56 Swan Walk
CHELSEA VIC 3196

Dear Mr Dean and Ms Cooper

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern about support for polio survivors aged 65 years and over after 1 July 2015

As you are aware, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have committed to the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme from 1 July 2016 to 2019. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is expected to benefit 100,000 Victorians with significant and permanent disability once it is fully operational.

In response to your specific concerns, the transition of Home and Community Care Services and specialist disability services for people aged 65 years and older was scheduled to occur from 1 July 2015. The transition planning is complex and the commencement of changes to Home and Community Care and disability services from 1 July 2015 has been delayed. The current arrangements will continue until further details are agreed between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

The Victorian Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to reach an agreement on the full roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, including arrangements for continuity of support for people with a disability who are 65 years and over. These arrangements are expected to be finalised in the coming months.

Aids and equipment provision in Victoria will continue under the current arrangements until the National Disability Insurance Scheme commences from July 2016. Polio Services Victoria is out of scope for the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. People with post-polio syndrome will have continued access to the service in the future.


Personal care services funded through Individual Support Packages will continue until the National Disability Insurance Scheme commences.

I understand members of your organisation may be feeling anxious at the present time while the details of changes are unclear. The Victorian Government will be seeking to ensure a smooth transition for people with a disability who are 65 years and over so that they will not be disadvantaged by the transition to full coverage of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Further information will be made available about transition over the coming months.

You may also wish to contact Ms Janine Toomey, Assistant Director, Service Outcomes, Department of Health and Human Services on 9096 7508 or janine.toomey@dhs.vic.gov.au to discuss these matters further.

Thank you for raising these important matters with me.

Yours sincerely



Martin Foley MP

07/06/2015

Jill's picks from picturesque torquay may 2015

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This was cited by attendees as the best Retreat yet. Great location, engaging range of session facilitators, time to chat, learn and rest as balanced as it can be while providing such a broad program. The weather was so good we had lunch outside in warm sunshine one day one. The attendance was full at 70 participants, which was fortuitous in place of a Retreat in 2016; Polio Australia is hosting Australia's first, international Polio Conference in September 2016. The key aim of the conference is to provide learning opportunities for Australian Health Professionals to hear from their overseas counterparts on the latest, research and management programs occurring in many countries. Polios, their families and carers can also attend, but knowing this will be an intense conference style learning process, not a Retreat style.

Pain & Fatigue Management

Once again, Steve Degraaff provided a comprehensive overview of the later effects of polio, its origins and why they must be managed sensibly.

Take a Deep Breath

An enlightening session with Ann Duncan, Outreach Coordinator of Austin Health's Victorian Respiratory Support Service. Ann had a comprehensive understanding of the ways later polio effects can impact on breathing complications. My key learning included;
How to pick up respiratory problems that need to be assessed,
How respiratory issues can begin to impact on a range of daily activities,
Any Victorian can be assessed under this outreach program,
Bi-pap respirators can access a level of subsidy, but not c-pap machines.



Being Medicine Wise

Nader Mitri, an excellent speaker and Pharmacist spoke on the holistic approach to healthcare such as ways traditional medicine can be complemented by natural and alternative therapies and healthy diet. My key learning included;

- We need to eat good fats to rebuild, produce new cells, regulate body processes, support immune function, reduce inflammation etc.
- Well rounded diets can provide the fats we need for optimum health, however some prescription medications reduce our vital fat levels and so need to be supplemented by diet or manufactured vitamins and minerals.
- All suggestions had the rider; make sure you talk to your Doctor or Pharmacist first.

Healthy Mind/Body

Andrew Sinclair, Phycologist at Independence Australia, gave me a new understanding of how willpower and decision fatigue can affect our ability to make and sustain our health behaviours.

A massive thank you to Mary-ann and Polio Australia for this well run event, and roll on the next Retreat in 2017.

