

Our Vision

All polio survivors in Australia have access to appropriate health care and the support required to maintain independence and make informed choices.

Our Mission

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

Our Values

As the national peak body, 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 Board Members ensure that Polio Australia complies with legislation, has good governance and is accountable to our stakeholders.

Our staff is a dedicated team of passionate professionals committed to enriching the lives of polio survivors.

Our Strategic Priorities

Priority One

Education

Educating health professionals and polio survivors in the management of the Late Effects of Polio, including reaching out to younger polio survivors.

Priority Two

Capacity Building

Future proofing Polio Australia to ensure sustainability beyond 3 years' funding.

Priority Three

Partnership Development

Enhancing internal and external relationships for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Priority Four

Advocacy and Visibility

Lobbying and advocating for recognition and appropriate service provision for Australia's polio survivors whilst creating positive visibility in the community.

Key strategies undertaken to meet objective

1. 60 workshops per year for health professionals.
2. Workshops for polio survivors.
3. Online workshops/webinars for health professionals and polio survivors.
4. Aged Care/In Home Care/Retirement training package/s.



Actions

- 1.1** In consultation with State Networks, establish workshop locations and venue options.
 - 1.2** Develop networks with health professionals and organisations.
 - 1.3** Form relationships with key health professionals/organisations.
 - 1.4** Encourage health professionals who have attended workshops to enlist in Polio Australia's Health Professional Register.
- 2.1** In consultation with State Networks, run focus groups with polio support groups and discuss concepts with polio survivors on the preferred format/content.
 - 2.2** Develop workshop content.
 - 2.3** Establish locations for polio survivor workshops in conjunction with State Networks/local support groups.
 - 2.4** Promote the workshops among polio survivor support groups and media.
 - 2.5** Gather feedback on the delivery of the workshops.
- 3.1** Determine format/content options.
 - 3.2** Build business plan including revenue model.
 - 3.3** Create marketing plan.
 - 3.4** Produce online course structure.
 - 3.5** Roll out online course package/s.
- 4.1** Identify avenues for training within the Aged Care sector.
 - 4.2** Develop tiered specialty-specific workshops for different workers in the industry.
 - 4.3** Deliver pilot, evaluate format/content, and schedule future workshops.

1 Education

Educating health professionals and polio survivors in the management of the Late Effects of Polio, including reaching out to younger polio survivors.

Key strategies undertaken to meet objective



2 Capacity Building

Future proofing Polio Australia to ensure sustainability beyond 3 years' funding.

Actions

1. Bequest calls.

- 1.1** Target 20 Bequest-specific calls per month.
- 1.2** Send follow up emails with each call.
- 1.3** Send follow up email after 6 months.

2. Program funding.

- 2.1** Identify and apply for relevant program-based philanthropic grants.
- 2.2** Seek out corporate sponsorship for funding grants.
- 2.3** Target gaming/sports organisations/RSL Clubs.

3. Corporate partnerships.

- 3.1** Negotiate for Polio Australia to be a recipient option for corporate workplace giving programs.
- 3.2** Apply for Polio Australia to be a recipient option for various retail-based charity partnership schemes.
- 3.3** Identify and approach companies interested in partnering with Polio Australia to support specific programs, events, or activities.
- 3.4** Actively seek out opportunities to attend funding-related training and information sessions.
- 3.5** Make strategic connections and follow up all relevant contact leads.

4. Program development.

- 4.1** Seek state-based funding to employ part-time community development workers for each state.
- 4.2** Seek funding for Assistive Technology support program.
- 4.3** Seek funding for webinar training production.

5. Core funding.

- 5.1** Seek out and strategise funding/fundraising options to support core operating expenses.
- 5.2** Identify opportunities to support existing program budgets.

Key strategies undertaken to meet objective



3 Partnership Development

Enhancing internal and external relationships for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Actions

1. Stronger links with state polio networks and Board representatives to augment governance.
2. Communication with other organisations regarding outreach strategies to younger polio survivors.
3. Partnerships with private and public primary health organisations.
4. Partnerships with disability and age-related support services.

- 1.1** Combine Polio Australia key activities and events to enable increased Board participation.
- 1.2** Encourage closer involvement between state Polio Networks and Polio Australia's program activities.
- 1.3** Review the skills and experience of all Board members to identify and better utilise diversity and governance capacity.
- 2.1** Contact other polio-based organisations to establish their current practice in supporting younger polio survivors.
- 2.2** Identify the perceived needs of younger polio survivors according to responses from organisations.
- 2.3** Develop a strategy to engage with younger polio survivors, including devising a survey seeking information on priorities and support needs.
- 2.4** Identify health professionals who may be working with younger polio survivors and request they send the survey to their patients, to be returned to Polio Australia for processing.
- 2.5** Work with state Polio Networks to implement strategy to engage younger polio survivors.
- 3.1** Develop links with hospitals (public and private), local health districts and primary health networks to increase knowledge and promotional opportunities for the management and support of the Late Effects of Polio.
- 3.2** Develop relationships with other neurological-focussed organisations for delivery of health services to polio survivors in the future.
- 3.3** Establish and maintain relationships with Health Professional peak bodies for accreditation and marketing of workshops.
- 4.1** Enhance connections with Aged Care and NDIS service providers to extend knowledge of the needs of people living with the Late Effects of Polio.
- 4.2** Establish alliances with educational institutions and other non-government organisations to facilitate effective information exchange.

