



Sustainable Farm Families Advisory Group

Meeting Seven

**Wednesday 9th December
1 Spring Street - Level 16 Room 2**

MINUTES

1.0 Welcome

John Martin welcomed members to the Advisory Group meeting.

2.0 Attendance and apologies

PRESENT:

John Martin	Director Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities	Latrobe University
Evelyn de Leeuw	Associate Dean Development and Partnerships, School of Health and Social Development	Deakin University
Susan Brumby	Director National Centre for Farmer Health	Western District Health Service
Mike Weise	WestVic Dairy	Dairy Australia
Jenk Akyalcin	Director Primary Health	Department of Health
Angus Howell	Farmer	Farmer Representative
Martin Butler	Farmer	Farmer Representative
Bruce Gibson	Agriculture Program Manager	WorkSafe Victoria
Delwyn Seebeck	Social Policy Committee	Victorian Farmers Federation

Non-Voting Members

Stuart Willder	Men's Health Education	Western District Health Service
Cate Mercer-Grant	SFF Program Manager	Western District Health Service
Tracey Harper	Acting SFF Project Manager	Department of Primary Industries

In Attendance

Pauline Brightling	Dairy Australia	Harris Park Group (Dairy)
Jo Williams	Web Content Manager	National Centre for Farmer Health
Jacqueline Storey		Roberts Evaluation Pty Ltd
Michelle Smith	Marketing Manager	WorkSafe Victoria



APOLOGIES:

Chris Norman	Manager	Department of Primary Industries
Beverley Smith	Manager, Climate Change Adaptation	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Emily Phillips	Manager, Rural Policy	Department of Primary Industries
Pam Oddie	Farmer	Farmer Representative
Nick Gough		Gardiner Foundation

3.0 Introduction new members

John Martin introduced new members to the advisory group – Mr. Martin Butler. It was also noted that Mr. Chris Norman had resigned from Department of Primary Industries and that we were seeking a new representative from DPI. Dr. Pauline Brightling was also welcomed as a new non-voting member to the group.

Guests – Jo Williams and Jacqueline Walker were also welcomed.

4.0 Business arising

Angus Howell asked that the advisory group recognise and congratulate Sue Brumby on her recent Victorian Regional and Community award for work in rural and farmer health.

Martin Butler also advised that Sue awarded the first ever Inaugural Rural Social Work Scholarship to Tess La Fontaine. Please note that the scholarship is named the Martin P Butler Rural Social Work scholarship recognising Martins extensive work in this area.

5.0 Current program status

As reported (refer to meeting PowerPoint presentation) on website

Bruce Gibson asked whether SFF had carried out any analysis as the size of farming business's so that we could ascertain who could actually release themselves from the farm business to attend SFF workshops. To note: *SFF does not obtain that data.*

Jenk Akyalcin (Dept of Health) discussed the importance of finding a solution to the long term sustainability of the SFF program and how the program can be institutionalised within health agencies. It was suggested that we need to continue to raise the profile of the SFF work and how we need to get the data to the health services – so that DHS can in turn use the data as an evidence base for their own organisations. Jenk suggested that regional DHS data may be more helpful

FOR NOTING

Currently SFF sends to health services that undertake 2 or more SFF programs a full report on their health data. This is sent to both the CEO and the SFF Health Professional with an accompanying letter.

FOR ACTION:

Cate Mercer-Grant to develop a regional DHS report commencing with Grampians and Hume and seek feedback from Jenk. Then seek regional DHS report for the program. Also how the 'train the trainer' program can be built up as part of staff development within the health agency training budgets.



6.0 Expressions of Interest

As reported (refer to meeting PowerPoint presentation) on website

It was noted that if anyone within the advisory group who had contacts within Cloncurry or Burdekin they would be greatly appreciated for the Queensland program.

FOR ACTION:

Martin Butler to provide Cate with details of contacts in Queensland (outback)

FOR ACTION:

Cate Mercer-Grant to follow up with Jacqueline Storey her 'beef' contacts at Burdekin.

7.0 Report from Roberts Evaluation – Jacqueline Storey

As reported – PowerPoint presentation as attached

The report was well received particularly Slide 22 representing the baseline data, the increase in capacity, the actions and then the positive effects.

Discussion arose over the concerns noted by the report, particularly in regard to paperwork. Upon further discussion as raised by John Martin it was noted by Jacqueline that this was expressed by the health professionals not the farmers/participants.

A key item for SFF to take away is how to turn the expressed concerns from Health Professionals around to recognise the data collection as a key strength of the program, particularly in relation to:

- Evidence based practice
- Evaluation of the program as a continuum
- Good quality practice feeding back to the program

Stu Willder noted that the programs where this is more of an issue is where the health professionals are not as well organised as they should be which puts pressure on the program and the data collection

FOR ACTION:

Cate Mercer-Grant to follow up some of the concerns raised and look at how SFF can promote these as strengths of the program.

8.0 Conferences and presentations

As reported (refer to meeting PowerPoint presentation) on website

9.0 Report from the National Centre for Farmer Health

As reported at meeting



10.0 Report on the Farmer Health website

As reported – PowerPoint presentation as attached

11.0 Late Business

Code Red

It was acknowledged that a 'Code Red' policy was being developed by Western District Health Service which may potentially impact on the movements of SFF health professionals across the State in the delivery of programs. Department of Primary Industries is also going through a similar process.

Mike Weise

It was discussed that at the next meeting it would be beneficial to have a workshop (facilitated) looking at succession and sustainability issues for SFF with the steering group and other key players at the table.

FOR ACTION:	Cate Mercer-Grant and Sue Brumby to liaise regarding this.
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12.0 Future meeting dates reminder

A reminder to all advisory group members to diarise the following dates:

Wednesday 10th March 2010

Wednesday 9th June 2010

13.0 HMF701 Reminder

Sue Brumby reminded everyone as part of the report from the National Centre for Farmer Health, to consider suitable people in their organisations and communities for the inaugural Agricultural Health and Medicine Program HMF 701 – first in Australia.

Bruce Gibson did suggest that further agricultural participants could be garnered by offering scholarships as part of awards i.e. VFF – Apprentice of the year. Bruce also suggested that some marketing of the NCFH could be tied into the WorkSafe football "games of the month".

FOR ACTION:	Cate Mercer-Grant to send HMF 701 electronic information to both Martin Butler and Pauline Brightling
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FOR ACTION:	Cate Mercer-Grant to follow up with HMF701 Unit Chair for follow up regarding offering sponsorships as part of awards.
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14.0 Meeting closed

2.05pm