

## Welcome

We are pleased to provide an update of activities since the Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium, hosted 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.



### The Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium Report was released on the 12th November 2017

**Link for report:** Hughes JT, Dembski L, Kerrigan V, Majoni SW, Lawton PD, Cass A. (2017). Indigenous Patient Voices: Gathering Perspectives Finding Solutions for chronic and end stage kidney disease, 2017 Symposium Report. [online] Darwin: Menzies School of Health Research. Available at: <http://bit.ly/2znSx7d>

**Link for videos:** <http://bit.ly/2zBw4ol>

### Why have the Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium?

All Australians should equally access high quality health care. It is an Australian national safety and quality standard that health services are able to receive patient feedback, in order to create the best health care systems, so patients can have the highest quality health outcomes.

The Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium, involved more than 80 people, and marked the first meeting bringing together patients, carers, kidney health specialists, policy makers and health care user advocates (Polycystic Kidney Foundation and Kidney Health Australia) within the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Annual Scientific Meeting.

**The Symposium was an extraordinary meeting of coming together, learning from each other and recognising ways to support patients to achieve best health outcomes, through creating and supporting an effective and sustainable national health policy.**

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### In this issue:

Where to find the Report	1
Why did we have a Symposium?	1
Key Report Themes	1
Feedback from Minister Wyatt AM and Close the Gap Campaign	2
What happens next?	2

### Report Key Themes

- Respect
- Information and Education
- Kidney Care close to home
- Access to specialist treatments including transplantation
- Workforce enhancement- building a culturally safe workforce and valuing and building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the kidney workforce

The Report includes a detailed Call to Action to drive change at local, state, Territory and Federal levels.

### Key Contact

Dr Jaqui Hughes,  
Senior Research Fellow  
Menzies School of Health Research  
[www.menzies.edu.au](http://www.menzies.edu.au)  
Email: [jaqui.hughes@menzies.edu.au](mailto:jaqui.hughes@menzies.edu.au)  
Phone: 08 8946 8518

## Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee

Our purpose was to document your Voice- the Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium Report- to support a nationally effective kidney health advancement strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and families impacted by kidney disease. To enable this, Prof Tom Calma AO invited the Report to be submitted to the Close the Gap Campaign.

The Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee, including Co-chairs Ms June Oscar AO & Mr Rod Little, have provided a letter of support for the Report and

***“the need to strive to close the gap in access to health care and improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living with Kidney Disease”.*** We thank the Close the Gap Campaign.



### Symposium Videos & Logo

The videos are useful for patients, families, health staff and policy makers.

<http://bit.ly/2zBw4ol>

Ms June Mills of Larrakia Nation Arts created the Indigenous Patient Voices artwork.

## Minister for Indigenous Health, Hon Ken Wyatt AM

*“Turning around the tragedy of this disease is one of my top priorities. Our men suffer kidney health problems at five times the rate of non-indigenous men and the onset of kidney disease is at a much earlier age in indigenous people. The rates of kidney disease steadily increase from 18 years as compared to 55 years for non-indigenous.*

*I will say much more about this in the coming months, but I am totally committed to working with communities and health practitioners across our nation to reduce the impact of renal failure and, even more importantly, to prevent it happening in the first place. This means solutions that help people now, but also grassroots strategies that will help ensure our men, women and families continue reaping the benefits in five, 10 and 20 years – for the rest of their lives.”*

Minister Wyatt was quoted 10/12/17 by Marie McInerney, <https://croakey.org/listen-to-indigenous-patient-experts-on-how-to-transform-renal-care/>

### Next Steps

We all need to be ready in early 2018 to assist Minister Wyatt and state and Territory politicians and health service leaders to implement the Indigenous Patient Voices Symposium Report recommendations.

The Report was also recently presented to the Northern Land Council Executive Council, who identified action items they will implement.

**Please share this newsletter with health service leaders and leaders in your community so they know they have your support to drive change and build the best health care systems for all Australians.**

### Thankyou

Kidney Health Australia together with Astellas, Novartis and Baxter provided travel funding for patient and carer delegates from outside Darwin for the Symposium.

**Others to thank:** Symposium delegates; Nightcliff Dialysis Unit; Purple House & Panuku (WDNWPT); Miwatj Health; Kimberly Renal Service; Top End Health Services; Mr Sam Mills (Torres & Cape Hospital and Health Service); Prof Tom Calma AO & Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee; Minister Ken Wyatt AM; Northern Land Council Executive Council; Dr Steven May (Nephrologist, Tamworth); Prof Alan Cass; Menzies School of Health Research; Australia & New Zealand Society of Nephrology; Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.