

MEDIA RELEASE
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Phil Davis of Greater Western Sydney Kicks off Kidney Health Week Joining as an Ambassador

Kidney Health Australia will run the annual Kidney Health Week and what better way to launch than with the announcement of a new team member. Phil Davis, Co-Captain of the Greater Western Sydney Giants will join the charity as an Ambassador.

Kidney health is of utmost importance to Phil after facing the loss of a kidney in 2014 after being injured during an on field collision against the Sydney Swans. Two operations ultimately saved Phil's kidney and since that time maintaining his kidney health has been a priority. Through his role with Kidney Health Australia he hopes to create a greater awareness of kidney issue and risk factors.

"Acute Kidney injury is a real concern in a hard tackling sport like Aussie Rules. I'm truly thankful for all the doctors did to save my kidney. In my role as Ambassador I hope I can fight as hard as I do on the footy field for people with kidney issues, whether that be injuries or disease," said Davis.

'1 Kidney Check' is the theme for this year's Kidney Health Week, which will be held from May 22-28. Kidney Health Australia CEO Anne Wilson said early detection and effective management can halt chronic kidney disease (often known as the silent killer) or slow progression by as much as 50%.

"An estimated 1.7 million Australian adults have signs of it, yet 90% are unaware as there are no distinct warning signs and you can lose 90% of kidney function," said Ms Wilson, "the kidneys are vital organs – just like the heart, brain, or lungs – if they shut down, your body shuts down."

Phil joins Kidney Health Australia's growing team of Patrons and Ambassadors that include actor Frankie J. Holden, Australian cricketer David Hussey, X-Factor contestant Rochelle Pitt, Dancing with the Stars US choreographer Sharna Burgess, Lady Margaret Brabham and Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove. Phil in his role hopes to encourage Australians to regularly 'kidney check'.

Phil has shared his story in the '1 Kidney Check' gallery and urges others to share their stories by visiting kidney.org.au/kidney-check. Anne Wilson said that whilst there is growing awareness of kidney health we need to maintain momentum and growth. For more information about Kidney Health Week and kidney disease and its associated risk factors, visit kidney.org.au or find Kidney Health Australia on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Kidney Health Australia, formerly the Australian Kidney Foundation, is a national health care charity with a vision 'to save and improve the lives of Australians affected by kidney disease'. As the national peak body, Kidney Health Australia promotes good kidney health through delivery of programs in education, advocacy, research and support.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:

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You are at increased risk of developing kidney disease if you:

- Have diabetes
- Have high blood pressure
- Have established heart problems (heart failure or heart attack) or have had a stroke
- Have a family history of kidney failure
- Are obese with a body mass index (BMI) 30 or higher
- Are a smoker
- Are 60 years or older
- Are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- Have a history of acute kidney injury

