**MINUTES**

**of the**

**HGPA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**10/8/15**

**PRESENT:** Fiona Van Leeuwin, Marie-Ann Hockings, Colin Pearce, Steve De Lyall, Lee Fong, Richard Terry, John Goswell, David Smith

**CHAIR:** Fiona Van Leeuwin

An invitation was received from the PHN to be represented at a meeting on 12/7/15 to discuss the establishment of a Clinical Advisory Council. The roles and responsibilities of this body remain unclear but it was agreed that the HGPA, as the only body representing the majority of Hunter GPs should be involved, unless it has only a token role.

**Resolved:** that HGPA accept the invitation.

**Action:** Marie- Anne Hockings; David Smith

It appears that the RACGP has appointed a Hunter representative.

**Resolved:** that this person be invited to join the management Committee.

**Action:** Fiona Van Leeuwin

It was considered appropriate to also invite the Hunter representative of ACRRM to join the Committee

**Resolved:** to identify the ACRRM Hunter representative

**Action:** John Goswell

Dr Guan Yeo, Chair of the RACGP NSW Faculty, will be in Newcastle in October.

**Resolved:** that HGPA representatives meet with him.

**Action:** Colin Pearce; Steve De Lyall

Fiona Van Leeuwin reported that the HGPA presence at the recent HPMI weekend meeting was useful.

**Resolved:** that HGPA be present again next year

It was agreed that Management Committee minutes be available to members and that communications generally could be made more efficient.

**Resolved:** that an HGPA members only mail group and a Management Committee mail group be established

**Action:** Richard Terry; Lee Fong

There was a long and detailed discussion concerning the role and future activities of the HGPA, and how they might be financed. It was agreed that the core business of the HGPA is to advocate on behalf of GPs and of general practice in the Hunter, and that currently the greatest threat to GPs and their patients is the rebate freeze. The risks to the independence of the HGPA, and the risks of its exposure to perceptions of conflicting interests by its acceptance of donations and sponsorship from other than members, was also the subject of spirited discussion.

**Resolved:** that donations from members and future membership fees be used only for advocacy activities, and that it will be appropriate to carefully consider sponsorship for other projects of benefit to members.

HGPA membership now exceeds 200, but it was agreed that attempts should be made to increase this, and that the benefits of membership need to be communicated to potential members.

**Resolved:** that the provision of a poster for display in practices about the rebate freeze be investigated.

**Action:** Richard Terry, Colin Pearce

**NEXT FORMAL MEETING:** 31 August, 2015.