



# Strategic Plan

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2028



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# ABOUT POLIO AUSTRALIA

## **Our Mission**

Polio Australia is committed to standardising quality polio information and service provision across Australia for polio survivors.

## **Our Vision**

Polio Australia's Vision is that all polio survivors in Australia have access to appropriate health care and the support required to maintain independence and make informed life choices.

## **Our Values**

Polio Australia represents the needs of the post-polio community and works with passion and professionalism to educate, advocate and achieve recognition for polio survivors.

## **Our Purpose**

- Educate and inform polio survivors, their families and carers, and the community at large about 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 Late Effects of Polio.
- Facilitate the provision of appropriate and consistent health, disability and aged care support services across all states and territories to improve the treatment and management of Late Effects of Polio.
- Provide outreach to culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Late Effects of Polio.
- Stimulate research into 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.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Polio Australia's **Strategic Plan 2025–2028** sets out a clear framework to support polio survivors and strengthen awareness, education, and advocacy across Australia.

The plan focuses on five key priorities:

- Building the **knowledge and capacity of health professionals** to identify and manage Late Effects of Polio.
- **Empowering polio survivors** through education, self-management resources, and community engagement.
- Fostering strong **partnerships** with member organisations, Rotary, and sector alliances.
- **Advocating** for equitable access to health, disability, and aged care services.
- Ensuring **organisational sustainability** through effective governance, skilled staff, and diversified funding.

Together, these priorities position Polio Australia to continue delivering leadership, connection, and support for the polio survivor community now and into the future.



“We are committed to leading national efforts to support, empower, and advocate for all Australians affected by polio.”

Gillian Thomas OAM,  
President, Polio Australia

# PRIORITY OVERVIEW

1

## Education of Health Professionals

Increase education and awareness of appropriate diagnosis and management of people living with Late Effects of Polio (including Post-Polio Syndrome) among health and medical professionals.

2

## Education of Polio Survivors

Outreach to and educate polio survivors and their family/carers on how to best manage living with Late Effects of Polio.

3

## Partnerships

Build and maintain strong partnerships with our members and participation in alliances among other like-minded organisations for mutually beneficial outcomes.

4

## Advocacy

Lobby and advocate for the rights of polio survivors to access appropriate healthcare and services.

5

## Future-Proofing

Ensure the ongoing viability and sustainability of Polio Australia, as the peak body for polio survivors in Australia, into the future.

# PRIORITY 1 *Education of Health Professionals*

Polio Australia will equip health professionals with the knowledge and skills to recognise and manage the Late Effects of Polio through quality education, webinars, and clinical resources. Collaboration with experts and the maintenance of the Clinical Advisory Group and Health Professionals Register will strengthen professional understanding and improve care outcomes for polio survivors.

**1**

## Health Worker Education Program

Deliver quality webinars and resources to front-line and clinical health workers throughout Australia on the topic of Late Effects of Polio (LEoP) in order to disseminate clinical information that is vital to the safe and effectual screening, assessment, management, and treatment of polio survivors.

Form linkages with key health workers, organisations and academics/researchers to:

- Promote resource acquisition and use within networks.
- Promote population access to LEoP-informed health support.

**2**

## Polio Australia Clinical Advisory Group

Maintain a responsive and informative Clinical Advisory Group.

**3**

## Health Professionals Register

Maintain Health Professionals Register.

# PRIORITY 2 Education of Polio Survivors

Polio Australia will empower survivors to manage their health and wellbeing through information sessions, online support, and practical resources such as the Post-Polio Patient Guidebook. Ongoing communication, inclusive engagement, and connections with state networks will foster knowledge, confidence, and community among polio survivors.

1

## Community Information Sessions

Conduct in-person Community Information Sessions for polio survivors, carers, partners, friends and health professionals.

Host monthly Zoom community chats.

Host NDIS and Aged Care teleconference support sessions three times a year.

