

Clinical Reference Group (CRG)

Meeting 1/2018

Wednesday 18th April 2018

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Boardroom

Monash Rural Health

Latrobe Regional Hospital campus and via teleconference and videoconference

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair:

Dr Fred Edwards

In Attendance:

Dr Ryan Hoy (video conference), Dr Ian Webb, Associate Professor Paul Lee, Daniel Webster, Dr Jo McCubbin (video conference), Associate Professor Alistair Wright (video conference)

Ex Officio:

Professor Malcolm Sim (Acting Principal Investigator – videoconference)

Hazelwood Health Study Personnel:

Dr Jill Blackman (Senior Project Manager – videoconference), Dr Matthew Carroll (Psychological Impacts Stream Leader videoconference), Mr Shaun Mallia (Communications and Engagement Adviser), Ms Amanda Johnson (Researcher)

Apologies:

Ms Jeannette Douglas, 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 15 November 2017

The notes of Meeting 3/2018, held on 15 November 2017 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. HHS Performance Review of the operations of this Committee

Dr Matthew Carroll provided a breakdown of the review and responded to feedback. The review assessed a number of areas focusing on committee structure and effectiveness. The responses of members were overwhelmingly positive. There was some feedback regarding the need to increase attendance and engagement in meetings. It was noted that the review would continue on an annual basis.

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5. Clinical Streams

Dr Carroll noted that the HHS has sent letters to every study participant who had abnormal results detected in their appointment with either the cardiovascular or respiratory stream. At present, abnormal results letters were sent for approximately 45% of respiratory participants and 90% of cardiovascular participants.

CRG members provided feedback on the letters, noting that they were well written, encouraged discussions between doctor and patient, and in some instances identified issues requiring further follow up. In addition, it was noted that patients had praised the professionalism and thoroughness of the stream personnel.

One CRG member who was also a participant received an abnormal findings letter which prompted further follow up investigation for which there was a considerable personal cost. While this is outside the remit of the study, the need for pathology and imaging services to clearly outline out of pocket costs prior to any test was highlighted.

The potential for findings to be influenced by events since the mine fire, such as the closure of the Hazelwood power station and Morwell mine and the establishment of the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone was also discussed. Dr Carroll noted that the study team are well aware of these considerations and that the Psychological Impacts and Community Wellbeing streams in particular were incorporating these issues in to their research..

6. Dissemination of Findings

6.1. Hazelinks Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Anonymous Data Extraction Report released 9 April

Ms Amanda Johnson joined the meeting via videoconference for this item and provided a presentation on the findings from the recently released report, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

This report found that coal mine fire-related air pollutants, based on concentrations of fine air particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 thousandths of a millimetre or less (PM_{2.5}), were associated with increased health service use and increased rates of dispensing prescription medications in the Latrobe Valley area.

The CRG engaged with Ms Johnson and Professor Sim about the report and provided several questions which were responded to. Members stated that the findings reflected their memory of the increase in services during the mine fire period. PBS medications dispensed data only includes medications for which a prescription was filled. Medications sold over the counter are not included in the data. This limitation was discussed with reference to salbutamol inhalers. Professor Sim noted that such information is very difficult to obtain.

7. Study Status Report

Drs Jill Blackman and Matthew Carroll presented Power Point slides which summarised HHS Stream progress to date. Copies of the slides were included with the meeting papers circulated to CRG meeting participants.

8. Ministerial Advisory Committee Governance Update

Dr Carroll and Principal Investigator Professor Michael Abramson met with the Ministerial Advisory Committee to discuss their response to a list of questions previously requested by the

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MAC. The list of 18 questions related to governance, methodology and communication. Dr Carroll discussed the outcome of the meeting with committee members. Arising from this meeting were additional questions from the MAC in relation to sample sizes, the future activities of the Community Wellbeing stream and the Terms of Reference for Committees. The researchers have sent a response to the MAC.

9. Communications and Engagement

9.1 Hazelwood Health Study Photographic Exhibition

Mr Shaun Mallia shared an invitation to the group to the upcoming photographic exhibition, *Our hopes for the future of Morwell*. The exhibition was curated by the Community Wellbeing stream of the Hazelwood Health Study and showcases the community's hopes and dreams for Morwell. It will be featured at Parliament House in Melbourne from 21 – 25 May. The exhibition will feature 28 photographs of community groups and members holding objects symbolising their hopes for the future of Morwell.

9.2 Communications and Engagement Position

Mr Mallia informed the committee that from 1 May, he will be taking up a new position as Social Marketing Coordinator for the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone. Mr Mallia expressed his thanks to the committee for their tireless work during his tenure.

The committee thanked Mr Mallia for his commitment and dedication to the study. The committee expressed concern over the vacant position, as they believe this to be a key position integral to the workings of the study.

10. Other Business

Respiratory specialist availability:

Mr Mallia addressed an agenda item put forward in the recent Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting requesting the CRG discuss the possibility of acting as an advocacy agent for a respiratory specialist in the Latrobe Valley.

Members acknowledged the difficulty in recruiting specialists to public hospitals, and discussed the new respiratory clinic opening in Leongatha and the three existing physicians who are able to assist with respiratory presentations in Sale. The CRG suggested circulating a list of respiratory specialists to the CAC for their information.

Action Item: Obtain a list of respiratory doctors and circulate to CAC members

11. Date for next meeting

The next meeting will take place in July at a date to be determined.

Action Item: Consult with CRG members to determine the date for the July meeting

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**Hazelwood Health Study
Clinical Reference Group**

Action Items – 2018

15 November 2017	7	<i>Endorsed meeting notes of previous meeting to be uploaded to the HHS website.</i>	SM	✓
15 November 2017	8	<i>Professor Abramson to query whether there have been issues with participants not nominating a GP</i>	MA	✓
15 November 2017	9	<i>Circulate Annual Evaluation form to all members</i>	JW	✓
15 November 2017	10	<i>Arrange through GPHN, LRH and LCHS for CRG membership EOI to be circulated in early 2018</i>	SM	✓
18 April 2018	11	<i>Endorsed meeting notes to be uploaded to the Hazelwood Health Study website</i>	MP	✓
18 April 2018	12	<i>Obtain a list of respiratory specialists and circulate to interested members of the CAC</i>	MP	
18 April 2018	13	<i>Consult with CRG members to determine the date for the July meeting</i>	MP	

ENDORSED