



POST - POLIO NETWORK (NSW) INC.

Supporting polio survivors and their families since 1989

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MEDIA RELEASE

Just like the Sydney Harbour Bridge – we're still here !

Post-Polio Awareness Week : 1 – 7 November



While polio no longer threatens our society today, it is not forgotten by the thousands of Australians who contracted the disease during the epidemics last century and who are now experiencing the late effects of polio.

Polio survivors are very much “still here” and in growing need of comprehensive health and support services.

As the Post-Polio Network (NSW) celebrates its annual *Post-Polio Awareness Week*, President Gillian Thomas is calling for better recognition by health professionals of the long-term consequences of polio, and urging all polio survivors to make contact with the Network.

The late effects of polio have a profound affect on sufferers who may experience new muscle weakness, excessive fatigue or pain. Many suffer loss of mobility and resultant loss of independence. As long as even one person is battling the late effects it cannot be said that the world is truly free of polio.

Help is available through the Post-Polio Network (NSW) Inc which was formed by polio survivors for polio survivors in 1989. The Network provides information and support to people experiencing the late effects of polio, their families and carers, and works in partnership with health care professionals in the management of polio's late effects.

Members receive quarterly Newsletters, while information seminars are held regularly in the Sydney metropolitan and New South Wales country areas. An active network of some thirty support groups has been established throughout the state. This provides members with the opportunity to meet locally in a smaller group to exchange polio stories, information, and knowledge of local services available.

A Membership Information Kit can be requested by writing to the Network at PO Box 2799, North Parramatta NSW 1750, phoning (02) 9890 0946, or emailing office@post-polionetwork.org.au. The Network provides best-practice information to maximise polio survivors' well-being and quality of life – all services are funded solely through membership subscriptions and donations.

If you are interested in speaking to a member of the Post-Polio Network (NSW) for a local interest story, or would like more information about the late effects of polio, please contact the Network.

Please visit our Website: www.post-polionetwork.org.au

Patron: Professor Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE FAA FRS