



## Newsletter - December 2009

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2009! I am very pleased to report that as Chair of Council I was invited to meet with the DHHS Secretary David Roberts on December 2 to raise key issues arising from the 2007 Annual Report as well as other significant areas that Council has viewed as important to progress.

This meeting was very positive and it is hoped that this form of meeting will continue on an Annual basis particularly following the release of Annual Reports etc.

I am also pleased to report that preparations for the 2008 Annual Report are well underway and that key issues arising will be reported in future newsletters in the interim prior to final release of the 2008 Annual Report.

I wish to sincerely thank our Manager and Members for their continued support and significant contributions to Council and its ongoing activities.

On behalf of Council, I would also like to thank readers for their interest in and support of Council activities throughout 2009 and would like to take the opportunity to wish you and yours all a happy and safe Festive Season and the very best for the New Year.

Associate Prof Peter Dargaville  
Chairperson  
Council of Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity



### COUNCIL NEWS

Membership for the new term in accordance with the Terms of Reference includes: A/Prof Peter Dargaville (Chair); Professor Allan Carmichael; Dr James Brodribb; Dr Geoff Shannon; Ms Ros Escott; Ms Flo Jensen, Associate Professor Bipin Gupta, Mr Paul Mason; Dr Michelle Williams & Dr Helen McArdle.

The Council website continues to archive newsletters, Annual Reports and other relevant resource information. The updated website address is as follows:  
<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/copmm>. Please note that *RHH Clinical Practice Guidelines and Protocols* can be accessed from the intranet link included in Council's website. Council will also be exploring the possible future inclusion of the Annual Reports and Newsletters on an internet site for easier public access etc.

Manager, Contact Details: Dr Jo Jordan; email: [jo.jordan@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:jo.jordan@dhhs.tas.gov.au)



## CLINICAL MATTERS

- 1. Child Death Review Framework update** – Updates previously detailed the “*The Child Death and Serious Injury Council of Tasmania*” (CDSIC) comprising broad membership from relevant stakeholders, including COPMM where this CDSIC would be responsible for the assessment of individual reviews; group analysis and public education following the receipt of reports from the original CDRs undertaken by existing bodies (i.e., Coronial, COPMM and DHHS).  
The CDSIC will have the power to require that other Governmental Departments or instrumentalities of the Crown provide detail on how recommendations derived from those reviews would be implemented.  
Drafting instructions have progressed to Parliamentary Council but it is believed that in view of the forthcoming State Election scheduled for 2010 no legislation will be completed prior to this event.
- 2. Statewide Community Paediatrician Position**- The Director of Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services has advised that a meeting of the key stakeholders including himself, the Deputy Secretary, Human Services, RHH Chief Executive Officer and State Advisor, CAFS was held on December 17, 2009 to agree on a process for finalising the statement of duties with a view to move toward an appointment in the early part of the new year.
- 3. Electronic Perinatal Database**- It has been agreed that the EPD will provide a valuable resource for each centre individually and for the whole state. It has been advised that the official order and schedules are currently being finalised where the preferred supplier has recently received the GTC accredited supplier number.  
For ease of implementation in the North West Private Hospital, the ITS has recommended to run the web and slim client module at the same time. In view of the RHH urgently requiring the implementation of the system to fulfil accreditation requirements, it has been suggested to have the application installed in the PCs which will be used to access the perinatal application while the preferred supplier upgrades the web module.  
The preferred supplier will be meeting with the IT Infrastructure Manager and the Messaging and Business Intelligence team of the Department to confirm that the Department is able to host the system and clarify the nature of the messaging interface and to assure it will work as expected.  
A discount of \$3500 has been offered for prepayment of the maintenance and Service Level Agreement fees and half price when purchasing additional concurrent user licenses at the time of initial purchase. A Project Officer will be appointed in each centre to ensure that staff receives effective training on using the new system etc.  
The future implication of the EPD for Private hospitals in Tasmania was considered by Council at its last meeting. It is believed that implementation at RHH will be achieved in early 2010.
- 4. Update on Development of Draft Policy Guidelines**–The Office for the Commissioner for Children on behalf of Council has developed draft policy guidelines for ensuring that where a death is being investigated by the Coroner and a question arises whether a contributing cause was some aspect of clinical management, there will be a clear protocol for providing information and opinion to the Coroner from Council and its Subcommittees, as well as from the clinical team that might be concerned.  
It was agreed for the Council to review these guidelines and ratify at its next meeting.



