

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the AAAPC Held 19 November 2013

1. **Attending:** *Nic Zwar, Julia Waters, Kirsty Douglas, Ellen McIntyre, Grant Russell, Louise Stone and Kitty Novy*
2. **Apologies:** *Marie Pirotta, Danielle Mazza, Dimity Pond, Sarah Larkins, and Christina Hagger*
3. Minutes of the last meeting, held 15 October 2013 were agreed (with one spelling mistake amended, the acronym PHCRIS)
4. Correspondence to the AAAPC: none
5. Business Arising:

5.1. Lobbying of Federal Government – Nick Zwar had a response from the Health Minister's (Peter Dutton's) office, the Minister was too busy but suggested a meeting with his senior adviser, Tom Fleming. Timing of a meeting is problematic, though this could be a chance to shape the Minister views. An alternative lobbying target might be Fiona Nash, an assistant to the Minister for Health. Nick Zwar to circulate dot points for such a meeting.

5.2. The Research Advisory Board – Nick has discussed this with Prof John Marley, in John's view the best opportunity to influence APHCRI was not to be on the Board but rather to write in with suggestions which he made clear would be very welcome, there is a meeting in November 2013 and then February 2014. The meeting then discussed points/ideas the AAAPC could support to raise/support in correspondence:

One matter Nick Zwar had discussed with A/Prof Terry Finlay was the need for funding of pilot/developmental work. This is shown by the difficulty people have, when putting up NHMRC and other Category 1 funding applications, to have done sufficient pilot/developmental work to show that the project is scientifically feasible and of high quality. Developmental/pilot work helps a panel to assess an application. Terry Finlay advised that he was keen that APHCRI might have a funding round to help people do developmental work.

APHCRI funding has to be policy relevant so the challenge is to find areas that are both policy and clinically/practice relevant; examples: the interface between primary and secondary care which is policy relevant but might have a clinical focus, nurse led interventions about a particular clinical area,

It was suggested that the AAAPC makes representations about extending or expanding the funding for the PBRNs, which currently runs until 15 March 2015 (with

projects financed for 6 months beyond this date).

There is the opportunity to make representations to APHCRI about research funding ideas for the remainder of their current contract (another 18 months). There is also a need to develop an ongoing conversation about the longer term direction of primary health care research

Grant Russell mentioned a concern that APHCRI funding is not always being described as Category 1 in the Australian Competitive Grants Register. This has substantial implications for how the funds are treated within Universities and this issue needs to be resolved. Ellen McIntyre to raise this at the Research Advisory Board November 2013 meeting, and Grant Russell to draft a letter to John Marley with a copy to Terry Finlay on this point (Kitty to liaise with Grant Russell,) and Nick will then sign it as the President of the AAAPC.

Nick Zwar to write down suggestions for the current funding round, and need to consult the membership about the longer term conversation, this could be done by email. Could also ask members about lobbying points

5.3. PHCRIS strategy review: The plan remains that Nick, and other executive members who are available, will meet with the person involved in the New Year and put forward the AAAPC's views on future directions for the PHCRED strategy.

5.4. The Northern Territory – still unrepresented on the AAAPC, to remain on the agenda

5.5. The working party on New Zealand membership of the AAAPC-

Nick, Marie and Nigel Stocks met Ngaire Kerse and Felicity Goodyear-Smith while at NAPCRG in Ottawa. Marie has prepared a dot point summary. The New Zealanders thought there should be two NZ executive committee members, akin to State reps, it would be re-named the Australasian AAPC, so the AAAPC initials would not change even though the constitution would need to be amended. They were keen to be at the HoDs meeting, benefits to the association were discussed as were the downsides, in particular a loss of focus to Australian domestic issues, extra additional administrative work with payment of membership fees in New Zealand currency, though there are existing overseas members. Felicity is sending the memo around members of the primary care research community for comment. Also need a broader discussion of this with the AAAPC membership, perhaps early next year once we have heard back from Felicity Goodyear-Smith and Ngaire Kerse

5.6. The assessment of application for the Travelling Fellowship – The email with the material to be assessed, sent late October 2013, did not reach Louise, and Grant was unsure whether he had received his mailing. Ellen had sent in her assessment. Kitty to do a second mailing to Louise and Grant. The aim is for the judging panel to

send their assessments to Kitty by the end of the week.

6. The Newsletter – the December 2013 edition. Nick will do a President's piece and mention the New Zealand meeting.
7. Primary Health Care Research Conference 2014. It is to be held in Canberra, and it has been decided that the Conference theme will be: "Integrating knowledge exchange to improve primary care outcome". Need to consider AAAPC speakers for its plenary session. It was suggested we give consideration to someone involved in research using Cochran review process in primary health care research, for instance Chris Capes from the UK. Also suggested were Jeremy Grimshaw, who will be in Australia for six months next year, Jonathon Lomas, Melissa Sweet who is an adjunct professor at the Uni of Sydney.
8. Finance
 - 6.1 New Members: Sylvia Kauer UOM, Peggy Chiang UOM. Kitty to send their write ups to Ellen for her e-bulletin.
 - 6.2 The Balance Sheet: \$12.050.13. The travelling fellowship funds of \$3,500 have yet to be taken out.
9. Other Business:
 - 9.1 Alternative times for the AAAPC teleconference Tuesday 11.30am. It was agreed to move to 11.30 and give it a try.
 - 9.2 Nick spoke with Joanne Reeve and she remains very keen for the distinguished paper to speak at the next Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) conference; in fact this is happening at the coming conference, so the AAAPC will need to find the \$500 towards the travel cost. This then becomes a further element of winning the distinguished paper award, so something should go on the AAAPC website.
10. **Next Meeting:** December 17th 11.30am

ASSIGNED ACTIONS ARISING

Nick is to:

- circulate dot points draft of proposed lobbying points for a meeting with the Minister's senior adviser
- write the President's piece for the December 2013 Newsletter and mention the New

Zealand meeting.

- write down suggestions for the current APHCRI funding round,

Russell is to:

- draft a letter to John Marley with a copy to Terry Finlay on the issue of APHCRI funding not always being restricted to NHMRC Category 1, then forward the draft to Nick (will need to liaise with Kitty) and Nick will then sign it as the President of the AAAPC.

Kitty is to:

- send the write ups of new AAAPC members to Ellen for her e-bulletin.

UNASSIGNED ACTIONS ARISING

Updating the website about the increased award for the annual winner of the AAAPC distinguished paper; the writer of this paper being invited to speak at the next Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) conference with \$500 from the AAAPC towards travel

Seek the views of the members on:

- New Zealand membership of the AAAPC
- the longer term conversation the AAAPC needs to have regarding the Research Advisory Board/, this could be done by email.
- Lobbying points for the meeting with the Federal Minister