

Minutes for the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

Held by Teleconference on:

JUNE 18th 2015 @ 1.30-2.30pm

1. **Attending:** *Nick Zwar, Christina Hagger, Kirsty Douglas, Danielle Mazza, Sarah Larkins, Dimity Pond, Grant Russell, Phyllis Lau, Emma Warnecke, Sue Pollon, Kitty Novy,*
2. **Apologies:** *Louise Stone, Suzanne McKenzie, Ellen McIntyre, Liz Halcomb, Michelle Guppy, Alistair Vickery, Jodie Oliver Baxter, Ngaire Kerse,*
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting approved –to include Kirsty Douglas on attending list
4. **Correspondence to the AAAPC :** There was no correspondence
5. **Business Arising:**
 - i. *APCReN - Centre of Research Excellence – Updates and feedback from steering group meeting.*
 - Nick reported from the steering group earlier in the week. Meredith and Natalie have put together a paper (distributed before the meeting), highlighting the main activities, priorities and what aspects that they can continue until they find another avenue of funding.
 - There is \$1,000.00 remaining, \$300.00 of which will be used to maintain the website till end of year, they will continue to communicate to members via email, the database will be maintained but newsletters not sustainable. There will be enough money to maintain the minimum activities.
 - A discussion on the possibilities of funding and if the committee had any ideas on where to look for extra assistance: The dementia project not funded so unable to get support through that. There could be a small amount through the Kim Bennell CRE –not confirmed as yet. The possibility of applying through the Department of Health and Aging was discussed at last meeting. The suggestion that we try to put the case for funding to the Primary Health Care Advisory Group that is in the process of being established by Susan Ley (Minister of Health). It will include Clare Jackson and Stephen Hambleton is the chair but no formal process declared as yet.
 - All felt it would be worth putting in a submission to this group to argue to fund the network of PBRNs in supporting research and quality improvement.
 - Nick Zwar reported that he had recently spoken to Tony Hobbs, Senior Policy Advisor in the Department who is involved in the support of the Advisory committee. He is supportive of PBRN's and enhancement of research capacity in Primary Health Care. The focus of the advisory group is on chronic complex conditions including co morbidity and he suggested if we phrased it this way it would match their terms of reference and would be more likely to be looked on favourably.
 - The AAAPC has been added to the list of Organisations to be consulted by the Advisory group and Tony Hobbs said there would be an opportunity to make submissions once the draft document been placed on the website. This would be the time to make the submission. He will also inform us if an oral presentation is also possible.
 - No announcement from the Government of future funding of primary care research and the supporting structures like APHCRI or PHCRIS, Nicks understanding is that there might be an announcement about future funding at the time of the PHC Research Conference in July.

- Danielle Mazza asked the question, “*What is the likelihood of us getting this funded in the future.*” She was concerned that without a framework for primary care research more broadly it is just sitting out there without an anchor and will prove very difficult to sustain.
- Christina Hagger noted that Ellen McIntyre had spoken to Mark Booth and he indicated that he was very supportive of primary health care research but wanted to do it differently in the future but no one is sure what that is
- Danielle Mazza felt that it might be worth compiling a list of the issues that need to be taken to the advisory board , Mark Booth Tony Hobbs The Ministers adviser –try and attack at all levels
- Nick Zwar and Grant Russell will be meeting with the ministers adviser on the 16th July in Melbourne This was primarily set up to discuss the Academic Registrar Program and ideas how to support the program in the future . However it might be a good opportunity to add to that the broad agenda of how the government can support PHC research and infrastructure in Australia before they go backwards. It is important to highlight the message that the broader structure going forward should include PBRNs.
- Nick Zwar felt that for the sake of a few thousand dollars it was important to keep it alive. He also noted that APCReN has been written into a few of the NHMRC grant submissions in the current round.
- The PBRNS will be discussed at both the HODs and the AGM meetings in July
 - ii. *Lobbying Update – GP academic registrar positions and support*
- Kirsty led the discussion around the urgency to lobby for the positions held by Louise Stone and Susan Werne as their funding is only till November 2015.If we want to support their roles to continue as GP advisers of the education and training then it needs to be done now. The general feeling for them at the moment is that they are surplus to requirements.
- The current medical adviser to the workforce branch of DoH is Dr Andrew Singer (an emergency medicine doctor) who is not well informed about primary health care research
- Nick was wondering if there was a prospect that the Department was prepared to fund the medical advisor role longer term or place it with another organisation? Kirsty was unsure but felt that they would want to keep it internal in the Department, at the moment Louise works 1.5 days a week and Susan 2 days so it is not a big role.
- Nick Zwar thought our starting position as AAAPC would be that the academic registrar program should be moved to an Academic Institution, the RACGP might be more interested than ACRRM. He found Frank Jones and the RACGP were more responsive and interested in the academic registrars program and had the capacity to employ people unlike AAAPC. Our aim is to get the program operating sustainably from a suitable academic context .
- Both Kirsty and Emma felt that it was important to get RACGP engaged and to have both Frank and Zena Burgess on board.
- Any agenda items that we would like raised with the Ministers adviser please forward – would like to make the most of this opportunity and Nick will inform him before the July 16th

