



Newsletter - December 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to advise that the 2004 Annual Report has now been completed and is available for viewing on Council's website

<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/partnerships/comm.php>

Work has commenced on the amalgamated Annual Report for 2005 and 2006 and will be completed as soon as possible. In the meantime, on behalf of Council I would like to thank readers for their interest in and support of Council activities throughout 2006 and wish you all a happy and safe Festive Season and the very best for the New Year.

Dr Simon Parsons
Chairperson
Council of Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity

COUNCIL NEWS

Current membership in accordance with the Terms of Reference includes Dr Simon Parsons (Chair); Mr Nick Goddard; Professor Michael Humphrey; Professor Allan Carmichael; Dr James Brodribb; Dr Geoff Shannon; Ms Ros Escott; Dr Peter Dargaville; Mr Peter Askey-Doran & Dr Sue Jenkins (to be officially invited by the Minister following Mr Fanning's recent resignation from Council).

Council website continues to archive newsletters, Annual Reports and other relevant resource information.

CLINICAL MATTERS

1. **Late Termination of Pregnancy Panel**- Royal Hobart Hospital is currently discussing the implementation of a system modeled on the RWH, Victoria system.
2. **Perinatal Management Group** – This well-organised group meets regularly in Hobart.
3. **Data Collection** – Representatives from Council (including Professor Michael Humphrey, Dr Simon Parsons, Mr Nick Goddard) have met with IT Specialists (Tom Simpson, Chris Showell, and Peter Mansfield) to discuss the status of current patient information systems and identification of key areas for improvement. It was agreed at this meeting that it would be unnecessary to revamp existing forms and that IT Specialists were willing to plan and implement measures to improve the current system. It was agreed that future development of a web-based data entry system for delivery, perinatal, maternal, and paediatric deaths was necessary and should be implemented as soon as possible.



4. **Child Death Review**—The Council has endorsed a request from The Secretary of Health to review a number of Tasmanian child death cases. The Review Panel will include Dr Liz Hallam, Anne Foot, Alison Jacob and the new interim Commissioner for Children, Dr Sue Jenkins.

SUBCOMMITTEES

PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity

This subcommittee continues to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of every second month (unless otherwise specified). With the recent resignation of Mr David Fanning, Commissioner for Children from this committee, Dr Sue Jenkins as interim Commissioner for Children will replace Mr Fanning on this committee.

PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity

Data is currently being collated in preparation for its classification by the relevant Committee members.

MATERNAL Mortality & Morbidity

The maternal death case reported in north-west Tasmania this year has been reviewed by this committee. Professor Michael Humphrey as Chair of this committee has submitted a summary and recommendations from this case for inclusion in the next amalgamated Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Mr David Fanning as Commissioner for Children has recently resigned his position to take up a major position in Victoria. Council wishes to extend its sincere thanks to David for his representation on Council over the last couple of years and for his invaluable contribution to and support of its activities.

Dr Sue Jenkins has recently been appointed to the position of interim Commissioner for Children and will undertake representation on Council and its Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity subcommittee as soon as possible following official invitation from the Health Minister. Dr Jenkins is a former UK Consultant paediatrician and Community Child Health expert who in the mid-1990s relocated to Tasmania and has since undertaken consultancies for the Tasmanian Government and in New Zealand, as well as in a number of developing countries. Her Tasmanian consultancies included the design, development and initial implementation of the Kids in Mind Project to support children of parents with mental illness, and the development of the whole-of government Early Years strategic policy framework for children aged 0-5 years. Dr Jenkins will be continuing to chair the Child Home Injury Prevention Coalition (CHIP) with the hope to extend the scope of CHIP from Home Injuries to all child injuries in Tasmania.



MEETINGS FOR 2007

Next Council Meetings:

- Thursday 22 February, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room
- Thursday 24 May, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room
- Thursday 23 August, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room
- Thursday 22 November, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room

Note: *Subcommittee meetings will be advised.*

Secretariat Contact Details: Dr Jo Jordan; email: jo.jordan@dhhs.tas.gov.au