

The Primary Care Awards

Kidney Health Australia believe that every person at risk of kidney disease should receive a regular kidney health check and subsequent evidence based care to reduce the progression of their kidney disease. To recognise excellence in this field we introduced a new Awards program in conjunction with kidney health week in 2016. The new awards celebrate individuals or organisations working in Primary Care who deliver best practice detection and management of kidney disease.

A broad range of nominations were received throughout the month of April in the categories of Primary Care Individual; Primary Care Clinic or Group and Other Primary Care organisations.

The Awards were adjudicated through Kidney Health Australia's Primary Care Education Committee, an expert committee, comprising prominent kidney specialists, health professionals and educators.

The inaugural Primary Care Awards were kindly sponsored by Amgen.

The Award Winners are announced:

The winners of the Inaugural '**Kidney Health Australia Awards for Excellence in the Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Primary Care**' were announced during Kidney Health Week (22nd – 29th May) 2016.

Kidney Health Australia's Interim CEO Rosanna Care said, every person at risk of kidney disease should receive a regular kidney health check.

"Congratulations to the winners. Given our recent State of the Nation report on the 'hot-spots' for kidney disease it is encouraging to see best practise is already occurring at a primary care level. It is those receiving these awards who are making this happen. We will continue to strive to see this level of care implemented across Australia to stop the march of chronic kidney disease," she said.

"We'd like to see primary care practices around the country implement patient registers for chronic disease, with a recall and reminder system for patients and regular auditing of kidney check practices."

"These awards recognise the good work already being done in the important areas of detection and prevention at a primary care level.

The winners are:

Overall Winner & Category Winner – GP Practice

Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre

Runner-up & Certificate of Excellence Awarded

Shoalhaven Medical Centres

Category Winner – Individual

Ms Sarsha Kalker – Registered Nurse

Category Winner – Other

Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation

Certificate of Excellence Awarded

Dr Wayne Cooper, General Practitioner

The Winners Events

Each of the above winners were presented with their award at a small ceremony attended by KHA staff, practice staff, the award nominator, and in some instances local media and local identities.

Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre – Winners Overall Award

On Monday 30th August Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre was presented with their award for finishing as the overall winners for the '**Kidney Health Australia Awards for Excellence in the Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Primary Care**'. The award was presented by Breonny Robson, National Primary Care Education Manager. The award was celebrated with a morning tea provided by KHA. The Medical Centre had blocked off time in their busy Monday schedule so that all staff could share in the celebration. In addition to the morning tea presentation, the winners were also given a pack of KHA resources with copies of all our publications for health professionals and patients. The award presentation was attended by:

Aberfoyle Park medical Centre

General Practitioners: Dr Terry Rose, Dr Barbara Clapp, Dr Inge Van Leeuwen, Dr Andrew Boyd

Practice Staff: Natalie Frisby-Smith, Fiona Morrison, Suzanne White, Jan Hann (Practice Manager), Jonathon Rose (Psychologist)

Kidney Health Australia

- Breonny Robson (National Primary Care Education Manager)
- Claire Sheeky (Primary Care Education Coordinator)



Back Row: Practice Staff - Natalie Frisby-Smith, Fiona Morrison, Suzanne White, Practice Manager - Jan Hann, Psychologist - Jonathon Rose
Front Row: Dr Barbara Clapp, Dr Terry Rose, Dr Inge Van Leeuwen, Dr Andrew Boyd

Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre received the award for their work in developing an automatically updating patient register for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), Diabetes, Hypertension and Cardiovascular disease where patients are identified, recalled and managed as per the CKD guidelines.

The GPs and staff at Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre were very excited to have won the award. Upon being notified that they had won this award, they put an announcement up on their website <http://www.apmc.care/news> and also printed and laminated copies for their waiting room. It was a great sight to see!

This is what they had to say in their own words...

Using our own software, we have been able to identify patients who potentially may have kidney disease.