2

## State conferences

Host one-day state conferences.

3

## Post-polio resources

Develop and publish post-polio resources, including a Post-Polio Patient Guidebook.

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# PRIORITY 2 Education of Polio Survivors

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<b>4</b>	<b>Communication with post-polio stakeholders</b> Continue to send Polio Australia's quarterly electronic newsletter to existing database and any other interested people.
<b>5</b>	<b>Social media connection</b> Maintain a consistent and engaging social media presence on Facebook, X, YouTube and LinkedIn to provide relevant and up-to-date information on current affairs related to polio, health issues, health tips and other relevant content.
<b>6</b>	<b>Engagement with younger polio survivors</b> Connect with relevant community organisations including ethno-specific services, Migrant Resource Centres, multicultural services, and ethnic media.  Include images of younger polio survivors from migrant and refugee backgrounds in promotional material.
<b>7</b>	<b>Link polio survivors with relevant state networks</b> Encourage state membership at Polio Australia's community education events.  Promote state networks on social media and through any other communication formats.



# PRIORITY 3 Partnerships

Polio Australia will strengthen partnerships with state networks, Rotary, and key organisations to share resources, secure joint funding, and advance shared goals. Active participation in national alliances will ensure the needs of polio survivors are represented in policy, advocacy, and sector development.

1

## State network linkage

Work with the State members to better understand their organisational strengths, weaknesses and resources.

Identify appropriate grant opportunities, that can be applied for solely, or as a partnership between a State Network and Polio Australia.

2

## Enhance Rotary connections nationally

Engage Rotary Clubs and districts in supporting our educational information sessions.

3

## Membership of key organisations and groups

Maintain memberships with key organisations to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes:

- Neurological Alliance Australia
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Assistive Technology For All
- Physical Disability Australia
- International Post-Polio Education Coalition

# PRIORITY 4 *Advocacy*

Polio Australia will advocate for equitable access to health, disability, and aged care services by contributing to government submissions and strengthening parliamentary engagement. Increasing registrations on the Australian Polio Register will support evidence-based advocacy and ensure survivors' voices are heard.

**1**

**Represent polio survivors in health and aged care funding**

Monitor and respond to government submissions relevant to the post-polio community, independently or as part of an alliance.

**2**

**Represent polio survivors in issues relating to disability services, including the NDIS**

Continue advocating for better knowledge of those in the NDIS landscape about polio.

**3**

**Lobbying**

Maintain an active National Patron for Polio Australia.

**4**

**Australian Polio Register**

Increase Australian Polio Register (APR) numbers by encouraging APR registrations at all community events/conferences and in contact with individual polio survivors

# PRIORITY 5 *Future-Proofing*

Polio Australia will maintain strong governance, sound financial management, and skilled staff to ensure long-term sustainability. By diversifying funding and strengthening organisational capability, the organisation will continue to deliver high-quality programs and advocacy for Australia’s polio survivors.

1

## Organisational capacity building

Maintain risk management plan for the organisation for actions to mitigate the ‘weaknesses’ and ‘threats’ identified in the SWOT analysis.

Actively seek out opportunities to up-skill staff supported by Polio Australia (i.e. marketing, advertising, public speaking, emotional support training, Learning Management System development, website management/HTML coding, grant writing).

Develop budgets for all major program areas and measure cost effectiveness of these programs.

2

## Fundraising

Establish revenue streams to support Polio Australia’s operational costs and ability to better connect with members.

3

## Donations and bequests

Strengthen bequest program through more regular marketing.

Send regular invitation-to-donate emails.

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# PRIORITY 5 Future-Proofing

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4

## Seek program funding

Identify and apply for relevant program-based government and philanthropic grants.

Seek out corporate sponsorship for various Polio Australia events/activities.

Future-proofing Polio Australia means ensuring that our mission endures, our voice remains strong, and our impact continues.





# Polio Australia

*Representing polio survivors throughout Australia*

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