



# PSV News

## POLIO SERVICES VICTORIA

A Department of Human Services Program  
St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, 41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy 3065  
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P O L I O  
S E R V I C E S  
V I C T O R I A

ISSUE 18

PSV Hotline Toll Free 1800 030 324

December 2008

### PSV TEAM INTO 2009 (INCLUDING DAYS OF WORK & CONTACT DETAILS)

**JANE HENDERSON**  
Service Coordinator and Physiotherapist  
Monday – Friday 9288 3900

**DARREN PEREIRA**  
Orthotist  
Monday – Wednesday 9288 3838

**MARGARET PETKOFF**  
Occupational Therapist  
Monday & Tuesday 9288 3900

**DR KATHLEEN OOI**  
Medical Specialist  
Wednesday clinics only 9288 3900

**PRIYA DAVIS**  
Orthotist  
Tuesday 9288 3900

**RUSSEL ANBIAH**  
Physiotherapist  
Friday 9288 3900  
(to 30 June 2009)

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### PSV ONLINE

If you have an email address and would be happy to receive this newsletter electronically, please email your email address to: [psv@svhm.org.au](mailto:psv@svhm.org.au).

If you are online, check out the PSV website at: [www.psv.svhm.org.au](http://www.psv.svhm.org.au). You may wish to recommend it to relevant friends, family or health professionals.

### PSV CLINICS FOR 2009

#### Regional

Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bairnsdale
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Wangaratta
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Ballarat
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Mildura
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Leongatha
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Warrnambool

#### Metropolitan

The metropolitan Clinics in 2009 will be held on fortnightly Wednesdays at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, instead of Tuesday afternoons. The waiting list has reduced to 3 months long.

Reviews may be scheduled for a non-medical clinic, held on Monday mornings, with the PSV Physiotherapist and Orthotist (ie. no medical specialist). This has a much shorter wait to appointment.

### PSV STAFF CHANGES

#### Welcome Dr Kathleen Ooi

Dr Kathleen Ooi has been recruited as the new PSV medical specialist. Kathleen brings with her a great deal of rehabilitation experience with a variety of conditions, including polio. She currently works in the Chronic Neurology Clinic at Bethlehem Hospital and with amputees at the Caulfield General Medical Centre. We are delighted to welcome her to the team and look forward to working with her in the PSV Clinics.

#### Welcome back Priya Davis

We are fortunate that Priya Davis has returned to complement Darren Pereira in the orthotic provision to PSV clients. A much needed funding boost this financial year enabled us to secure these additional orthotist hours.

### Introducing Russel Anbiah

Russel commenced with PSV at the beginning of this financial year for 12 months. Russel is an experienced Physiotherapist who was recruited to assist the PSV Coordinator, whose administrative workload increased with the transfer of PSV from the Disability sector to the Health sector of the Department of Human Services. Russel has been providing gait re-education to clients following orthotic prescription and his contribution to the team is much appreciated.

### CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PSV

#### Thank you to Jo Cessario

PSV would like to acknowledge the wonderful service Jo has provided to PSV over the past 10 years. We are very grateful to Jo for her welcoming reception and helpful assistance to PSV clients and staff. We thank her for everything she has done and continues to do for PSV.

### MEDICARE BILLING

Medicare billing for PSV Clinics will resume in 2009. PSV clients will have no out-of-pocket expenses, because the cost will be entirely covered by Medicare.

#### What do you need to do?

1) You need a referral from your general practitioner (GP) or medical specialist to attend the PSV Clinic. Please ensure it includes the name, address and provider number of your doctor. Please ask your doctor to address the referral letter to:

Polio Services Victoria  
c/o – St Vincent's Hospital Melb.  
P.O. Box 2900, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065

**OR** fax it to: (03) 9288 3808

2) Please bring your Medicare card to your appointment.

### AIDS AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM VEHICLE MODIFICATION SUBSIDY

Clients eligible for equipment through the Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP) are now eligible to apply for a vehicle modification subsidy of up to \$10,000 through the Aids and Equipment Program in Ballarat.

#### Eligible

You are able to apply for funding:

- to modify your own vehicle so that you can drive it
- to modify your own vehicle so that you can travel as a passenger

The subsidy (of up to \$10,000) is provided as a contribution towards the purchase cost of modifications and is not intended to pay for the total costs.

When you use a portion of the maximum subsidy of \$10,000 you can submit further applications for assistance, up to a cumulative total of \$10,000.00 over a 7 year period, from the date of your first application. You can re-apply for up to \$10,000 for vehicle modifications after a minimum of 7 years should you require further modifications.

The following modifications are covered under the scheme:

- Conversion of a vehicle for wheelchair access.
- Ramps **fixed** to a vehicle.
- Hoists and specialised seats.
- Specialised trailers, lifters and
- Carriers for wheelchairs.
- Modified driving controls to enable a person with a disability to drive a vehicle.
- Specialised seats.
- Air conditioning for people with thermo-regulatory conditions, e.g. spinal cord injuries.

#### Ineligible

Funding is **not** available for the following:

- Modifications that do not comply with Australian Design Rules or would not comply with VicRoads Standards for Registration.

#### Ineligible (continued...)

- Equipment **already available** under the general A&EP criteria, e.g. portable ramps, child car seats, wheelchair harnesses.
- Items generally available for purchase, including standard trailers, cameras and rear parking sensors, GPS devices, mirrors, cruise control and window tinting etc.
- Vehicle running costs, statutory charges or insurance premiums.
- The purchase of a new or second hand vehicle. The Aids and Equipment Program will only fund modifications for a vehicle. They **will not** give you \$10,000 towards the purchase price of a new or second hand vehicle irrespective of whether it has been modified. **The subsidy is for modifications only.**
- Modification of vehicles owned by organisations.

In accordance with A&EP guidelines, you will require an assessment from an Occupational Therapist, as funding will only be approved if there is a clinical justification for the proposed vehicle modifications. This is to ensure that the proposed vehicle modification is the most appropriate to meet your needs.

The Occupational Therapist will need to submit an A&EP application form together with a vehicle modifications subsidy scheme prescription form to the Aids and Equipment Program at Ballarat Health.

A&EP **will not fund** any modifications that have already been paid for. This also includes deposits paid to hold a vehicle for purchase. A&EP funding approval is provided **before** equipment or car modifications are purchased or completed, not after.

#### Second Hand Vehicles

A&EP can approve funding for the cost of modifications to an already modified second hand vehicle. If you are thinking of buying a second hand vehicle for modification, you need to ensure that the vehicle is road worthy and will last at least 7 years. This is due to the following:

- You are entitled to up to \$10,000 for vehicle modifications every 7 years. If you have spent your allocated \$10,000 modifying your vehicle, you will have to wait another 7 years to re-apply for further funding up to \$10,000. Expensive structural changes to vehicles, e.g. lowering the floor for wheelchair access, cannot be taken out of an old vehicle and placed into another one.

If you have any queries or would like to investigate funding modifications to a vehicle, please contact Margaret Petkoff, Occupational Therapist, Polio Services Victoria, on Ph: 9288 3900.

It is hard to believe that the year 2008 has come to an end. The staff from PSV would like to take this time to wish all our clients a joyous festive season and a safe and healthier New Year. We look forward to continuing our service to you in 2009 and we thank you for your support in 2008.

**THE PSV TEAM WISHES  
YOU ALL A VERY**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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