iii New Zealand Matters

- The Journal Primary Health Care finally have a new editor, will become an online journal only and still issues with the long term planning and governance. The relationship between editor, board and College still problematic
- Sue noted that there was a media flurry recently in New Zealand over a serious problem of potential cheating in exams, being run by the College and this has reflected very badly on general practice and General practice vocational training.
- Sue would like to talk at more length at the HODS meeting on the impact on clinical placements of medical students of New Zealand Medical Council's decision to require all PGY2's to do a three month run in the community. This is very worrying and would welcome any advice as it is beginning to bite in displacing medical placements in general practice. The Medical Council have mandated that you cannot become fully registered unless you have done a community placement.
- A discussion on cost of having registrars in practices in New Zealand and Australia. Nick noted that Australia had lost the equivalent of the PGY2 the PG PPP largely due to funding pressures with reorganisation. The Practice Incentive program (PIP) has had a boost under the current government who have doubled the PIP payment for medical student teaching to the Practice
- Kirsty reported that National Post Graduate Medical Council is forming a White Paper discussion which will be looking at community based terms and reporting. One of the things that has been very successful and worked very well in their region has been the move to vertically aligned practices. The teaching practices that were able to accommodate all 3 levels of students worked well and were highly efficient and allowed concentration of face to face teaching time and enabled the recent graduates and registrars to participate in some of the supervision of the junior students. Emma has also had success in Tasmania with close cooperation between Universities and the General Practice training provider

iv GP Vocational Training

- The tenders are out and the organisations tendering to be the new providers have to have their submissions in by the 10th July. At the recent HODS meeting the key issues that came out were that there was a fair bit of variation around Australia about how much collaboration there is between Universities and Regional Training Providers and Medicare locals. In some places there is significant collaboration in the placement in of students and registrars in Practices and in accreditation of practices for teaching. There is involvement of governance in RTPs but not very active governance, no strong sense that the Universities were involved in the direction of the RTPs
- It was noted that James Cook had put in a tender to be a University led RTP and Nick congratulated Sarah Larkins on this initiative
- Further discussion and sharing of ideas on the models submitted will take place at the HODS meeting in July. For the future we need to think about how Universities will be positioned to be more involved in vocational training. Simon Willcock and Dimity Pond suggested that there should be a position paper developed that could argue the case for why that would be an advantage in the

education of medical students through to vocational trainees, giving them a greater integration of the different providers.

- Sahara Larkins from JCU noted that they have a slightly different perspective as they see their core business as training a fit for purposeful workforce and part of that is vocational training for general practice.
- Dimity Pond noted that in the training tender documents the word University was not used once, unlike last time. This might indicate as Andrew Bonney pointed out in the HODs meeting that as a group we have not been perceived by that sector as relevant .

v. Social Media Update

- Jodie sent through the latest update and Nick thanked her for her work ,there is a continued focus on Twitter and getting a steady mix of followers

6. The Newsletter: The articles are being compiled for the July- August edition

7. PHC Research Conference:

- Christina Hagger reported that 312 registrations so far. She urged people to register for the workshops as they are filling up.
- Nick asked if anyone had drafted some pre prepared questions to put to Anne Kelso on behalf of the AAAPC. He felt that one of the main questions would be ,
- *Can she provide information about how primary health care grant applications are going in the,NHMRC process particularly the project grant process*
- *What does she see as the involvement of primary care academics in the NHMRC panels because our awareness is that there are no panel with Primary Health Care in its name this year and what is her view on that.*
- *Where does Primary Health care research fit into the NHMRC thinking? - as it has been a real struggle to getting funding through the project grants. Does she see us have greater opportunities through Partnership grant scheme?*
- *What about program grants- there has been no NHMRC primary health care grant ever.*
- **Committee members availability to continue on committee 2015-2016 :**
- Nick thanked all committee members who are planning to stay. Jan Radford has agreed to take over from Emma the current Tasmania member
- **HODs agenda items.** Nick thanked all for sending out the agenda items
- **AGM agenda items:** No new agenda items from the members

8. Other Business

i. Collaboration with NAPCRG AAAPC Prize:

- Nick reported that a winning abstract had been selected and thanked the judges for their work The winner was Clare Heal, "*Sterile versus non-sterile gloves for minor surgery in general practice.*" An announcement will not be made till NAPCRAG has notified us of the acceptance of our selected abstract once their review process has finished

9. Finance : \$22,435.90

10. New Members: *Prof Helena Liira (UoWA).*

11. NEXT MEETING: Both Nick and Grant felt that we should have a meeting of the committee before the AGM. It will remain at the same time on the 16th of July .1.30pm EST

ACTION: AAAPC to continue to lobby for more APCReN funding

ACTION: Nick on behalf AAAPC to approach the College - Nick to contact Frank and Zena

ACTION: Lobby ministers adviser

ACTION: Email Nick issues that want raised with the minister's adviser

ACTION: Send any questions through to Christina Haggard before 26th and she can include

ACTION: Kitty to send out the HODS and AGM agenda to the committee

ACTION: Kitty to email Felicity Good Year Smith and Jill Haight of the winner and wait for clarification of the process.

Next Meeting 16th July 2015 1.30 pm EST

1.30pm : VIC, QLD, NSW, TAS

3.30pm - NZ

9.30am - WA:

1.00pm - SA