



Media Release –28 January 2016

One Australian Dying with Kidney Related Disease Every 25 Minutes

Early detection and prevention of kidney disease needs to become one of the national 'Big Ideas' of 2016, according to Kidney Health Australia.

Anne Wilson, CEO and Managing Director of Kidney Health Australia (KHA) said, **“One Australian is dying with a kidney related disease every twenty five minutes.**

Approximately 1.7 million Australians (1 in 10) aged 18 years and over have indicators of chronic kidney disease such as reduced kidney function and/or the presence of albumin in the urine and less than 10% of these are aware they have this condition. This means over 1.5 million Australians are unaware they have indicators of chronic kidney disease, setting the scene for a significant impact on the health budget.”

Ms Wilson said with so many Australians undiagnosed, **it is critical that early detection and prevention of kidney disease** becomes one of the national 'Big Ideas' called for by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

Currently 56 Australians die each day with kidney-related disease.

“This is more deaths per day than from breast cancer, prostate cancer or road traffic accidents - a statistic that remains largely unknown.”

Ms Wilson said if you are in that 1.5 million people who have undiagnosed kidney disease, a major consequence is up to a 2-3 times increased risk of heart attack or stroke, because kidney disease is very closely linked to heart disease and diabetes.

Failure to recognise the level of kidney disease in Australia is an extremely pressing national health issue which can be substantially addressed with early detection, prevention and good management over the long term.

Ms Wilson said the key factor that needs recognition in the national health budget and policy framework is that if kidney disease is caught early, it can either be halted or progression to end stage kidney disease can be slowed by as much as fifty percent.

Investment in early detection of chronic kidney disease requires national recognition to not only address increasing costs to the health system but importantly to reduce the burden of the disease to those affected by improving their quality of life.

Kidney Health Australia is urging awareness of the fact that you can lose up to 90% of kidney function before experiencing any symptoms, which is why kidney disease is known as the Silent Killer, Ms Wilson said.