



Media Release –28 January 2016

Operation 2590 Targets Early Detection of Silent Killer

This year over 20,000 Australians will die with kidney related disease

One Australian is dying every **25** minutes with kidney related disease which has become known as the Silent Killer. People can lose up to **90%** of their kidney function before experiencing any symptoms.

Kidney Health Australia has therefore launched **OPERATION 2590**.

It is estimated that over 20,000 Australians will die in the next 12 months with kidney related disease.

Anne Wilson CEO and Managing Director of Kidney Health Australia said the Australian community and the Australian health system is facing major challenges given around **90% of the 1.7 million Australians who have indicators of chronic kidney disease are largely unaware they have a potentially life threatening disease.**

Anne Wilson said, “if chronic kidney disease can be detected early and managed appropriately, then the otherwise inevitable deterioration in kidney function can be reduced by as much as 50% and may even be reversible.”

In 2012 the total cost attributable solely to chronic kidney disease in Australia was an estimated \$4.1 billion made up of \$2.5 billion in direct healthcare costs, \$700 million in direct non-healthcare costs, and \$900 million in government subsidies. The best available evidence shows, for example, that hospital haemodialysis per person, per year costs \$79,072.

Operation 2590 is aimed at raising awareness of the importance for those in high risk groups to ask their doctor for a regular kidney health check.

Operation 2590 will also be a critical vehicle to promote key information to those most at risk of chronic kidney disease and to report on lifestyle choices to lower the risk of chronic kidney disease.

Early detection and prevention can not only reduce the amount of chronic kidney disease and therefore improve quality of life, it will also provide considerable opportunities for Federal and State Governments to cut the growing cost of treatment for end stage kidney disease.

WHO IS AT INCREASED RISK OF CKD?

- 1 in 3 adult Australians is at an increased risk of developing CKD
- Adult Australians are at increased risk of CKD if they:
 - have diabetes
 - have high blood pressure
 - have established heart problems (heart failure or heart attack) and/or have had a stroke
 - have a family history of kidney failure
 - are obese (Body Mass Index ≥ 30)
 - are a smoker
 - are 60 years or older
 - are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin