

Minutes for the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

19 February 2015

1. **Attending:** Nick Zwar, Grant Russell, Dimity Pond, Ellen McIntyre, Phyllis Lau, Liz Halcomb, Jodie Oliver–Baxter, Danielle Mazza, Michelle Guppy, Christina Hagger, Sue Pollen, Kitty Novy

2. **Apologies:** *Kirsty Douglas, Sarah Larkins, Louise Stone, Suzanne McKenzie, Emma Warnecke, Felicity Goodyear-Smith*

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting, held December 4th 2014 were accepted.

4. **Correspondence to and from the AAAPC:** Nick discussed the letter written to Frank Jones president of RACGP and Lucie Walters ACRRM asking that they keep the issue of support of academic GP training on the agenda in both colleges.

5. **Business Arising:**

i. *APCReN - Centre of Research Excellence* .The final report from APCReN has been completed and attached with minutes for the committee to read. Nick thanked Natalie Appleby, Meredith Temple-Smith, Mim Murathodzic and all those who supported and worked on the report. Their enormous contribution over the past year and half has been appreciated. Permission was given from APHCRI to use a small amount of the left over funding to continue to employ the co-ordinator Natalie Appleby for a couple more months to support the networks.

Nick received an acknowledgement from Terry Findlay to say that the report was received. At the most recent Research Advisory Board meeting Ellen indicated that Terry welcomed the report and PBRN was being talked about more after seeing what APCReN had achieved. She hoped that there would be more recognition of this in the future. The next APHCRI Research Advisory board meeting is on March 6th and the report will be discussed at that meeting. Ellen noted that *APHCRI and PHCRIS* were both waiting to see how the Department will support primary health care research in the future. The First Assistant Secretary, Mark Booth, consistently acknowledges the importance of primary health care research. To continue to keep this on the agenda.

Ellen reiterated that PHCRIS would be there to support PBRNs and other organisations that are doing research that is going to help accelerate the improvement of Australian primary health care.

Nick has got the impression that researchers are thinking more and more about PBRN's when writing grant applications. If some of these funding applications are successful there might be more support for networks going forward.

A general discussion on the amount of work gone into setting APCReN up and what can be done and what we do next. It was felt options for continued funding to keep *APCReN* going should be looked at.

Nick noted that if we go back to the ideas of an NHMRC CRE what would be the best strategic approach? He felt we need to have a clear definite topic focus and enough people with strong track records to put up a competitive bid.

Ellen felt it might be possible to look more closely at the Future Directions Discussion Paper and highlight the need to support PBRNs into the future.

ii. *GP academic registrar update:* Nick noted that Louise Stone has been appointed in the Department of Health as the academic registerer co-ordinator for at least 2 years. Nick thought that the program for academic registrars would still be running but how it was to be supported without GPET in the future was less certain. There was mention that it might sit with the colleges or a consortium of the colleges rather than the Department.

iii. *New Zealand Matters:* Sue extended an invitation to the committee to join them at their Annual Research weekend which is an annual gathering of all 5 Departments of Primary Care and General Practice to be held this year in Otago

from September 11-13th. She felt it was a great opportunity for any of the committee members to share their knowledge and also discuss topical issues from Australia with New Zealand.

Sue asked for clarification on the protocol for the distribution of reports /documents that are sent to the committee and what could be shared with New Zealand colleagues. Nick felt that anything that went out via the membership server was for sharing in the public space to those in New Zealand. Nick had not sent the APCReN final report to the AAAPC members because as it was a report to the funder. It might be more appropriate to circulate a short report to all members.

Nick with help from Dimity and Ellen wrote a comprehensive outline of the history of AAAPC for the book *International Perspective in Primary Health Care Research* of which Felicity Goodyear-Smith is one of the co-authors. Nick thought it might be a useful thing to add to our own website given the recent changes in the AAAPC.

iv. *Social Media Strategy for the AAAPC*. Jodie reported that we have doubled our followers since December 2014 and going along well and was sharing the publically available information that is coming through the mailing list and would be great to share more content.

