

## **Clinical Reference Group (CRG)**

### **Meeting 3/2018**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

**6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Boardroom**

**Latrobe Regional Hospital campus and via teleconference and videoconference**

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Chair:**

Dr Fred Edwards

**In Attendance:**

Ms Jeannette Douglas, Dr Ian Webb, Dr Jo McCubbin (video conference), Ms Angela Scully, Dr Julian Rong

**Ex Officio:**

Professor Judi Walker (Principle Co-Investigator Gippsland – video conference) and Professor Michael Abramson Principle Investigator – video conference)

**Hazelwood Health Study Personnel:**

Dr Jill Blackman (Senior Project Manager – videoconference), Dr Shannon Melody (ELF Researcher – videoconference), Associate Professor Yuming Guo (Hazelinks Stream Lead – videoconference) Melissa Peppin (Administrative Officer)

**Apologies:**

Professor Alistair Wright, Dr Ryan Hoy, Associate Professor Paul Lee

#### **2. Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest**

No new member conflicts of interest were noted.

The Chair welcomed Dr Julian Rong as a new member of the Clinical Reference Group. Dr Rong is a senior gastroenterologist working in Gippsland.

#### **3. Confirmation of draft minutes from meeting held 17 October 2018**

The notes of Meeting 2/2018, held on 17 October 2018 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. Dissemination of findings**

##### **4.1. Upcoming outputs**

##### **4.1.1. Birth outcomes using anonymous Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Records**

Dr Shannon Melody joined the meeting via teleconference for this item and gave a brief overview of the findings. The research aimed to find out whether babies born

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to pregnant mothers exposed to mine fire smoke were born earlier or smaller compared to those born to mothers who were not exposed during pregnancy.

Smoke exposure was linked to birthweight in some babies, but only if the mother had a diagnosis of gestational diabetes. These babies were more likely to be heavier at birth by 107 grams compared to babies born to exposed mothers without gestational diabetes. This effect was in addition to the higher birthweight expected from gestational diabetes alone.

Dr Melody cautioned that it is difficult to determine when the mother developed gestational diabetes prior to, during or after exposure to PM2.5. Future research will aim to answer this question.

Dr Melody noted that a method of 'fine granularity' was used in the analysis that measured the level of smoke. Researchers used the address of the mother at the time of birth and then SA1 which gives codes to different areas. Dr Melody acknowledged this was a limitation of the research, as they are unaware of the movements of the mother throughout her pregnancy.

The committee was interested to note if there was any similar literature with similar findings. Dr Melody noted that while there are similar research questions, this is an evolving field and the first findings of its kind.

#### **4.1.2. Hazelinks: Ambulance attendances during the Hazelwood mine fire**

Associate Professor Yuming Guo joined the meeting via videoconference for this item and provided a confidential overview of the upcoming Hazelinks report. The study aimed to investigate whether there was an increase in ambulance attendances during the mine fire period, compared to times before and after the mine fire. The report also aimed to determine whether those ambulance attendances were associated with changes in mine fire related air pollution levels.

#### **4.1.3. Adult Survey Volume 2**

Dr Jill Blackman provided a confidential overview of the Adult Survey Volume 2. The full report and research summary will be released to the public in January 2019.

#### **4.2. Dissemination of findings timetable**

Dr Jill Blackman gave a brief overview of upcoming publications scheduled to be released in 2019. A copy of the dissemination of findings timetable was circulated to committee members.

### **5. Study Status Report**

Dr Blackman provided a verbal overview of HHS stream progress to date, and outlined priorities to the end of the year. It was noted that three major research findings would be released in December, which were earlier discussed in the meeting.

## 6. GP Engagement and GP Forum

Due to the high turnover of specialists, clinicians and GPs in the Latrobe Valley, the committee suggested that the HHS actively seek to engage with the medical community to increase awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of the findings. The committee provided suggestions on potential engagement opportunities in 2019 and encouraged the study to actively pursue educational opportunities with medical professionals in Gippsland.

**Action: Begin reviewing/planning engagement and education opportunities**

## 7. Clinical Reference Group Membership

Melissa provided an update on the recruitment effort into the CRG. There has been a deliberate effort to attempt to recruit a wide variety of practitioners across Gippsland over the past two months, including specialists from paediatrics, O&G, General Medicine and rehab. The committee suggested that the study should reach out to nurse practitioners, as the staff turnover rate is lower in Gippsland compared to other specialisations.

**Action: Coordinate with GPHN for EOI to be circulated in early 2019**

## 8. Annual CRG Performance Review

Members were encouraged to provide honest feedback about the CRG's membership, terms of reference, administration and effectiveness in the annual performance review. A link to a confidential survey will be emailed to members in the next month.

**Action: Circulate performance review to CRG members**

## 9. Review of CRG Terms of Reference

The committee was asked to review the Terms of Reference for the Clinical Reference Group to ensure that this accurately reflected the potential of the committee. The committee suggested removing item 1 in the specific roles section, as the need for this item has now subsided with the conclusion of this testing. The committee suggesting adding in an item focusing on the need for the study to focus on the important public health messaging to come from its findings.

**Action: Update the terms of reference, removing "Advise on clinical fieldwork for the project" and adding in an item focusing on public health**

## 10. Other Business

### 10.1. Gipps Water

The Chair briefed the committee on a meeting with representatives from Gippsland Water.

Dr Edwards was approached by representatives from Gippsland Water for feedback on their upcoming plans to test the sewer network in Morwell. Due to the sensitive nature of running tests using smoke, the organisation was hoping to garner feedback from the Clinical Reference Group as to the potential psychological impacts of the smoke. Dr Edwards was presented with research from Gippsland Water demonstrating that the smoke in use has no harmful environmental or health effects.

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The Clinical Reference Group discussed the matter, including what response is appropriate. The CRG agreed that it is not in their scope to act as a public spokesperson for the testing, however, they would be happy to write a letter to the organisation with the aim of putting them in touch with key people in the community.

#### **11. Date Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in March 2019. A date will be confirmed in early 2019.

## Hazelwood Health Study Clinical Reference Group

### Action Items – 2018

17 October 2018	14	<i>Endorsed meeting notes of previous meeting to be uploaded to the HHS website.</i>	MP	✓
17 October 2018	15	<i>Circulate preprint reports for the two Psychological Impact stream reports to the committee</i>	MP	✓
17 October 2018	16	<i>Circulate the 2019 Dissemination of Findings Timetable prior to the next meeting</i>	MP	✓
17 October 2018	17	<i>Recruitment of committee members</i>	MP	✓
3 December 2018	18	<i>Endorsed meeting notes to be uploaded to the Hazelwood Health Study website</i>	MP	✓
3 December 2018	19	<i>Begin reviewing/planning engagement and education opportunities</i>	MP	
3 December 2018	20	<i>Coordinate with GPHN for EOI to be circulated in early 2019</i>	MP	
3 December 2018	21	<i>Circulate performance review to CRG members</i>	MP	✓
3 December 2018	22	<i>Update the terms of reference, removing “Advise on clinical fieldwork for the project” and adding in an item focusing on public health</i>	MP	✓

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