

Clinical Reference Group (CRG)

Meeting 1/2019

Wednesday 20th March 2019

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Tutorial Room 2

Latrobe Regional Hospital campus and via teleconference and videoconference

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair:

Dr Fred Edwards

In Attendance:

Ms Jeannette Douglas, Dr Ian Webb, Dr Jo McCubbin (video conference), Dr Julian Rong, Dr Ryan Hoy (video conference)

Ex Officio:

Professor Judi Walker (Principle Co-Investigator Gippsland – video conference) and Professor Michael Abramson Principle Investigator – video conference)

Hazelwood Health Study Personnel:

Dr Jill Blackman (Senior Project Manager – videoconference); Melissa Peppin (Administrative Officer)

Apologies:

Associate Professor Paul Lee, Ms Angela Scully

2. Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No new member conflicts of interest were noted.

3. Confirmation of draft minutes from meeting held 5 December 2018

The notes of Meeting 3/2018, held on 5 December 2018 were endorsed as a true and accurate record by those members who had been present.

Action: Endorsed meeting notes to be uploaded to the Hazelwood Health Study website

4. Dissemination of findings

4.1. Respiratory Stream: The impact of coal mine fire smoke on asthma

Dr Sasha Taylor joined the meeting via videoconference for this item. This study aimed to discover whether adults with asthma who were exposed to the smoke had more severe symptoms, worse lung function or poorer asthma control, compared to adults with asthma who were not exposed. The study showed that in adults with asthma from Morwell who were exposed to the smoke, compared to adults with asthma from Sale who were unexposed, no differences in asthma-related symptoms or severity, lung function or airway inflammation was found. There was, however, some evidence that adults with asthma from Morwell had poorer asthma control.

4.2. Schools Study Stream: The ongoing experiences of students following the Hazelwood mine fire

Prof Judi Walker noted that the analysis of the survey data under review, which will provide clearer insight into the level of distress being reported by these students, but it still clear that the majority of students are not reporting issues.

4.3. ELF Stream: Exposure to mine fire smoke and the risk of pregnancy related health problems

The committee was informed that the report has now been finalised and submitted to the DHHS for approval.

4.4. Community Wellbeing Stream: Community perceptions of the impact of the smoke event on community wellbeing and of the effectiveness of communication during and after the smoke event

Professor Walker provided a confidential overview of the upcoming report from the Community Wellbeing stream. This analysis presents community perceptions of the impact of the smoke event on community wellbeing, and the elements that are important for effective communication during and after the smoke event. A copy of the research summary and report will be circulated to the committee once finalised.

5. Study Status Report

Professor Michael Abramson provided a strategic overview of the progress of the Hazelwood Health Study to date. This included a view of where we are at, and what answers we have to the research questions thus far.

6. Strategic Overview of the Study

Each research team was asked to provide an overview of their research questions and findings to date. This includes an overview of what their study findings mean for the health of the Latrobe Valley, and the identification of new/related research questions or approaches to strengthen or add value to the study findings. This will then form the basis of the proposed project plan for years 6 to 10. The values espoused in the Latrobe Health and Wellbeing Charter will inform this process.

The following timetable was provided to committee members by Professor Walker, outlining a detailed timeframe of engagement activities:

Date	Action
6 February	HHS Retreat
27 February	Meeting with the Health Advocate Community Advisory Committee
28 February	Project Steering Committee
14 March	Ministerial Advisory Committee
20 March	Clinical Reference Group
21 March	First draft revised Project Plan from all streams
28 March	Project Steering Committee

2 April	Meeting with LHA Board
3 April	Strategic Overview Workshop – CAC and CRG
11 April	Ministerial Advisory Committee
15 April	Second draft revised project plan from all streams
25 April	Project Steering Committee
29 April –	Four week engagement period with DHHS Contract Committee, MAC,
24 May	LHA, Health Advocate, CAC, CRG, PHN
23 May	Project Steering Committee
3 June	Third draft revised Project Plan from all streams
20 June	Draft revised Project Plan o Project Steering Committee
1 July	Penultimate draft
17 July	Due date for submission of revised Project Plan to DHHS

The committee focused their discussion on the potential appointments to the Scientific Reference Group and provided potential leads of local clinicians to approach. The committee also discussed community ownership, and the need for community members to own this process and the research findings. Committee members were invited to attend an extraordinary meeting to be held on April 3 with members of the Community Advisory Committee to workshop further ideas for the strategic future of the Hazelwood Health Study.

7. GP Engagement and Forum

The Clinical Reference Group has identified a need for the HHS to actively engage with the medical community to increase their understanding and awareness of the importance and relevance of the study findings. It was discussed that HHS should work through the GPHN to coordinate this. A progress report will be provided at the next CRG meeting.

8. Annual CRG performance review

Melissa provided an overview of the annual committee performance review. The review was completed by 4 members with feedback indicated the need to focus on improving the committee's size and diversity of membership. Professor Walker acknowledged that this is an issue we are aware of and are actively working to overcome.

9. Review of Terms of Reference

This item was not discussed due to time restraints.
It will be distributed and discussed electronically via email prior to the next meeting.

10. Other Business

No items were raised.