



Newsletter - September 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring edition with good news that the 2008 Annual Report is in the final stages of review and editing with an expected release date sometime before September 30th, 2010. The Report will be released electronically with hard copies available upon request. I wish to thank the Council members for their continued support and significant contributions to Council and its ongoing activities. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work and tireless efforts of Jo Jordan, COPMM Manager, who deals with all manner of Council business with patience and aplomb.

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 Brodribb; 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.

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

CLINICAL MATTERS

- 1. Statewide Community Paediatrician Position-** Dr Anagha Jayakar has formally accepted the offer of appointment of this position and will commence in February 2011. Originally from New Zealand, Dr Jayakar holds broad experience in child sexual assault services and will be well-placed to undertake services in Tasmania. Dr Jayakar will be undertaking a locum role in September 2010 prior to commencing her appointment next year.
- 2. Electronic Perinatal Database-** This system (ObstetrixTas) has been implemented statewide and antenatal and antepartum data is now being collected at all Hospitals. Intrapartum and postnatal is progressively being recorded by the hospitals as the pregnancies are entered into the system. Concerns however have been raised that major changes to the system in the future will need to be funded locally by the hospitals.



3. **Amendment of Perinatal Registry Act 1994**—An updated Draft Bill has been developed following previous consultation with and receipt of feedback from relevant stakeholders (including the various Departments including those of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, Police and Emergency Management, Justice, Chief Magistrate and Commissioner for Children). At its recent meeting, Council agreed to support the amended updated Bill. Further to these amendments, Council also agreed to support the proposal to update the short title of the *Perinatal Registry Act 1994* to state the *Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity Act*. The Bill passed the House of Assembly on Thursday 2nd September 2010 and has been tabled in the Legislative Council during the sittings commencing 28th September 2010.
4. **Child Death Review Framework**- The development of a Bill is proceeding and the Bill has been circulated to a working group for feedback at the end of August 2010.
5. **Maternal Deaths in Tasmania**- It was highlighted that in 2010 there have been 3 maternal deaths in Tasmania. These will be reviewed and classified by the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity subcommittee in the near future and recommendations will be developed as appropriate.

SUBCOMMITTEES

PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity

This subcommittee continues to meet bimonthly to review statewide paediatric deaths and progress actions as they arise. The Review and classification of 2010 cases is continuing to be progressed and preparations will commence shortly to progress the 2009 Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity Report.

PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity

Review and classification of perinatal deaths (including stillbirths and neonatal deaths) for 2009 will commence shortly following the finalisation and release of the 2008 Annual Report. Members will continue to include discussions regarding obstetric antecedents and neonatal deaths from 2009 to assist in the review process.

MATERNAL Mortality & Morbidity

It has been highlighted that upto three maternal death cases have been reported in 2010. The last maternal death reported for Tasmania was reviewed in 2006. The more recent maternal deaths reported so far for 2010 will be reviewed by this subcommittee and an appropriate classification will be established. Appropriate recommendations will also be developed based upon the outcome of the review and classification of these cases. 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. al deaths.

DATA MANAGEMENT

This subcommittee again met to progress discussions concerning the finalisation of the 2008 Annual Report and will meet again in the near future to commence discussions and progression of the 2009 Annual Report. Issues related to the Electronic Perinatal Database were also further discussed.



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

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 expected sometime in September 2010. 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 18 November, 12.30-2.00pm, venue tbc

Note: Subcommittee meetings will be advised.