



## ANNUAL REPORT 2011 – 2012

Well, another year has passed and in that time the Foundation has been busy keeping our members in touch and also assisting those from the general community. Over this time we have received many compliments re: our professional approach in conducting our open seminars as well as branching out into the new field of GP education.

Here's a short list of some of our achievements –

- Introduced the first of our life skills workshops on living with a chronic condition (such as pituitary) while having a “social week-end away” – which was held in Geelong. This was very well attended by local and interstate members, and we plan to continue these annually in various states of Australia.
- Applied for various grants to enhance literature writing, both in the adult and paediatric sector. With regret these were unsuccessful, but we continue to strive to gain these grants.
- Hosted educational seminars in most states – Thank you to the presenters involved and our sponsors Novartis, Pfizer, Merck Serono, Novo Nordisk, Ipsen, SciGen, Lilly & Ferring.
- Continued involvement in advocacy to have Human Growth Hormone for deficient adults and adolescents listed for subsidy with the PBS. Notice of failure of the submission in August greatly disappointed many people. The then chairperson of the PBAC commented that it was the best consumer submission he had seen in a long time, with 310 submissions – 3 consumer group submissions and an ESA submission. Members and families need to be commended for their effort. Subsequently APF worked with the Health Consumers Forum and other self-help organisations to reinstate the old legislation regarding approval of subsidised medications with the PBAC.
- Hosted a number of support activities in most states of Australia.
- Developed a new GP Fact File on Pituitary Disease. The Foundation was granted permission to reproduce to Australian standards by the UK Pituitary Foundation. Jennifer Gan, our wonderful medical writer, adapted the file and Dr. Carmela Caputo was the reviewer. It is intended to have this file available on our website for downloading soon.
- Attended various industry meetings such as Endocrine Society of Australia, Australian Paediatric Endocrine Group, Health Consumer Forum of Australia. Also attended advocacy workshops and training for directors to facilitate support activities.
- Distributed our “Is it” - “Acromegaly”, “Cushing’s Disease”, “Prolactinoma”, “Non-Functioning Adenoma”, “Hypopituitarism” booklets to enquiring public and health care providers
- Commenced development of the “Is It Craniopharyngioma” book as an additional resource.
- Released 4 editions of the Pituitary Connection newsletter. Thanks to sponsor Ipsen.

I wish to say a very sincere thank you to the committee, state coordinators and volunteers who have assisted however they could over the last year. These are the people who turn our Mission Statement into a reality. I challenge each of you to seriously consider any contribution you can make to assist us to continue to promote a true awareness of pituitary conditions.

I also must take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Loretta Schar and Lisa Clancy, who will retire from their directorship of the Foundation at the AGM in September.

Noel Hickey, Chairperson.