

Newsletter - June 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity I would like to thank those readers who have taken the time to provide feedback following the release of the inaugural edition of the Council Newsletter in March. Judging by the positive comments, the newsletter has been worthwhile and will continue to be published on a quarterly basis. It will soon be available for viewing on the DHHS website and you will be updated on the address details as soon as possible. It has also been noted that the newsletter may currently be a little "Hobart-focused" and it is our intention to ensure that issues addressed hold statewide relevance. Feedback from northern practitioners is therefore welcomed. The aim of this newsletter is therefore to inform practitioners of recently identified problems which will require attention by some institutions. The 2004 Annual Report continues to be slowly progressed in view of limited resources available and will be completed as soon as possible. Likewise, the 2005 Annual Report will be prepared as soon as possible.



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 (re-elected Chair); Mr Nick Goddard; Professor Allan Carmichael; Dr Geoff Shannon; Dr Elizabeth Hallam; Mr David Fanning; Ms Ros Escott; Dr Peter Dargaville; & Mr Peter Askey-Doran.

At its last meeting held in May 2006, Dr Simon Parsons was unanimously re-elected as Chair of Council. Council extends its sincere thanks to Dr Parsons for accepting to undertake the role of Chairman for a further 3-year term.

It is likely that the two University nominees will be Professor Carmichael and Professor Humphrey. At the recent Council meeting, Dr Hallam advised of her intention to resign as the College of Paediatric nominee on Council. A new nominee will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the College and is likely to be Dr Parsons.

A Council logo previewed here as part of the letterhead still requires ratification by full Council at its next meeting to be held in August 2006. In the meantime, your consideration of this logo and feedback continues to be welcomed.

A website detailing Council activities will reside within the DHHS site. This will be completed as soon as possible and will aim to archive newsletters, Annual Reports and various other relevant information.



CLINICAL MATTERS

1. In light of high number of **road trauma deaths** affecting children and teenagers in 2005 and 2006, Council has elected to write to the Minister to highlight the issues played by road design. The Council's view is that a dual divided carriageway is required between our major cities. Reference to WHO road trauma prevention document : www.who.int/entity/world-health-day/2004/infomaterials/world_report/en/summary_en_rev.pdf
2. Appointment of a senior registrar (advanced trainee) for the new neonatal and paediatric ICU in Hobart will allow for more **senior coverage of NETS transfers**.
3. A number of cases of children being palliated for untreatable medical conditions where the documentation that the child was not for resuscitation and clear consent for the palliation progress was not recorded. Council recommends that in such cases documentation be **clear and consent for supportive care only** be obtained.
4. RHH WACS department are developing **Clinical Practice Guidelines**. An example was attached to the last newsletter and received good feedback. Hence another is included: **Sepsis Guidelines** (see attached as separate document). This project will be coordinated by Professor Michael Humphrey and it is planned a DHHS Intranet location will be identified and this location managed professionally with regular updates. See below regarding Professor Humphrey's recent appointment.
5. Work needs to be done urgently to develop a **web-based data entry system for delivery, perinatal, maternal, and paediatric deaths**. This work has been touted for many years but nothing has been achieved. Again Professor Michael Humphrey has extensive experience in this area and is pursuing this matter.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Membership of the subcommittees was further queried at the last meeting of Council and it was agreed that these should be reviewed and a member of Council participate on of each of the subcommittees. Outcome of discussions relating to subcommittees are outlined below.

PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity

This subcommittee continues to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of every second month (unless otherwise specified). It was agreed that the current membership of this subcommittee was appropriate and working well and would continue in its current form (including Dr Elizabeth Hallam (Chair), Dr Chris Lawrence, Dr Thomas (Geoff) Shannon, Dr Simon Parsons and Mr David Fanning).

Chair's Contact details: Dr Liz Hallam; email: lizhallam@bigpond.com

PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity

In view of Dr D'Mello's resignation from Council earlier this year, it was agreed at the recent meeting of Council that the membership of this subcommittee be revised to include a neonatologist, midwife and obstetrician. Mr Askey -Doran has advised that he would like to participate on this subcommittee as a midwife representative.

Chair's Contact details: Dr Simon Parsons, email: simon.parsons@dhhs.tas.gov.au



MATERNAL Mortality & Morbidity

It was agreed at the last meeting of Council that this subcommittee be reviewed and meet on a more regular basis to look at both mortality and morbidity.

Chair's Contact Details: Dr Shelby Jarrell; email: shelby.jarrell@dhhs.tas.gov.au

DATA MANAGEMENT

This subcommittee has not met for a considerable period of time. Dr Rupert Sherwood has advised that he does not wish to continue his role as Chair of this subcommittee. The sub-committee needs to be constituted given the importance of data in the day to day activities of Council and its reporting obligations. Dr Brodribb is meeting with a supplier of obstetric unit information system that has a system working in Victoria. Mr Sansom from DSU has advised that it is important to assess the various options in light of the CASPER project and the business processing mapping that is being undertaken to identify the requirements of all users.

Membership of this subcommittee will be discussed at the next meeting of Council, but is likely to include Professor Michael Humphrey.

Chair to be nominated

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Council welcomes Dr James Brodribb as representative of RANZCOG on Council.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Professor Michael Humphrey has commenced his appointment as the new Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the RHH and is keen to undertake a key role in the Data Management Subcommittee and the Maternal Death Subcommittee.

SECRETARIAT CHANGES

The current Executive Support to Council and its subcommittees as provided by Ms Jane Wood over the past 18 months will be fully handed over to Dr Jo Jordan. Dr Jordan's office hours are on Monday's and Thursday's within the Divisional Support Unit located on 2/10 Murray Street, Hobart. Dr Parsons acknowledged Ms Wood's excellent support to the Council and wished to extend his sincere thanks to her for her invaluable efforts and support. At Council's last meeting, Dr Parsons on behalf of Council wished to welcome Dr Jo Jordan and her future support to Council.



MEETINGS FOR 2006

Next Council Meetings:

- Thursday 24 August, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room
- Thursday 23 November, 12.30-.00pm, DSU Meeting Room

Next Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity Subcommittee Meetings:

- Thursday 20 July, 1.00-2.00pm, Forensic Pathology, Level 4 H Block, RHH
- Thursday 20 September, 1.00-2.00pm, Forensic Pathology, Level 4, RHH
- Thursday 16 November, 1.00-2.00pm, Forensic Pathology, Level 4, RHH

Note: All other subcommittee meetings will be advised.

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