

Hazelwood Health Study Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3/2015

Wednesday 17 June 2015
5:00 – 7:00pm
Tutorial Rooms 4 & 5 (upstairs),
School of Rural Health Latrobe Valley
Latrobe Regional Hospital

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: Judi Walker (Chair), Michael Abramson, Carolyne Boothman, John Guy, Tracie Lund, Kellie O’Callaghan, Tim Owen, Wendy Wright.

By Invitation: Pamela Wood and Susan Whyte (Community Wellbeing Stream), Martin Cope (CSIRO)

Observers: Matthew Carroll (Hazelwood Investigator), Gillian Ormond (Project Manager)
Larissa Attard (Meeting Notes)

Apologies: Michael Ackland, Andrew Wood, David O’Keeffe, Dale Harriman

2. Confirmation of Minutes from meeting held 1 April 2015

The Minutes of the CAC meeting held 1st April were confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

3. Confidentiality issues

- The Committee discussed the difficulties identified with the Confidentiality Agreement for those members representing organisations.
- It was acknowledged that the Agreement was too prescriptive and meant that the organisational representatives could not report to their organisations.
- It was agreed that the intent of the Agreement was reasonable and the requirements of confidentiality are understood by the members.
- It was suggested that a Code of Conduct be developed for members to sign as individuals rather than as organisational representatives.

Action: Draft Community Advisory Committee Code of Conduct.

G.Ormond

4. Study Update

- The Committee reviewed the diagram circulated with the Agenda that provides an overview of the first three years of the study.
- The diagram highlights the different study activities.
- The diagram is now available on the website

4.1 Community Wellbeing Stream

- Associate Professor Pamela Wood outlined aspects of the Community Wellbeing stream and sought feedback from the committee to assist the stream's decision making process.
- Copies of summary report from the Initial impact on community health and wellbeing project 2014 were tabled at the meeting and will be available through the Hazelwood Health Study (HHS) website.
- The 2014 study documented perceptions of the initial impact of the smoke event on community health and wellbeing. Twenty-one people from a range of perspectives were interviewed to gain as broad a view as possible.
- The 2014 study is informing the Community Wellbeing stream and is being used to assist the development of questions for the Adult survey.
- In 2015, the Community Wellbeing stream is researching perceptions of :
 - the impact of the smoke event on community wellbeing
 - community rebuilding activities
 - effective communications during and following the smoke event
- Focus Groups will include vulnerable groups: Neighbourhood House, multicultural community, Indigenous community, and agencies that help people experiencing homelessness. Two of the focus groups will address concerns from surrounding communities in Moe & Traralgon.
- Interviews will be conducted with:
 - Organisers and participants of community rebuilding activities.
 - Media professionals / social media to explore the media coverage, themes and concerns through social media. The media analysis will look more broadly at newspaper and television coverage across the state and nationally.
- In 2016 the study will involve action research with a select number of groups within the community, focussing on issues that are important to them.
- In 2017 the study will review the outcomes of the 2016 action research and 2015 stream activities.

Feedback from the CAC

- Communication is one of the biggest challenges, especially with vulnerable groups.
- The International student cohort and their families were also identified as a vulnerable group who would have little idea about emergency responses.
- It is not certain yet as to who has responsibility for preparing an emergency response plan and communication plan, whether Latrobe City Council or the state government.
- The CAC supported the inclusion of focus groups in Moe & Traralgon
- The CAC advised that there has been some movement in media people across the Valley with some Latrobe Valley Express and ABC staffers moving on. It will be important to capture feedback from these people.
- The CAC suggested Pamela also contact media representatives within key organisations.

Action: Encourage media people to register interest in participating in the study through the website. CAC

Action: Email Gill with ideas / suggestions as to media people to be contacted and with contact details of those who have moved on.

CAC

4.2 Adult Survey (including proposed new measure)

- The summary diagram highlighted that various streams may potentially approach some of the same people at the same time. The study team recently participated in a Stream Coordination Retreat which was helpful in addressing this issue.
- The Adult Survey has been approved by Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee and a close to final version of the questionnaire will be piloted shortly. It may still be reduced in size.
- The study team is working on the sampling frame and will be utilising addresses via Latrobe City Council and the Victorian Electoral Roll.
- Tender documentation is being finalised to engage a research organisation to conduct Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI).
- The study team is working with Prof Sandy MacFarlane (Post Traumatic Stress expert from Adelaide University) to capture people's experiences during the fire using a modified Traumatic Stress Exposure Scale. The items for the revised scale were drawn from the Centre of Research for Resilient Communities (CoRRC) initial impact study which Pamela reported on earlier in the meeting.
- The study team sought feedback from the CAC as to whether traumatic stress questions should be leading or neutral, are the questions too confronting, could they bias the survey, will they help with recruitment or be a barrier?