Key strategies undertaken to meet objective



4 Advocacy and Visibility

Lobbying and advocating for recognition and appropriate service provision for Australia's polio survivors whilst creating positive visibility in the community.

Actions

1. Engagement with younger polio survivors.

- 1.1** Review current practices and invest in increasing engagement with young polio survivors from migrant and refugee backgrounds.
- 1.2** Connect with relevant community organisations including ethno-specific services, Migrant Resource Centres, multicultural services, ethnic media (TV, radio and print), and religious organisations.
- 1.3** Include images of younger polio survivors from migrant and refugee backgrounds in promotional material.

2. Represent polio survivors in health and aged care funding forums.

- 2.1** Monitor and respond to government submissions relevant to the post-polio community.
- 2.2** Develop policy/position papers to support priorities and strategies.
- 2.3** Attend Council on the Ageing (COTA) and other meetings to advocate for polio survivors to have adequate access to assistive technology.
- 2.4** Form alliances with other community service providers who are campaigning for the needs of people who are ageing with a disability.

3. Health promotion and marketing framework.

- 3.1** Develop and implement nationally consistent communication campaigns around community awareness of the needs of people living with LEOp and the services provided by Polio Australia.
- 3.2** Work with state Polio Networks to produce joint communication campaigns with a national focus that aim to heighten the awareness of LEOp and promote membership to the state organisations.
- 3.3** Use social media more effectively to engage with the post-polio community, particularly younger people.
- 3.4** Keep Polio Australia's websites fresh and relevant, and further develop online networking and fundraising options.
- 3.5** Utilise Google Ads more effectively to create a wider online presence.

The Next 3 Years

Polio Australia has made great progress over the last 3 years (2015-2018), particularly in the second half of 2017. This was made possible with financial support from the Department of Health (DoH) from 2017-2020, and Spinal Life Australia (SLA) from 2017-2019.

Key achievements include:

- ▽ Our pursuit of best-practice information, and subsequent interaction with other peak post-polio organisations and health practitioners around the world, was instrumental in bringing about the first ever Australasia-Pacific Post-Polio Conference: *Polio-Life Stage Matters* in September 2016.
- ▽ DoH funding commenced July 2017, enabling us to establish an Australia-wide LEOP Clinical Practice Workshops program. This follows a successful partnership with Rotary District 9685 whereby.
- ▽ SLA funding commenced July 2017, providing the capacity to plan for a self-sustainable future.
- ▽ To assist in the delivery of Polio Australia's messages, we produced seven short promotional videos for our websites.
- ▽ *Walk With Me* fundraising events held in Canberra and Brisbane were highly successful in boosting finances for core expenses.
- ▽ The Victorian (2015) and Queensland (2017) Polio Health and Wellness Retreats continued to provide information, support, and networking opportunities for polio survivors and their family/carers.
- ▽ An on-line Health Professionals Register was established for people seeking health professionals with an interest in the Late Effects of Polio.

Key opportunities and risks ahead

- ▽ Increased capacity for program development through dedicated role seeking financing opportunities.
- ▽ Raised profile through 60 Australia-wide Clinical Practice Workshops per annum.
- ▽ Concentrated efforts to reach out to younger polio survivors.
- ▽ Stay abreast of reforms in NDIS and Aged Care to determine how this may impact on polio survivors.
- ▽ Declining number of polio survivors due to ageing demographic.
- ▽ Long-term leadership and succession planning.

This plan aims to maintain a committed focus on our leadership in clinical education in the Late Effects of Polio, coupled with our aspiration to improve information and service provision for Australia's polio survivors.

With the increase in both financial and staff resources, Polio Australia is confidently moving towards fulfilling many of our long-held ambitions.

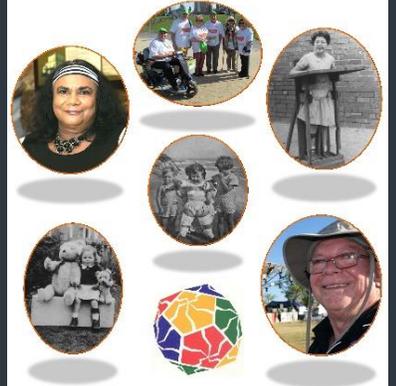
Polio Australia

Representing polio survivors throughout Australia



"We're Still Here!"

The legacy of polio lives on . . .



Polio Australia is committed to standardising quality information and service provision across Australia for people living with the Late Effects of Polio

Purpose

- ▽ To educate Australian polio survivors and their families and community about the LEOP.
- ▽ To source and provide best practice information, education and training to health professionals to improve the diagnosis/management of the LEOP.
- ▽ To facilitate the provision of appropriate and consistent health and other support services.
- ▽ To advise governments on policy development and programs.
- ▽ To stimulate research into the LEOP.

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