Our Practice Nurse (Robyn Whateley has flagged the files of those at risk and our Doctors are following up with investigations and treatment as required.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is an often unrecognised and important chronic disease in its own right, affecting one in ten adult Australians. It is responsible for an 2.5 fold increase in death from a heart attack. CKD also occurs in conjunction with other chronic diseases. It affects and is affected by Diabetes, Hypertension, Strokes, Peripheral Vascular Disease and Heart Disease.

At Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre, we have drafted the term Glucorenovascular Disease to describe the multifold interrelationships between these diseases when they occur together.

An integrated care approach to managing CKD, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.....

Our Practice Nurse, in conjunction with computer based management systems have enabled us to take the management of Glucorenovascular disease and Multimorbidity to a level not otherwise achievable.

On discussion with Dr Terry Rose, the GP who wrote the software that led to their excellence award, he shared with me a story about how their practice became interested in CKD detection and management: A number of years ago their Practice Manager Jan's Mum was unexpectedly diagnosed with late stage kidney disease. He expressed that the diagnosis was somewhat of a shock as she did not have any symptoms of kidney disease. Jan's Mum has since passed away but it has spurred on the health professionals in their practice to identify people with kidney disease and ensure that they are receiving best practice care.



General Practitioners: Dr Barbara Clapp & Dr Terry Rose with their award



Breonna Robson presenting the award on behalf of KHA



Dr Terry Rose, KHA's Breonny Robson & Dr Andrew Boyd with the excellence award



Practice Staff celebrating their award

We are very pleased to have been able to present Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre with this award and look forward to being able to work with them over the next twelve months to improve the detection and management of CKD in Primary Care.

Sarsha Kalker – Winner Individual Category

On Thursday 26th May Sarsha Kalker, a Practice Nurse at Hill Medical Centre in Noble Park Victoria, was presented with an award for winning the individual prize for the '**Kidney Health Australia Awards for Excellence in the Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Primary Care**'. The award was presented by Lisa Murphy (Kidney Cancer Program Manager) and Annette Smith (Community Relations Manager) of Kidney Health Australia. The award was celebrated with a morning tea provided by KHA. The Hill Medical Centre staff took time from their busy Thursday morning schedule to congratulate Sarsha on her award. Joining the team from the Hill Medical Centre for the award presentation was Annette Bezzant from Monash Medical Centre. Annette was Sarsha's project advisor and also nominated Sarsha for the award.



Sarsha Kalker receiving her award from Lisa Murphy

Sarsha Kalker received the award for her work in developing a nurse led chronic kidney disease clinic at Hill Medical Centre. Sarsha lead the practice nurses in the medical centre in running the chronic kidney disease clinic. The clinic screens at risk patients for CKD, stages the severity of CKD, and implicates appropriate management plans. Last year Sarsha presented her project at the 7th Australian Practice Nurse Association National Conference under the theme 'Practice Innovation and Leadership'.



Annette Bezzant, Sarsha Kalker and Lisa Murphy



Sarsha Kalker outside her clinic room

Sarsha was absolutely thrilled to have won this national award. When Sarsha found out that she had won the award she was utterly stunned and felt incredibly honoured. Winning the award meant a huge amount to Sarsha and the team at Hill Medical Centre.

Looking into the future, Sarsha and her practice nurse team will continue with the CKD clinic to improve detection and management of patients with CKD in primary care. I mentioned to Sarsha that she should consider writing her project up and submitting for publication in a peer-reviewed medical journal. Annette Bezzant her project supervisor said she would support her through the process.

Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation – Winner ‘Other’ category

During the recent Kidney Health Week the newly appointed National Indigenous Project Officer Michael Mullins attended the Aboriginal Organisation the Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation which is located in the township of Casino of New South Wales.

Michael travelled to Casino on the 27th May 2016, to present to them with a Certificate for their Award of Excellence for their service in addressing Chronic Kidney Disease in their region.

