

## POLIO AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Representing polio survivors throughout Australia

### Australian Polio Register

Polio Australia encourages every polio survivor living in Australia (whether you contracted polio in Australia or overseas) to join the Australian Polio Register. Our strength lies in our numbers—please help us to get you the services you need by completing this form and forwarding it to:

Polio Australia, PO Box 500, Kew East, Vic, 3102 or scan and Email: [register@polioaustralia.org.au](mailto:register@polioaustralia.org.au)

This form can also be filled out on line at: [www.polioaustralia.org.au](http://www.polioaustralia.org.au)

**Note:** Due to Privacy Laws, Polio Australia is unable to obtain this information from any other register you may have completed in the past.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Year you were born: \_\_\_\_\_ Year that you contracted Polio: \_\_\_\_\_

Age when you contracted Polio: Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_\_

Place where you contracted Polio:

Suburb/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Were you hospitalised when you contracted Polio?  Yes  No  Don't Know

If "Yes", which Hospital/s (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

In which state/territory are you currently living?  ACT  NSW  N.T.  QLD

S.A.  TAS  VIC  W.A.

Are you a member of your State Polio Network?  Yes  No  Other State Network

If you belong to other State Network/s, which one/s? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a member of your State Polio Network, and would like to be put in touch with your State organisation, please provide your address to receive further information: \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to have my name and polio details published on the Polio Australia site:  Yes  No

If you tick "No" your data will be collected but not published except in anonymous aggregate form.

Email Address (not published) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

Polio Australia Incorporated  
PO Box 500, KEW EAST VIC 3102  
Suite 119C 89 High Street KEW VIC 3101  
Phone: (03) 9016 7678  
Email: [office@polioaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@polioaustralia.org.au)  
[www.polioaustralia.org.au](http://www.polioaustralia.org.au)



## POLIO AUSTRALIA

Australia's polio survivors  
working in partnership  
with health professionals

Polio Australia is a  
Deductible Gift Recipient

ABN 53 620 396 311

ARBN 142 977 053

Incorporated in NSW INC9889902

National Patron: Dr John Tierney, PhD,  
Federal Senator for NSW 1991 - 2005

Representing polio survivors  
throughout Australia

Please visit our website and  
become a Supporter or a Friend

## Polio . . . forgotten, but not gone

In recognition of the need for support for those experiencing the late effects of polio, Post-Polio Networks were established in all Australian states in the late 80's and early 90's. These groups continue to provide information and support services on a voluntary basis to large numbers of their peers and health professionals, generally without the benefit of any public funding.

However, at a forum held in 2007, it was agreed that in order to provide ongoing advocacy and support to Australia's polio survivors, a National body would need to be established. In 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding was developed and agreed by each State Network, a Constitution developed and adopted, and Polio Australia Incorporated became a reality.

Polio Australia's centralised information and education programs ensure the quality of life of polio survivors is maintained, and that they continue in their role as valued, contributing members of society.



## The Late Effects of Polio

Over the last twenty years much attention has been drawn to the development of new, previously unrecognised, symptoms which occur in people who were thought to have reached a stable level of recovery after the acute disease.

In the early years, there was some speculation that the cause might be a 'recurrence' of polio or reactivation of the poliovirus, which is not the case.

Up to 40,000 people were diagnosed with paralytic polio in Australia between 1930 and 1988. This figure must be increased 100-fold to obtain the estimated number of infected cases during the same period (up to 4 million people), and they do not include people who contracted polio overseas and who have since entered Australia.

### Symptoms of the late effects of polio include:

- unaccustomed fatigue unrelated to activity
- decreased strength and endurance
- pain in muscles and/or joints
- an inability to stay alert
- weakness and muscle atrophy
- muscle and joint pain
- muscle spasms/twitching
- respiratory and sleep problems
- swallowing or speaking difficulties

## Mission Statement

Polio Australia is committed to standardising quality information and service provision across Australia thereby ensuring that polio survivors have access to appropriate health care and the support required to maintain independence and make informed lifestyle choices.

## Our Goals

- Educate and inform polio survivors, their families and carers, and the community at large about the late effects of polio.
- Provide information, education and training to General Practitioners and a range of medical specialists and other health professionals to improve the diagnosis and management of the late effects of polio.
- Facilitate the provision of appropriate and consistent health and other support services across all states and territories to improve the treatment and management of the late effects of polio.
- Provide outreach to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) polio survivors to ensure their diverse needs are being met in a culturally appropriate way.
- Advise governments on policy development and programs in relation to the late effects of polio.
- Stimulate research into the late effects of polio.
- Assist the state Networks to support polio survivors and their families, friends and carers at the local level.
- Facilitate and encourage the co-ordination and further development of activities within and between the state Networks.
- Support and promote polio immunisation at a national level, and provide assistance to the state Networks to do so at the local level.