



# PSV News

## POLIO SERVICES VICTORIA

A Department of Human Services Program  
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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

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PSV Hotline Toll Free 1800 030 324

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### PSV TEAM 2006 - 2007 (INCLUDING DAYS OF WORK & CONTACT DETAILS)

#### JANE HENDERSON

Service Coordinator and Physiotherapist  
Monday – Friday 9288 3900

#### DR GENEVIEVE KENNEDY

Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine  
Tuesday clinics only 9288 3900

#### DARREN PEREIRA

Orthotist  
Mon, Tues, Wednesday 9288 3838

#### MARGARET PETKOFF

Occupational Therapist  
Mon & Thursday 9288 3900

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### PSV FUNDING SUBMISSION

PSV has been seeking an increase in funding to match the demands of the service for several years now. A formal application was submitted to the PSV funding body, the Department of Human Services (DHS) in September 2005. This document outlined the growth in service provision. It reported statistics on the increased number of clients accessing the service.

It detailed the decreased age of new clients, who require more resources over a longer period of time; and the higher percentage of clients from a non-English speaking background, who again have greater needs from the service.

This submission was followed by several other documents throughout 2006. There were also many phone calls, emails and a couple of meetings with the DHS.

PSV has not yet succeeded in acquiring additional funding. However, we continue to lobby the DHS in getting the resources we need to meet your needs, in delivering a more timely and effective service for you.

### PSV SERVICE PROVISION

PSV has had the same staffing hours and numbers and the same funding (excluding an annual indexation increase) since 1999.

This is difficult to manage when in 2006:

- PSV client numbers have grown from 579 to 1158 (a 100% increase).
- The mean age of new PSV clients has reduced from 71 to 43 years.
- The cost of equipment, such as orthoses and wheelchairs, has increased without an increase in the government funding of equipment.
- Staff salary & wages have increased over the past 7 years (at a greater percentage than indexation).

➤ There seems to be less knowledge among health professionals about polio in the community. This has increased the demands on PSV to provide education, and has made it more difficult to refer clients for management in the community, extending the waiting list for management at PSV.

PSV expect that waiting lists will continue to be a problem in 2007. PSV will attempt to manage the growing client numbers by referring clients when appropriate. This will mostly be for review management after comprehensive assessment by PSV, and for non-complex orthotic manufacture, therapy or equipment prescription.

### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Over the Christmas period, several members of the PSV team will be taking a short break – after such a busy year, it is time to re-charge the batteries!

- Jane, Service Coordinator will be on leave from 21<sup>st</sup> December to the New Year. Therefore, unless your query is urgent, general PSV enquiries won't be addressed until Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.
- Margaret, Occupational Therapist, is on leave from Christmas until 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Despite the funding woes, 2006 has been a busy and productive year at PSV.

- ❖ We have seen more of you than ever in our clinics, both at St Vincent's Hospital and at various regional centers around Victoria.
- ❖ We have had more new clients in Hydrotherapy, warmly welcomed by our ever-reliable hydrotherapy 'long-stayers'.
- ❖ PSV have been written about in The Age (in support of increased funding).
- ❖ PSV featured in prime time on the Channel 9 and Win television stations with an article on the E-knee on the Channel 9 News. We attracted interest both nationally and internationally with the first electronic knee joint fitted to the knee-ankle-foot orthosis of our polio client, Ron Bell.

Darren Pereira has been accredited in a new orthotic advancement, a world-first mechanical knee joint. Read on to learn more about this.

#### PSV CLINICS IN 2007

##### Regional

January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Wangaratta
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ballarat
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Traralgon
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mildura
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Leongatha
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Warrnambool

##### Metropolitan

Clinics are held on most Tuesday afternoons at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

### HORTON STANCE CONTROL ORTHOTIC KNEE JOINT

Darren Pereira, Chief of Prosthetics & Orthotics & Orthotic Consultant with Polio Services Victoria, travelled to Little Rock Arkansas in the first week of November to complete certification in the Horton Stance Control Orthotic Knee Joint.

The 2 day course included knee joint development, patient assessment and evaluation, prescription principles, manufacturing and a certification exam. The knee joint is similar to the E-Knee and enables clients, who have previously worn a locked Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (KAFO), to have knee stability in stance but walk with a flexed knee in swing.



Stance phase stability is provided by two mechanisms of activation: weight-bearing and ankle articulation.

The knee joint was originally designed by NASA engineers and released to the Prosthetic & Orthotic community in 2002.

To date, no Horton Stance Control Knee Joint has been fitted on any client in Australia and the St. Vincent's P&O Department will be the first facility in the country to provide the joint.



Darren successfully completed certification and also presented video footage of the successful polio client Ron Bell to Horton Prosthetics & Orthotics. The organisation was very impressed with the P&O department's clinical outcomes and consequently donated a pair of Horton Stance Control Knee Joints (valued at \$3500) to the hospital for use as a diagnostic tool on clients.

Well done Darren. We are all very proud of your expertise in orthotics and your determination to seek the best innovations available for our polio clients.



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