

MEDIA RELEASE
July 25, 2015

Kidney Health Australia pays tribute to Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith

Kidney Health Australia has paid tribute to its founding member Emeritus Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, who passed away earlier this month, aged 88. Kincaid-Smith was a pioneer in the field of renal medicine and one of Australia's foremost kidney specialists.

Kidney Health Australia CEO, Anne Wilson, said Kincaid-Smith had also been a pioneer for women in academia.

"Professor Kincaid-Smith was the first woman to be appointed Professor at the University of Melbourne and became President of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, the International Society of Nephrology, and the World Medical Association," Ms Wilson said.

Kincaid-Smith AC CBE was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She received her BSc (Hons) in 1946 then studied medicine, graduating in 1950 with a BMBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery).

From 1951 to 1953, she worked at the Baragwanath Hospital in Johannesburg, before traveling to London to study pathology at the Hammersmith Hospital on a project that initiated her interest in kidneys, blood vessels and high blood pressure. Having received a Diploma in Clinical Pathology in 1954, she began working on the treatment of malignant hypertension.

Kincaid-Smith worked as a Research Fellow at the Baker Institute for a year and then as a Senior Associate in Medicine at the University of Melbourne (1961–65). She was also involved in setting up the renal transplant program at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

In 1967, Kincaid-Smith was appointed a full-time Associate in Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and received her Doctor of Medicine in 1968. In the 1970s, she focused on the prevention of renal failure, and in 1975 was appointed Professor of Medicine at the University of Melbourne and held that position until her retirement in 1991.

"Kidney Health Australia and Australia's kidney community are deeply saddened by the passing of its founding member, former Honorary Life Member and former Board Chair, Professor Kincaid-Smith. Our deepest sympathies and condolences are extended to her family and loved ones at this sad time," Ms Wilson said.

"Professor Kincaid-Smith's work in nephrology has been profound and her legacy will be enduring."

Kidney Health Australia 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.

-ENDS-

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:

Cassandra Bradshaw

National Media and Communications Manager

Kidney Health Australia

T (03) 9674 4313 M 0402 346 197

cassandra.bradshaw@kidney.org.au