Feedback from the CAC

- Reference was made to the release of the VCOSS report with initial negative reactions.
- Members considered that there are pros and cons to including questions about traumatic exposure.
- While there was strong support for including items directly relating to the smoke event and drawn from the CoRRC initial impact study, concern was expressed that current wording of some items may be leading and impact negatively on how the community is actually feeling.
- It was suggested that traumatic stress questions be placed towards the end of the survey and that less emotive, more factual words be used.

Action: Amend the wording of the traumatic stress questions.

MC

4.3 Recruitment Issues (including use of incentives)

- A general ethical principle of research is that participants should be compensated for their time and inconvenience but not rewarded so handsomely as to induce them to participate in the research.
- The study team discussed the idea of pens and fridge magnets, however it was considered not relevant for particular streams, e.g. the Schools Study. An alternative approach of offering a prize draw for a \$100 gift voucher for each school was also discussed.
- The Early Life Follow-up (ELF) study has proposed a \$25 payment per person which is manageable due to the smaller size of the study group.
- The study team sought feedback from the CAC on the different approaches to the use of incentives and the impact on study credibility.

Feedback from the CAC

- The CAC acknowledged that the community can be difficult to motivate and understood the potential value of incentives. However, there was concern expressed regarding the impact on the integrity of the study and that the money could be better spent on other engagement activities.
- It was suggested that participation in community events such as school fetes and hosting sausage sizzles at community events, shopping centres, footy clubs, etc would be a better use of study funds and send a positive message of community involvement and provide opportunities to encourage participation. Whilst labour intensive, it is important for the study team to be where the people are.

5. CSIRO Air Quality Modelling Lay Summary

- Martin Cope provided an overview of the Lay Summary tabled at the meeting.
- The initial air quality modelling process enabled the study team to see which communities were most affected and which less affected by the smoke exposure.

Feedback from the CAC

- The CAC felt the summary was at an appropriate level to be understood by a lay person.
- It was suggested that Moe be named on the map.

6. Comparison Community / Adult Survey

- Smoke exposure and demographics were the key factors in determining the comparison community.
- It had to be a rural location with lesser exposure to the mine fire smoke and similar socio-demographics to Morwell.
- The community of Sale had been suggested as the comparison community. There are statistical areas within Sale with comparable social economic indicators.
- The study team acknowledged that the level of interest in Sale will not be as great as Morwell, but it is hoped that 4000 participants can be recruited.
- Visits by study team members to Sale are planned to consult with the Health Service, Wellington Shire Council, local politicians and community groups.
- Once the comparison community is announced, the CAC will be expanded to include representation from Sale – nominees from the Central Gippsland Health Service (CGHS) Board and Wellington Shire and 2 community members selected via expressions of interest.

Feedback from the CAC

- Concerns were expressed about how the survey will be promoted in Sale. Each town is very parochial. It was suggested that Sale will not like being compared to Morwell.
- The towns are in close proximity and have the same media catchment which will assist with messaging.
- There are issues of firefighting capacity, resourcing, media and an “anti Latrobe Valley” sentiment.
- It will be important to highlight the benefits for the Sale community in participating in the study – the benefits of long term health data, potential opportunities to participate in the respiratory stream and cardio vascular stream, the opportunity for research studies involving medical students undertaking the new MD degree.

- The CAC agreed that a consistent message was important and carefully planned release of information essential.
- CAC members agreed on the suitability of Sale as the comparison community to be included in the Adult Survey.

7. Study Website (and photos of CAC members)

- The new website is live.
- Information about the comparison community will be put up after discussion with Sale and announcement at the community briefing.

Action: All CAC members were asked to email head shots to Gill for inclusion on the website. CAC

8. Mid-year Community Briefing

- The study team are planning a briefing for mid / end July to provide the community with an update on progress of the study and make the announcement about the comparison community.
- Milestone 8, the Interim Report has been submitted to the Department and provides good content. Feedback on the report should be received by mid July.
- There was some discussion of the most appropriate venue for the briefing and it was agreed that Kernot Hall was suitable. Community mini buses could be utilised to transfer participants from Mid Valley Shopping centre to Kernot Hall. Using Kernot Hall sends a message that the meeting is important and the study team expect large numbers to attend.
- It was suggested that 2 briefings be held – one during the day and one in the evening.
- It will be essential to publicise and promote the event widely.

Action: Investigate the availability of Kernot Hall for the mid year briefing.

LA

The meeting closed at 7 pm.

10.Next meeting

Wed 16 Sept 1700 – 1900

Hazelwood Health Study

Community Advisory Committee

ACTION LIST

Date Raised	Action Number	Description	Person responsible	Status
17 June 2015	1	Draft Community Advisory Committee Code of Conduct	GO	
17 June 2015	2	Encourage media people to register interest in participating in the study through the website	CAC	
17 June 2015	3	Email Gill with ideas / suggestions as to media people to be contacted and with contact details of those who have moved on.	CAC	
17 June 2015	4	Amend the wording of the traumatic stress questions	MC	
17 June 2015	5	All CAC members were asked to email head shots to Gill for inclusion on the website	CAC	
17 June 2015	6	Investigate the availability of Kernot Hall for the mid year briefing.	LA	Complete