While there he met with the Chief Executive Officer Mr Steve Blunden and some of his key staff members to discuss some of the possible opportunities that may arise in the near future.

The Official presentation of the Award was done to coincide with the Reconciliation Day Celebration where Michael presented the Award to the Chronic Disease Coordinator Mrs Kylie Wyndham and the Clinical Staff Graham Turner and Debbie Caldwell.

He acknowledged their tremendous work in addressing Chronic Kidney Disease and hopes that Kidney Health Australia can look forward to working more closely together in the future.



Michael Mullins (KHA), Mrs Kylie Wyndham, Debbie Caldwell, Graham Turner

Shoalhaven Medical Centres – Excellence Award Runners-up & Certificate of Excellence recipients

On Thursday 9th June Shoalhaven Medical Centres were presented with their certificate of excellence and award as runners up for the **'Kidney Health Australia Awards for Excellence in the Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease in Primary Care'**. The award was presented by Daniel Glaubert, NSW Support Services Manager for KHA.

The award was presented at a large celebration that was attended by over 25 practice staff, the local MP, the Mayor, renal unit staff and the local TV news.



Ann Sudmalis, Federal Member for Gilmore, Daniel Glaubert, KHA, Shoalhaven Medical Centre Staff

Shoalhaven Medical Centres finished as the runner up in the overall awards and have been recognised for demonstrating excellence in identifying chronic kidney disease (CKD) in their practice. The practices have been running a Keeping Kidneys OK program since 2012. This program teaches patients what lifestyle changes they can make to slow progression of kidney disease.

The Shoalhaven area was identified in a recent Kidney Health Australia report as a CKD 'hot spot' area, with an estimated 20% of the adult population having signs of CKD, which is double the national average. **This award highlights the excellent steps this practice is implementing to make a difference to the health and outcomes for the local community.**

The event was widely covered by local media and an article and accompanying video was published online by the South Coast Register.

<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/3955686/medical-centre-receives-national-recognition/>

The following is an interview with the Coordinator of the Keeping Kidneys OK program, Christine Campbell:

The Chronic Kidney Disease Program was introduced to Shoalhaven Family Medical Centres in 2012.

"This involved extensive training for nursing staff and general practitioners on the use of the revised Australian Chronic Kidney (CKD) disease guidelines," Ms Campbell said.

"Implementing additional screening processes where all clinical staff review the renal health of patients as a part of a clinical vital sign.

"A Chronic Kidney disease Nurse was appointment to coordinate ongoing education and interventions with system integration and changes regarding chronic kidney disease.

When chronic kidney disease is identified and treated early, the progression of kidney disease can be delayed.

"Kidney disease is a silent condition- patients can lose up to 90% of kidney function without warning signs, therefore many patients are unaware of the deterioration in their kidney function," Ms Campbell said.

"By attending the Keeping Kidneys OK sessions, patients learn what lifestyle changes they can make to slow progression of kidney disease.

"It is often challenging for patients to implement and maintain lifestyle changes when they don't feel well.

"Many patients with chronic kidney disease also have other health conditions including diabetes, heart disease, stroke or high blood pressure and can have competing health priorities."

Outcomes

The Inaugural Primary Care Awards were a hugely successful venture. Not only did they recognise individuals and groups for their hard work and commitment to people in Australia at risk of and living with CKD, but they also raised awareness of KHA and kidney disease throughout Kidney Health Week.

Each award recipient was very proud of their achievement and showed genuine enthusiasm and excitement at winning the award. This demonstrates that to health professionals who are on the ground delivering outstanding care to patients, being recognised with an award is a big deal. To be able to recognise this care and share their achievements with others in their community is one way that KHA can support those in Primary Care who are making a difference.

Our intention is to expand this inaugural awards program so that it is further recognised and lauded by the broader Primary Care community and to implement the awards as an annual event from 2017.

Contact

For further information regarding Kidney Health Australia's Primary Care Awards, please contact

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