Jill Pickering
Polio Australia Retreat 2015



Polio: Life Stage Matters Conference



**2016 Australasia-Pacific
Post-Polio Conference**
Polio - Life Stage Matters

**20-22
SEPT
2016**

**FOUR
SEASONS
HOTEL
SYDNEY**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

With both local and well traveled Guest Speakers:

International

- **Merete Bertelsen** (Denmark / Physiotherapist)
- **Dr Kristian Borg** (Sweden / Rehab Specialist) – *hosting the 2017 European Post-Polio Conference*
- **Dr William DeMayo** (USA / Psychiatrist)
- **Dr Marny Eulberg** (USA / Retired Medical Doctor)
- **Dr John Fan** (USA / Psychiatrist)
- **Joan Headley** (USA / Director, Post-Polio Health International)
- **Dr Lise Kay** (Denmark / Researcher)
- **Marmaduke Loke** (USA / Orthotist)
- **Dr Stephanie Machell** (USA / Psychologist)
- **John MacFarlane** (Ireland / President, European Polio Union)
- **Dr Frans Nollet** (The Netherlands / Rehab Specialist) – *hosted the 2014 European Post-Polio Conference*
- **Dr Antonio Toniolo** (Italy / Virologist)
- **Dr Carol Vandenakker-Albanese** (USA / Psychiatrist)

Australia

All are members of Polio Australia's Clinical Advisory Group

- **Bernard Badorrek** (NSW / Orthotist)
- **Professor Robert Booy** (NSW / Immunisation Research)
- **Ann Buchan** (SA / Neurophysiotherapist)
- **Anne Duncan** (Vic / Respiratory Clinical Nurse Consultant)
- **Dr Stephen de Graaff** (Vic / Rehabilitation Physician)
- **Gnanaletchumy Jegasothy (Jega)** (WA / Retired Physiotherapist)
- **Dr Helen Mackie** (NSW / Rehabilitation Physician)
- **Melissa McConaghy** (NSW / Neurophysiotherapist)
- **Dr Peter Nolan** (Qld / General Physician)
- **Darren Pereira** (Vic / Orthotist)
- **Dr Nigel Quadros** (SA / Rehabilitation Specialist)

Media Release

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12 May 2015

2015 Budget: modest but welcome measures for disability

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) welcomes the 2015 Budget commitments to a modest but promising package of initiatives to address employment participation of people with disability.

“For some time, PWDA has called for a comprehensive jobs plan, and tonight we see the beginnings of this plan”, said Mr Craig Wallace, PWDA President. “The JobAccess Gateway could be a promising beginning for a new system which is more responsive and accountable to people with disability and employers”.

“We especially welcome the provision of funding to allow people employed in Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) or workshops, to access support from a Disability Employment Services (DES) provider for up to two years to assist with securing employment in the open labour market. Currently people can only access DES support by leaving an ADE. This new measure will remove a deterrent facing people with disability seeking open employment as an alternative to an ADE.

“We also welcome measures that allow young people with disability to receive employment assistance from DES providers while still participating in State and Territory post school employment programs.

“PWDA offers cautious support for the new higher outcome measures for DES providers who will now be funded on the basis of providing at least 23 hours of work to people who have been assessed as having this work capacity. We do however, think it will be important that DES providers are appropriately resourced to be able to provide job opportunities in a tightening employment market.

“PWDA welcomes the Abbott Government’s ongoing commitment to the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), including its extension to outer Western Sydney region as well as improvements to the ICT in the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

“We welcome the focus on assistance for students with disability outlined in the press release from Minister Pyne. We will be reviewing the detail of these measures in coming days.

We support the decision to continue with the current indexation arrangements for the Disability Support Pension (DSP), and we hope the Government will continue the focus on positive employment initiatives rather than punitive welfare measures.”

MEDIA: Craig Wallace 0413 135 731

People with Disability Australia Incorporated (PWDA) is a national disability rights and advocacy, non-profit, non-government organisation. We have a cross-disability focus, representing the interests of people with all kinds of disability and our membership is made up of people with disability and organisations mainly constituted by people with disability.