



Hazelwood Health Study

Scientific Reference Group Meeting 2/2015

Wednesday, 4 November 2015, 2.30 – 4.30pm AEDT

Board Room 1, Level 6, Alfred Campus, AMREP and by Zoom Video Conference

Item	Minutes	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions The Chair (Michael Abramson) welcomed all participants to the Scientific Reference Group (SRG) meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Attendees Michael Abramson, Chair (MA); Judi Walker (JW), Ross Coppel (RC), Brian Priestly (BP), Rebecca Kippen (RK), Rory Wolfe (RW), John McNeil (JMcN), Dennis Moore (DM), Melita Keywood (MK), Jillian Blackman (JB)</p> <p>Apologies Alexander (Sandy)McFarlane, Christine Roberts, Michael Keating Minutes of Meeting 1, 27 February 2015 were accepted.</p> <p>Minutes Catherine O’Sullivan</p>	
3	<p>Conflicts of Interest The attendees present declared no conflicts of interest with their participation in the Study</p>	
4	<p>DHHS Annual Report Draft report circulated to members</p> <p>Action: Comments on draft Annual Report due COB Monday 9 November Interim Report to be uploaded to Hazelwood site. Forward EPA report to (BP)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(JB)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(all) (JB) (MA)</p>
5	<p>Mine Fire Inquiry MA has received a draft submission from Counsel Assisting the Board of Inquiry into the Hazelwood Mine Fire. The recommendations include that the Health Study should implement recommendations handed down by the First Inquiry (Nov 2014).</p>	

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	<p>These include appointing an independent governing board and that regular progress reports should be published. Other issues included reviewing the scope of the Adult Survey to include emergency responders not resident in Morwell, other workers not resident in Morwell and residents of other parts of the Latrobe Valley.</p> <p>It was discussed that this Group (the SRG) should consider electing an independent Chair (currently MA) and whether it is acceptable for Minutes to be placed on the Study website for public review.</p> <p>The SRG will await the final recommendations handed down by the Inquiry and the Government's response. A new Chair was not identified, however selection of the appropriate person will be progressed for the next SRG meeting. There were no objections to Minutes being placed on the Study website.</p> <p>JB indicated concern that inclusion of the non-resident workers would not add scientific value to the research findings and instead place an impost on those participants which Ethics Committees might consider unreasonable.</p> <p>MA indicated that he had received information which suggested that approximately 100 of 150 local police officers lived in Morwell and should be picked up in the current Adult Survey recruitment methods. If the study were to include firefighters however they would need to be sampled and funded separately.</p>	MA
6	<p>Study Overview</p> <p>The ELF study has made good progress and is soon to start the parent CATI. The School Study is already in the field.</p>	
7	<p>Adult Survey Protocol</p> <p>A draft of the Adult Survey Protocol was circulated to the SRG and comments were sought within one month.</p> <p>It is hoped that the Adult Survey will commence recruitment in February 2016. Recruitment will be by mailed invitation with preferred data collection methods being computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) or assisted web questionnaire (CAWI). Attempts to contact non-responders will be by mail, phone and possibly door knocking. Sale has been chosen as the comparison community. The Adult Survey instruments and invitation materials are being piloted.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding feedback from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding our application to obtain Electoral Roll data for the purpose of recruiting eligible adults for the Adult Survey. The Commissioner suggested alternative data sources such as Council data and the White pages. MA has responded to the Commissioner's concerns and has requested a meeting to discuss the study directly.</p>	

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	<p>Action</p> <p>SRG to provide comments on the Adult Survey protocol by 4 December 2015.</p> <p>MA & JW to meet with Victorian Electoral Commissioner to discuss possible use of electoral roll data in the Adult Survey.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MA, JW</p>
8	<p>Schools Study Protocol</p> <p>A draft of the School Study Protocol was circulated to the SRG and comments were sought within one month.</p> <p>The School Study commenced in Term 3 with a pilot school in Traralgon which has both primary and secondary levels. The pilot has achieved approximately 25% recruitment rate. Due to time constraints, with the need for data collection to occur in this school year, the study has gone live in 22 schools.</p> <p>Recruitment remains low in most schools, ranging from 10% to 50% (the latter only achieved in 1 school). The non-responder rate is high (there are few refusers). The researchers are trying numerous methods to maximise recruitment, with the method varying per school. Some schools are phoning non-responders directly.</p> <p>DM commented that this level of recruitment from schools was not unusual and the results would still be publishable.</p> <p>JB suggested that the research stream might consider identifying their most important data collection instrument and go back to non-responders with a “one-pager” questionnaire and the request for consent to link to NAPLAN. This might boost recruitment and data collection in a key area of interest where otherwise, no information has been obtained from these non-responders.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>SRG to provide comments on the School Study protocol by 4 December 2015</p> <p>DM agreed to review the protocol in detail and follow up with Darryl Maybery directly</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>DM</p>
9	<p>Other Business</p> <p>As already discussed, there was no objection to the Minutes for the SRG being placed on the Study website</p> <p>The CSIRO modelling team have met their contractual deliverables with Reports. A further report into the modelling of air quality during the mine fire and after is due soon.</p>	
10	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Agreed two meetings per year to be conducted</p> <p>Doodle Poll to be circulated in 2016 for meeting during first quarter.</p>	<p>CO'S</p>