6. **The Newsletter:** The next edition out in March-April; Kitty is collecting articles. Michelle wondered if the main article in the December newsletter contributed to the doubling in Twitter followers. Would be very happy for a page dedicated to New Zealand if there was anyone with time to co-ordinate. A number of new New Zealand members had written profiles of themselves for the December newsletter. One way of going forward could be for the New Zealand departments to take it in turns to have a profile piece in the newsletter.

7. **PHC Research Conference:** Christina Hagger said all was going along nicely. The call for abstracts had gone out and the call for reviewers has gone out. Due to the shorter conference this year we needed to factor in when the AGM and the dinner would be held. Nick was hoping that we could still have the dinner after the AGM. Because the Welcome reception was on the Wednesday night it makes the timing difficult. Grant felt it would be difficult to have the AGM then as it might not be well attended. It was felt that we could have dinner on the first night and the AGM before the conference dinner. Christina is still working on the program and will provide more information next meeting.
Louise Stone and Christina are liaising with regard to the involvement of academic registrars in the Conference. The Higher Degree workshop has been incorporated into the program this year. Jodie and Lynsey Brown have organised an ECR student network at lunchtime meeting this year.
The AAAPC Plenary was discussed. With regard to speakers APHCRI have suggested that the keynote speaker could be a researcher with experience in collaborating with researchers. Nick and Ngaire have been in touch about this had felt that a suitable person to present the AAAPC plenary who had experience as a researcher working with consumers from disadvantaged and culturally diverse groups would be Ngaire herself .
Nick is planning to invite Ngaire to present as the AAAPC keynote speaker but to run it a little different from previous years; more as a shorter presentation and then a panel discussion. One possibility is to ask one of the keynotes who has a consumer focus to talk about the interaction and relationship between consumer and researchers. The committee felt that this would be an excellent way of going ahead with this

8. **Travelling Fellowship:** Ellen and Jodie have worked on making the application documents clearer for both applicants and assessors. They felt that it was not necessary to stipulate the length of time of the study trip so adjustments have been made there. It is hoped that streamlining the criteria will make it easier for the assessors to score each application. These changes were accepted by the committee.

9. Other Business

- i. *APHCRI Supporting Primary Health Care Research – future directions discussion paper*. Nick led the discussion and asked for the committee comment, there had been limited feedback from the AAAPC membership. The main feedback was from Chris Del Mar, Kirsty Douglas and Oliver Franks who all gave interesting and valuable input. Nick felt what was missing and what was very unclear in the document was the link between primary health networks and researchers. The paper also did not articulate how it would be funded or how it would happen or work.
 - ii. Ellen felt that there was a move away from a holistic approach to primary health care research to a more health systems approach and this could be an opportunity to talk more about the PBRN's and a clinical research at a more local level; engage researchers at the cold face
 - iii. Committee thought it would be a good idea to summarise the draft AAAPC submission and resend to membership for further comment. Jodie has been tweeting and will do it again. Nick to compile dot points and get input from Grant and Danielle before sending out.
- 10. Research Workforce Study-** Jodie Oliver-Baxter summarised the report she had been working with APHCRI for the past 12 months, including the results from the survival survey that was conducted with the support from AAAPC. The final report will be submitted on March 6th. The report also presents a framework for primary health research workforce capacity building.
- 11. Financial** The membership subscriptions are coming through \$10,362.39
- 11. New Members:** AAAPC has received a number of new applications: Dr Alan Huynh GP NSW, Dr Andrew Davey University of Newcastle, Prof Lyndal Trevena University of Sydney, Prof Robyn Lucas ANU

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION: Kitty too indicate when sending material out if it should be restricted to committee or be disseminated to the general membership

ACTION: To discuss with subcommittee about sending a short summary of the APCReN report to all members.

ACTION: Kitty to check with Felicity to see if we can make use of the history of AAAPC written for the book *International Perspective in Primary Health Care Research* on the AAAPC website

ACTION: Kitty to email membership for articles

ACTION: Jodie to write a piece on twitter for the newsletter

ACTION: Nick to send out reminder to membership for more feedback on APHCRI future discussion paper before submitting AAAPC feedback by 27th February

Next Meeting March 19th 2015- GOTO Meeting details to follow

1.30pm EST: Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania

3.30pm : New Zealand

10.30am : WA

1.00pm: SA

12.30pm :QLD