5. **Meeting with the Secretary-** It was noted that an opportunity had been made available for the Chair of COPMM to meet with the DHHS Secretary to discuss key issues arising from Council's latest 2007 Annual Report.

At the meeting held on 2 December 2009, the COPMM Chair raised major issues of concern arising from the 2007 Report; highlighted progress and implementation of the Electronic Perinatal Database; discussed the latest update on the Statewide Community Paediatrician position; highlighted the process for investigation of paediatric deaths through the reports prepared by COPMM and through the proposed Child Death Review Framework; and finally noted the status of paediatric cases and no fault compensation in Tasmania.

It was agreed by Council that this formal meeting between the DHHS Secretary and COPMM Chair was worthwhile and that Council should seek to establish this as an annual event following the release of future Annual Reports etc

### SUBCOMMITTEES

#### PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity

This subcommittee continues to meet bimonthly to review statewide paediatric deaths and progress actions as they arise. The Director of Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services has confirmed that Ms Liz O'Malley (Manager, Safety & Quality, Office for the Community Sector) has been nominated for appointment as the Senior Child Protection Practice Consultant to the Committee.

This nomination has been accepted by Council and Ms O'Malley's appointment will be undertaken at the next meeting. Dr Chris Lawrence has tendered his resignation as Chair of this Committee due to increased commitments and belief that a paediatrician should ultimately Chair this Committee. Dr Michelle Williams' offer to undertake this role on behalf the subcommittee was approved by Council at its last meeting.

Furthermore, with Dr Anita Cornelius' recent resignation as Paediatric Intensivist representative on this subcommittee, Dr Chris Williams has been invited to undertake this role on the subcommittee, an appointment which was also supported by Council. Review of 2009 cases has nearly been completed.

#### PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity

Review and classification of perinatal deaths (including stillbirths and neonatal deaths) for 2008 will commence soon. Members have agreed to discuss obstetric antecedents and neonatal deaths from 2008 as part of the review process once review and classification of stillbirth cases has been completed.

#### MATERNAL Mortality & Morbidity

No maternal death cases have been reported in Tasmania since the case reviewed in 2006. Progress of the *Australian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System* (AMOSS Project) will be tracked and its relevance to Tasmania's reporting's assessed etc.

It has been noted that information will need to be collected by Tasmania regarding maternal outcomes and that the Commonwealth funding would be available for ~ five years to support collection. It was believed by Council that once data collection for this area was integrated into the Electronic Perinatal Data system, continued collection into the future should be readily sustainable.

#### DATA MANAGEMENT

A meeting (~February 2010) will be held once data entry for 2008 has been completed by Clinical Data Services. Membership (including obstetric, paediatric, midwifery, Council member or nominees; nominees from Clinical data Services Unit; DHHS and statistical/epidemiological nominee(s), Population Health, DHHS) will need to be secured asap.

It is most likely that the Chair of COPMM will also Chair this subcommittee if possible.



### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Membership for the new 2009-2012 term Membership includes: A/Prof Peter Dargaville (Chair); Professor Allan Carmichael (UTas rep); Dr James Brodribb (RANZCOG rep); Dr Geoff Shannon (RACGP rep); Ms Ros Escott (Community Rep); Ms Flo Jensen (ACMTas rep), Mr Paul Mason (Commissioner for Children); Dr Michelle Williams (Tasmanian Branch of the Paediatric Health Division of the RACP rep) & Dr Helen McArdle (DHHS rep).

In view of Associate Professor Bipin Gupta completing his representation as UTAS representative at the end of 2009, a new nominee will be sought from the UTAS Vice-Chancellor as soon as possible. Council agreed that it would be beneficial for the new UTAS representative to have an obstetric background if possible to ensure continued input into the Maternal Mortality & Morbidity subcommittee.

Other significant membership changes related to the composition of the Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity subcommittee as highlighted in this section of the newsletter.

### MEETINGS FOR 2009

#### Next Council Meetings:

- Thursday 25 February, 12.30-2.00pm, venue tbc
- Thursday 20 May, 12.30-2.00pm, venue tbc
- Thursday 19 August, 12.30-2.00pm, venue tbc
- Thursday 18 November, 12.30-2.00pm, venue tbc

**Note: Subcommittee meetings will be advised.**

***Wishing All Readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Fulfilling New Year!***

