



Big Red Kidney Bus Breaks Down Barrier to Holiday for Patients

Richard Yann, apart from managing a busy professional life and just becoming a new father, also has to find 3 days a week to be on life saving dialysis - a treatment required for kidney disease by some 11,500 Australians.

For most kidney patients and their families dialysis makes a holiday out of reach.



Richard with Lachlan, Lisa and David Hussey in the Big Red Kidney Bus

[Click the image for the YouTube interview](#)

However, Richard with his wife Lisa and new baby son Lachlan recently took a break at the Royal Botanic Gardens where he dialysed in the Big Red Kidney Bus. David Hussey, Richard's friend, Kidney Health Australia Ambassador and international cricketer, visited Richard to see how the Big Red Kidney Bus operates.

The joint project by Monash Health, Kidney Health Australia and Latrobe Bus Lines, is a first of its kind and allows the Big Red Kidney Bus to act as a travelling dialysis service that visits various holiday destinations around the State.

Patients can look-up where the bus is going, book a time and receive dialysis whilst on holiday in that area. The service enables people on haemodialysis, their families and friends to have a holiday away from their home, which would otherwise be so difficult.



Jo Fairbairn, Community Education and Big Red Kidney Bus Manager explains the program and its success.

Click the image for the YouTube interview

About the Big Red Kidney Bus

327 bookings in first 12 months.

Kidney Health Australia owns the bus.

Monash Health provides the dialysis service with one nurse and one renal technician.

The Big Red Kidney Bus provides holiday dialysis currently in Victoria at popular holiday locations, and stays for 6 weeks in holiday parks.

Dialysis patients from NSW, SA, QLD, WA and TAS have booked holiday dialysis.

Where will the bus be going in 2016?

Lakes Entrance, (bookings have grown by 68% since Lakes Entrance 2014 the first holiday location), Mildura, Echuca, Halls Gap in the Grampians, in spring when the wild flowers are blooming, and Lorne.

Education

The Big Red Kidney Bus Education reached more than 3,000 students and teachers in Victorian primary schools in 2015. We are also creating awareness and educating in health promotion, prevention and the importance of early detection in local Rotary Clubs where the bus is staying.

For more information on the Big Red Kidney Bus, visit www.kidney.org.au

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