



## Newsletter - March 2010

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2010! Preparations for the 2008 Annual Report are currently being progressed with a view to complete as soon as possible once data auditing processes have been finalised by *Clinical Data Services* and data is finally released to Council for processing and reporting etc. 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.

A/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 Brodrigg; Dr Geoff Shannon; Ms Ros Escott; Ms Flo Jensen, Associate Professor Bipin Gupta (as interim), 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.

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### CLINICAL MATTERS

- 1. Child Death Review Framework update** – The "*Child Death and Serious Injury Council of Tasmania*" (CDSIC) that will comprise broad membership from relevant stakeholders, including COPMM, will have the power to require that other Governmental Departments or instrumentalities of the Crown provide detail on how recommendations derived from reviews would be implemented. Drafting instructions have been prepared and forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for the Preparation of a Bill to establish a Council.
- 2. Statewide Community Paediatrician Position**- This position had been signed off in December 2009 and was scheduled to be advertised on the weekend of February 27<sup>th</sup> 2010.



- 3. Electronic Perinatal Database-** A Supplier has been contracted and a System has been presented which will require significant amendment and refinement to ensure compatibility with the Tasmanian setting. A Project Officer has been successfully appointed in each centre to ensure that staff receives effective training on using the new system etc. The issue of congenital abnormalities, stillbirths and neonatal deaths is to be discussed and explored further with a view to install a *Congenital Abnormalities Register* within the EPD system. The future implication of the EPD for Private hospitals in Tasmania continues to be debated by Council. It is believed that web-based system access could provide an effective tool for independent midwives and relevant general practitioners etc. Training with regard to the use of EPD system has commenced at the RHH where it is anticipated that the System will be made live at the RHH at the end of March 2010. Deployment of the EPD system at LGH, NWPB and Mersey will commence following the successful operations at RHH.
- 4. Vitamin Supplementation During Pregnancy**—The position statement of the *Ministerial Thyroid Advisory Committee* recommends that pregnant and lactating women, along with those contemplating pregnancy, take a daily supplement containing 150 µg iodine. Several supplements are available that include this amount of iodine in a single tablet. The NHMRC position statement on iodine in pregnancy and lactation is highlighted on the website link detailed below:  
[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/new45\\_syn.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/new45_syn.htm).
- 5. ANZCDRT Update-** The Commissioner for Children of Tasmania, Mr Paul Mason, is the representative as a delegate of the *Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity* as established under the *Perinatal Registry Act 1994*. A meeting of ANZCDRT is scheduled to be held sometime in April 2010. It has been advised that the Queensland Commission released its fifth annual report on 12 November 2009 analysing the deaths of Queensland children that occurred in the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The full version of the report is available on line  
<http://www.ccyrcg.qld.gov.au/about/publications/reports.html>
- 6. Communication between Council, its Subcommittees and the Coroner-** Recently Coroner Chandler reported that he had requested from the Secretary DHHS a copy of a 2007 Child Death Review that touched upon a particular child, but had been refused, on the basis of *Section 15* of the *Perinatal Registry Act 1994*. The Coroner called for urgent amendment to the *Act* to enable relevant information and opinion to be provided to that Court. Simultaneously, the Department has developed a model for group analyses *Child Death and Serious Injury Review Council* which would include the Department, the Coroner and COPMM and enable free exchange of information between them, but may have no bearing on individual cases. At its last meeting, Council reviewed the implications of these developments for Council and its Subcommittees providing information and opinions to the Coroner, either at the Coroner's request or spontaneously, and reviewed the original purposes and functions of the *Perinatal Registry Act 1994*. It was resolved at the recent Council meeting that the Commissioner for Children Paul Mason would prepare a short options paper for all members of Council to consider before the next meeting in May 2010. The feeling of the meeting reflected Coroner Chandler's concerns that the prevention of preventable deaths probably requires an open flow of communication with the Coroner, but that the 4 original functions of the Council be preserved, namely maintaining registers of relevant deaths, reporting to parliament annually, educating medical and nursing teams about identified individual deaths, providing de-identified information for researchers and responding to Ministerial references.



## SUBCOMMITTEES

### PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity

This subcommittee continues to meet bimonthly to review statewide paediatric deaths and progress actions as they arise. Review of 2009 cases has nearly been completed and review and classification of 2010 cases has commenced.

### PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity

Review and classification of perinatal deaths (including stillbirths and neonatal deaths) for 2008 is near completion. Members have agreed to discuss obstetric antecedents and neonatal deaths from 2008 as part of the review process as soon as possible.

### 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 continue to be tracked and its relevance to Tasmania's reporting's assessed etc.

### DATA MANAGEMENT

A meeting is scheduled to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with membership comprising representation from Neonatal Services, RANZCOG, RACP-Paediatric Branch, ACM, Clinical Data Services, and Epidemiology Unit, Population Health, DHHS. The Chair of COPMM will also Chair this subcommittee. In particular, issues related to the 2008 Annual Report and Electronic Perinatal Database will be discussed in depth.

## 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). Professor Mark Brincat has been nominated by the Vice Chancellor to represent the University of Tasmania on Council once he commences his appointment as Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Hobart Hospital sometime in mid-2010. In the interim, Associate Professor Bipin Gupta has been invited to continue in the role until Professor Brincat commences his appointment.

## MEETINGS FOR 2010

### Next Council Meetings:

- 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.*